



# EVERY JOURNEY. EVERY CHILD.

A new partnership for the Global Goals, protecting the rights of children to safe and healthy mobility free from road traffic danger and air pollution.



GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR  
CHILD HEALTH  
AND MOBILITY



THE GLOBAL GOALS  
For Sustainable Development

# A SAFE & HEALTHY JOURNEY TO SCHOOL FOR EVERY CHILD

Every child has the right to healthy development and an education. But every day more than 3000 children and adolescents – a toll equivalent to the student population of two large schools – suffer a road traffic death or serious injury. Road danger and air pollution blight the school journeys and lives of millions more. The health burden to children caused by motorised traffic constitutes a major obstacle to child development and an unacceptable and preventable human tragedy.

Every child deserves a safe and healthy journey to and from school. The Global Initiative for Child Health & Mobility is a coalition of organisations and agencies coming together to advocate and work for this vision to become reality by 2030. Practical and cost-effective solutions are available, and can be delivered with sufficient political will.

With a focus on policies for sustainable transportation; road safety; clean fuels and vehicles; and equitable urban development, we advocate for, and support practical activities to deliver, these **Rights of the Child:**

SAFE, ACCESSIBLE, LOW CARBON MOBILITY

CLEAN AIR AND A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

A SAFE AND HEALTHY JOURNEY TO SCHOOL



In January 2016 the UN Sustainable Development Goals were launched. These Global Goals include several targets for safe and sustainable mobility, which each have strong links to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. We are working to ensure a 'children first' focus in delivering these targets, believing that transportation systems designed to work for the health, well-being and needs of children will benefit all.

## OUR MISSION: A SAFE AND HEALTHY JOURNEY TO AND FROM SCHOOL FOR EVERY CHILD BY 2030.

WE ARE:



- **Ensure safe routes to school** for all children, with walkable pavements, safe road design and crossings, and effective and appropriate vehicle speed management;



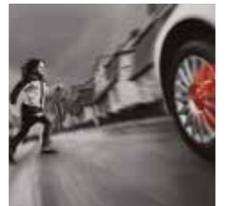
- **Prioritise pedestrians and cyclists in urban planning**, increasing investments in safe infrastructure for non-motorised transport to encourage active, low carbon, mobility;



- **Ensure safe travel to school.** Seatbelts and safety checks for school buses, seat belts or appropriate child restraints in cars, helmets for motorcycle passengers;



- **Deploy and encourage pedestrian-friendly vehicle design and safety technologies**, such as Autonomous Emergency Braking, which can mitigate or even stop a crash;



- **Improve safety for all road users on high risk roads**, meeting at least 3 star (out of 5) safety performance as measured by the International Road Assessment Programme;



- **Encourage policies to reduce vehicle emissions and improve air quality**, such as reducing sulphur levels in fuel (below 50ppm); particulate filters on vehicles; and improved vehicle fuel economy. Promote 'Avoid, Shift, Improve' approach.



# TRANSPORTATION AND URBAN PLANNING POLICIES AND CHOICES HAVE A HUGE IMPACT ON THE HEALTH AND BASIC RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

**500 children**  
die every day in road crashes, thousands more are seriously hurt.

**1m+ children**  
each year miss out on education through death or injury in road traffic crashes.

**Millions of children**  
suffer chronic health problems from breathing dirty air.

Road traffic injury is a leading cause of death for young people. 500 children die every day in road crashes, thousands more are seriously hurt.

Air pollution is a toxic, carcinogenic and invisible killer, seriously affecting the development of children's lung function and responsible for a huge burden of health.

Unsafe and unhealthy urban space deters people from walking, cycling and exercise. Children learn and form habits early which last a lifetime.

Non communicable diseases and obesity, to which both air pollution and lack of exercise are contributors, are becoming a significant health issue for young people across the world.

An estimated 1 million+ children each year miss out on education through death or injury in road traffic crashes. Many more have their life-chances affected by injuries to parents and breadwinners.

There are serious issues of inequity in transport provision: everywhere in the world it is the poorest children who live alongside the most dangerous roads; breathe the dirtiest air; and have the biggest barriers to access to education and, eventually, employment because of where they live.

# SCHOOLS: THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

Education propels progress. Learning provides life-chances; empowers girls; boosts economic and social development; raises new generations out of poverty. For children, their school is the launch pad for a life of opportunity. For parents, they are the focus of hopes and ambitions for the future.

