

SAKHALIN SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS, RUSSIA



Date started: 2006 **Date finished:** On-going

Partners: BP Sakhalin, Sakhalin State University, Dept. of Education, Traffic police, Schlumberger, and Sakhalin Road Safety Partnership (SRSP)

Cost/time/resources: 40,000 USD, 2007-2009



The Sakhalin Road Safety Partnership (SRSP) continues to expand its Safe Routes to Schools project, most recently by expanding the program to two new pilot schools. The project group is monitoring the effectiveness of the programme, which in 2008 and 2009 has been implemented in tandem with a black-spot improvement project in the communities around the schools.

The project team are conducting focus group discussions with target groups (parents, teachers and children) to assess the effectiveness of the materials and methodology before the approach is extended to other schools. In average the children's knowledge of road safety rules has increased by 20 – 30%.

Summary project sheet.

Objectives and scope

In support of the Sakhalin Regional Road Safety Programme, SRSP proposed the implementation of a programme to reduce child injuries on Sakhalin resulting from road crashes. Police statistics had shown an increase in child injury and mortality due to road crashes. The SRSP began developing a dedicated Safe Routes to School (SRTS) approach that could be implemented through the schools.

Activities

SRSP in cooperation with GRSP facilitated a workshop in 2006 aimed at defining components of the initiative:

- development of discussion prints for use in class rooms,
- identifying the safest routes for children to travel to school,
- development of "safe routes to school" maps for pupils and parents
- development of video materials,
- topics for regular five-minute talks with children
- infrastructure measures (being taken as part of the Black Spot project).
- training student teachers in how to create and deliver road safety lessons.

Two pilot schools in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk were identified in 2007 to test the materials being developed. Selection was based on the high number of road crash incidents involving children close to school premises and the interest shown by schools in improving the situation. The pilot phase with the two schools was launched at the beginning of the school year 2007/2008.

The project team are conducting focus group discussions with target groups (parents, teachers and children) to assess the effectiveness of the materials and methodology before the approach is extended to other schools.

Conclusion and main lessons learnt

Together, the Safe-Routes-to-School and the Black-Spot projects aim to create an integrated solution to road safety improvement and reduce the rate of crash-related injury in the city. Before/after crash data are being collected to understand the impact on the number of incidents involving vulnerable road users, particularly children, at these locations. Monitoring shows that children's knowledge of road safety rules averagely has increased by 20 – 30%