

THE ACROS CASE

Catalyzing others to replicate and scale

THE LEVERAGE AT WORK

With a USD 500,000 investment from the UN Road Safety Fund, ACROS helped transform city-level road safety from isolated pilots into a global, city-driven movement.

UNRSF funding enabled UN-Habitat, UNEP, ECA and ESCWA to jointly establish ACROS as a one-stop platform for cities, combining technical assistance, peer learning, and catalytic pilots. This initial investment unlocked::



- USD 2.3 million in domestic financing mobilised by Nairobi City County to implement safer street designs co-developed under ACROS support.
- USD 1.5 million secured for the Pan-African Action Plan for Active Mobility (PAAPAM), embedding road safety within broader urban and climate agendas across five African countries.
- A second phase of ACROS (ACROS II) starting in late 2025, backed by additional funding to expand pilots and private-sector engagement.

What began as a modest global alliance is now leveraging domestic budgets, regional programmes, and new donor interest to scale road safety solutions city by city.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project: The Global Alliance of Cities for Road Safety (ACROS) - A one-stop-shop for cities to save lives

Challenge:

Rapid urbanisation in Africa and the Middle East is increasing road risk faster than cities can respond. Streets remain car-centric, while pedestrians, cyclists, and motorcyclists account for up to 70% of road deaths in some cities.

Rising motorisation, unsafe imported vehicles, and limited city-level capacity mean that proven road safety solutions often fail to move from policy to practice. Cities lacked the tools, financing, and peer learning needed to implement Safe System approaches and scale what works.

UNRSF Intervention:

UNRSF funding enabled the creation of ACROS, a global alliance designed to help cities learn faster, act earlier, and scale what works. The project focused on four catalytic levers:

- City-to-city exchanges, global webinars, and regional training courses reaching officials from 50+ cities worldwide.
- Support to cities and countries to develop road safety plans, street design guidelines, cycling strategies, and national action plans.
- Small grants through the *MyCityMyLife* challenge to test life-saving interventions at neighbourhood level in Kenya, Ghana, and Uganda.
- Hands-on support to help cities prepare investment proposals and access domestic and international funding.

The approach deliberately shifted road safety from enforcement alone to urban design, active mobility, and post-crash care, aligned with the Safe System approach.

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Results

- 50+ cities engaged through ACROS activities, with 32 formal members of the Alliance by 2025.
- Nearly 600 professionals trained, plus 1,500 police officers in Rwanda trained in emergency response through the Stop the Bleed campaign.
- Four national policy advances supported in 2024 alone (Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda), embedding road safety into urban and transport strategies.
- Three neighbourhood pilots implemented, delivering safer intersections, first-aid infrastructure, and child-focused road safety education.
- USD 2.3 million mobilised by Nairobi City County to implement safer street designs informed directly by ACROS technical assistance.



WHAT'S NEXT

- ACROS II (from October 2025): Six new innovative pilots, with stronger private-sector engagement and innovative procurement models.
- Geographic expansion: Structured rollout to Asia-Pacific and Latin America, building on regional training in South Korea.
- Champion Cities initiative (2026): Spotlighting global leaders in safer urban mobility and pairing cities for peer learning and replication.
- World Urban Forum 2026: Elevating city-led road safety solutions on the global stage and attracting new partners and financiers.



FOLLOW-ON INVESTMENT

UNRSF investment: USD 500,000

Follow-on financing unlocked: USD 2.3M domestic funding (Nairobi, Kenya), USD 1.5M regional funding (PAAPAM), additional funding secured for ACROS Phase II since 2025



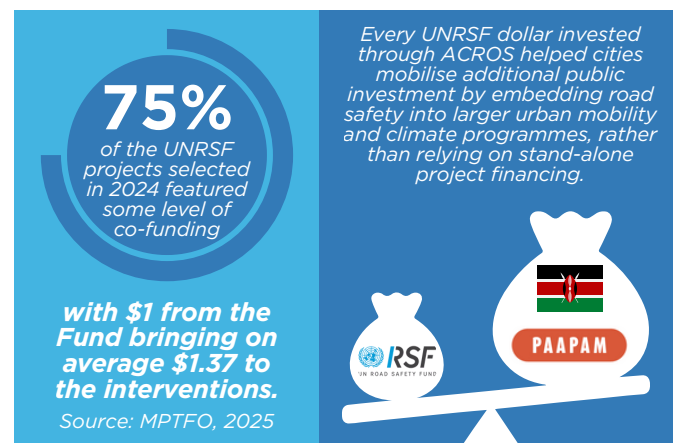
2024



2024



2025



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