Providing quality education and ensuring early years' health are twin core objectives for progressive governments and for the international donor community. Vast investments of financial and human resource are deployed to secure these aims. Yet little attention is devoted to the health and well-being of children as they grow into adolescence, and too often investment in their well-being stops at the school gate.



## SCHOOLS AS A HUB TO PROMOTE LOW SPEED, LOW EMISSIONS INTERVENTIONS

The catchment areas of schools overlap in circles that encompass whole communities. By focusing on improving the journey to school for children – providing relatively low cost infrastructure improvements, reducing traffic speed, zones for enforcing vehicle emissions regulations – it is possible to improve mobility, the environment and quality of life for everyone. To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals targets for road safety, air quality and sustainable urban transport, and to meet the vision of the Habitat III 'New Urban Agenda', investing in child mobility – for education, for health, for equity – must be a priority.

## SAFE & HEALTHY ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Time and again, across the developing world, we find examples of schools sited alongside high speed roads, with minimal facilities to enable children to travel safely. Technical surveys on thousands of kilometres of road in dozens of countries, undertaken by our partner iRAP, show that more than 80% of roads with vehicle speeds of more than 40km/h – roads used by pedestrians – have no viable footpath. Millions of children are placed in harm's way, and hundreds die every day, because basic infrastructure is not being provided. It is these same schools, serving the lowest income communities, which also suffer the worst local air quality.



At this school in Cambodia children navigate busy roads with no sidewalks or crossings. The result of this neglect, for this little boy, is life-long disability.



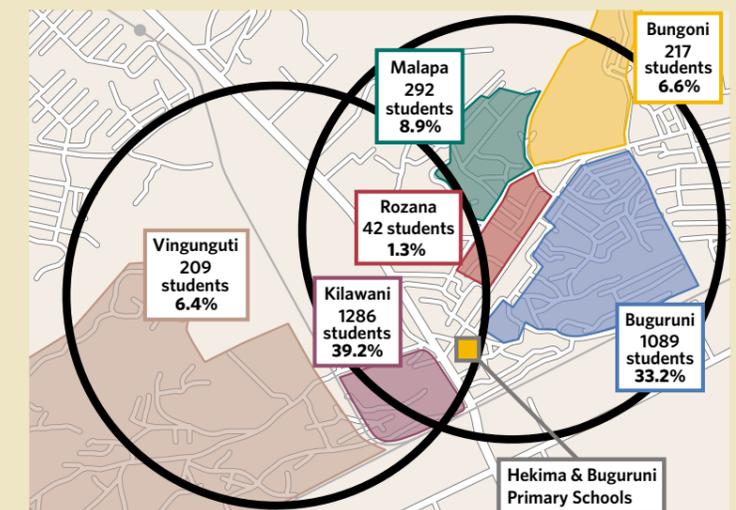
**Every child deserves a safe and healthy journey to and from their education, free from traffic danger or dangerous air pollution.** There is strong evidence from major investment in safe routes to school in countries from the US to South Korea that providing walking and cycling infrastructure and reducing traffic speed through 'safe system' design and physical traffic calming reduces child traffic casualties and enables healthier travel behaviour. We are building the evidence base to show that these approaches also work in low-income communities in Africa and Asia.

## HIGH COST OF AN EDUCATION

Our partner Amend has mapped incidence of road traffic injury amongst students at schools in low-income areas of Dar es Salaam, and found that around 2% of the school population is injured every year. If similar conditions exist in communities across sub-Saharan Africa, this constitutes a serious, hidden but preventable epidemic.

### Hekima & Buguruni Primary Schools, Dar es Salaam, TZ

- Surrounded by two major dual carriageway highways & one single carriageway municipal road
- School Population (2014): 2,675
- RTI Injury Rate (2014): 2.2%
- Approx. 59 students injured (at least one killed) in 2014



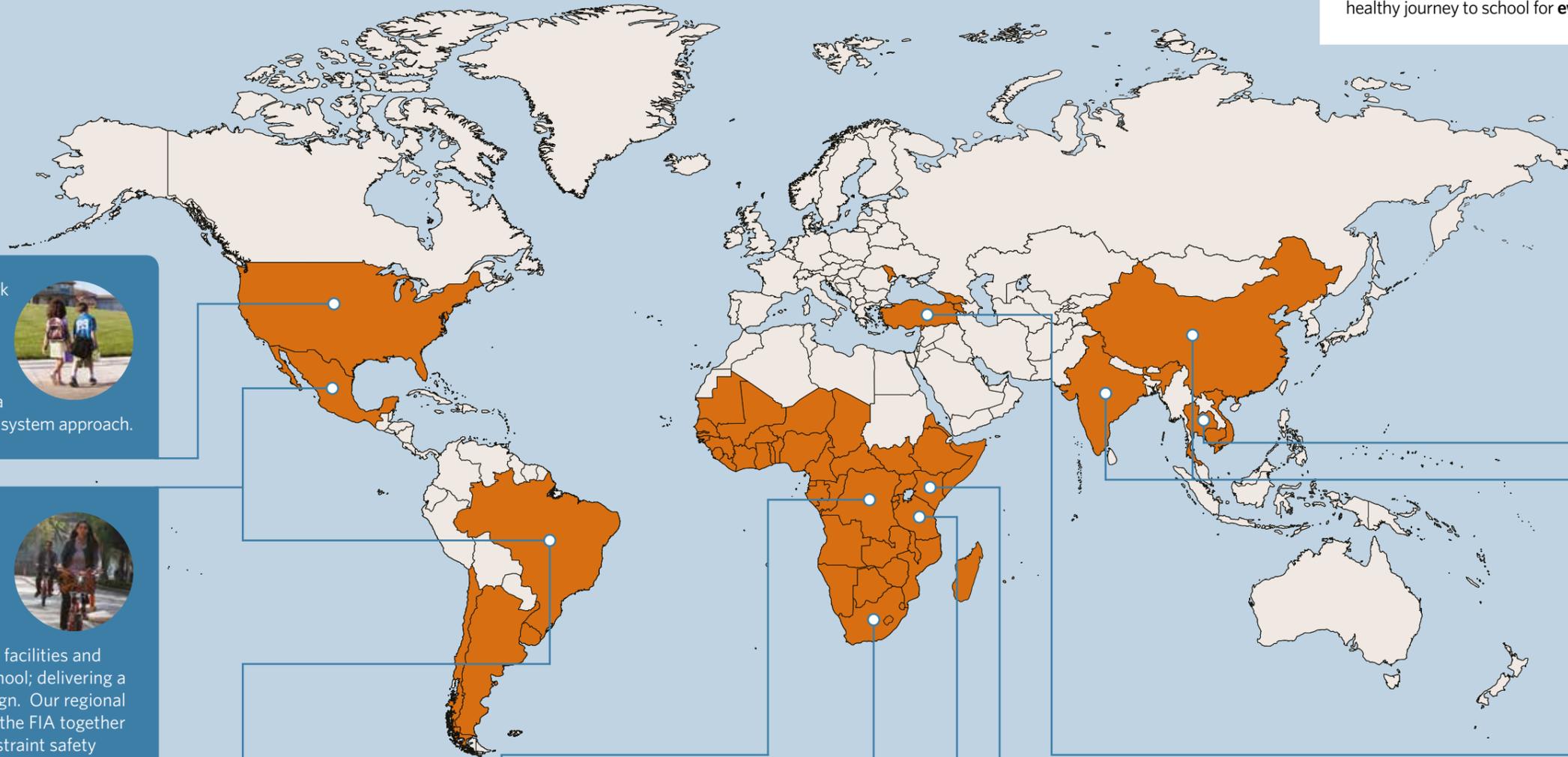
# TOGETHER, WORKING FOR CHILDREN

The Global Initiative for Child Health & Mobility combines research, advocacy and evidence-based interventions to promote our vital child rights agenda.

Our global advocacy aims to mainstream child and adolescent health and mobility issues into international development and climate change policies.

At country level we support efforts to integrate child rights and health outcomes into national and/or city level transportation and planning policy and practice.

Together and with partners around the world, we are working for a safe and healthy journey to school for **every child**.



In the **US**, we work with the National Center for Safe Routes to School promoting safe routes as part of a 'Vision Zero' safe system approach.



In **Mexico** and **Brazil**, WRI is supporting city authorities in implementing protected cycle lanes; pedestrian facilities and safe routes to school; delivering a city safer by design. Our regional partner FGR and the FIA together promote child restraint safety across **Latin America**.



Our research partner ODI is working with cities in **Latin America, Africa** and **Asia** on how best to deliver sustainable mobility policies.



In **Sub-Saharan Africa**, UNEP is leading efforts to reduce the sulphur content in fuel; a necessary step to cleaner and more efficient engines and reduced emissions.



In **South Africa** the FIA Foundation and UNICEF are advocating for traffic speed reductions around schools, backed by applied research demonstrating the benefit of traffic calming and safe crossings.



In **Tanzania**, the FIA Foundation is supporting regional partner AMEND to research the impact of sidewalk provision and speed reduction around schools in low-income neighbourhoods.



In **Kenya**, UNEP's 'Share the Road' initiative is advising the Nairobi County Government in the development of a non-motorised transport policy, prioritising pedestrians and cyclists - including children.



In **China** and **India**, road injuries and air pollution exact a huge health toll on children. We are working with technical partners, including iRAP, PCFV and IRTE, to support solutions.



In **SE Asia** our regional partner AIP Foundation is working with UNICEF, Save the Children and donors including USAID to support legislative action and enforcement on child pedestrian & motorcycle safety.



In **Turkey** WRI enables urban design change; in the **Caucasus** the FIA Foundation works through regional partner EASST to promote air quality and safer roads.



# A COALITION FOR CHANGE, A PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN



"In planning and in policy, children seem to be at best an afterthought - or in the worst cases, just totally neglected. You have to conclude that there's not much value being placed on safeguarding our children on the roads. And as a mother, I want a different future for my children. This is an initiative for the health of future generations, for the right to an education, for the fight against poverty."

**Zoleka Mandela,**  
road safety & child rights  
advocate

"This is one of the great development challenges of our age. On the world's roads, every single day 500 children lose their lives and many thousands more are left with permanent disabilities. So much of this happens on the journey to school. This journey ought to be the safest journey that any child takes. Yet it's too often a matter of life and death."

**Kevin Watkins,**  
Executive Director, Overseas Development Institute;  
CEO-designate, Save the Children UK

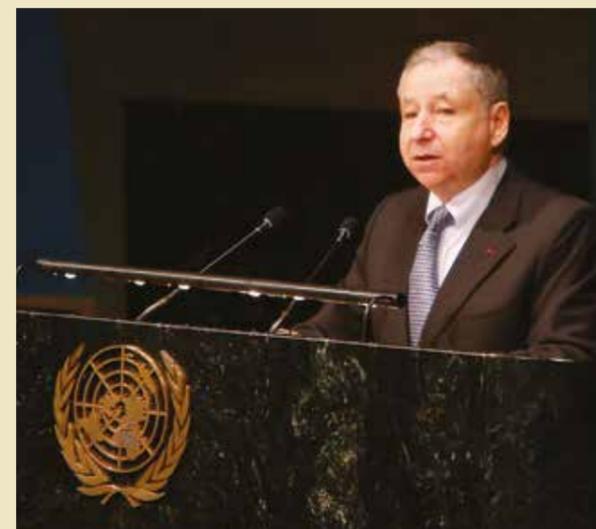


"Schools are a vital social network. They sit at the heart of every community. And this important journey that our children make every day is the ideal starting point for a transformation of the entire mobility agenda."

**Rt. Hon. Lord Robertson,**  
Chairman, FIA Foundation

"The Child Declaration for Road Safety urges world leaders to take urgent and decisive action to stop the growing number of road injuries worldwide. Let's work to make sure they listen - and act. Help us keep every child, in every country, safe on the roads today, tomorrow and always."

**Anthony Lake,**  
Executive Director, UNICEF



"I fully support this new initiative which brings together key mobility stakeholders from different sectors, united in the goal to promote the undisputable right of every child to a safe, clean and above all healthy journey, no matter where in the world."

**Jean Todt,**  
UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for Road Safety



## GET INVOLVED

If your organisation would like to support or partner with us on advocacy, research or funding practical in-country work by our network of implementation partners, please get in touch.

[childhealth@fiafoundation.org](mailto:childhealth@fiafoundation.org)

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For more information:

[www.childhealthinitiative.org](http://www.childhealthinitiative.org)



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