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Save *LIVES* technical package: 22 interventions that could make a difference

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ABSTRACT

The *Save LIVES: a road safety technical package* was produced and launched in May 2017 by the WHO to support road safety decision makers and practitioners in their efforts to significantly reduce the number of road traffic deaths in their countries. This Special Feature explains the process used to develop the package and how and why the 22 interventions were included. It concludes by encouraging researchers and practitioners to tailor their road safety packages to their own realities by following five practical steps.

INTRODUCTION

Road traffic crashes lead to the loss of around 1.3 million lives¹ and cause non-fatal injuries to as many as 50 million people around the world each year.² Nearly half (49%) of the people who die on the world's roads are pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists. Road traffic crashes are the main cause of death among people aged between 15 and 29 years.² In addition to the grief and suffering they cause, road traffic crashes constitute an important public health and development problem with significant health and socioeconomic costs.

Aimed at halving road traffic deaths and injuries by 2020 and providing access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all by 2030, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets 3.6 and 11.2 provide a powerful focus to galvanise governments and the international community into action on road safety policy.³ The challenge is to seize this opportunity and to significantly scale up implementation of road safety measures at national, subnational and urban levels. In this context, the *Save LIVES: a road safety technical package* was produced and launched in May 2017 by the WHO to support road safety decision makers and practitioners in their efforts to significantly reduce the number of road traffic deaths in their countries.⁴

HOW IT WAS DEVELOPED

The development of this package was based on a framework by Justen and colleagues published in 2014, which involves six interrelated stages, namely, defining objectives and targets, creating an inventory of measures, assessing the package, modifying the package and implementing and evaluating the package.⁵ A meeting of 24 external experts and 5 WHO technical staff was held on 9–10 February 2016 to discuss whether there was a need to develop a road safety technical package of interventions to assist countries implement quick wins as expected in the SDG target. Consensus was reached, and the

group went on to agree that the *Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011–2020* should be used as a basis from which to focus messages around a smaller set of priority interventions.⁶ There was also consensus on the need to prioritise speed management within this package as it is considered a unifying component across all the five pillars in the global plan. The need to include quick wins in infrastructure and to ensure that the package addressed the high burden among vulnerable road users was also emphasised. A small working group of experts was constituted to develop the package. A preliminary list of over 50 'good practices' was identified by WHO technical staff and reviewed by the small working group. This initial list was examined against published evidence on effective measures, in particular through systematic reviews and summary reports that have been compiled^{7–11} and trimmed to 44 specific interventions.

The 44 specific interventions were further reviewed by researchers and practitioners against a set of criteria on effectiveness, cost, acceptability, capacity and institutional complexity to implement, technical complexity, timescale of implementation and time from implementation of the measure to the time its effect is realised.

The effectiveness of the interventions was also examined with respect to their contribution to reducing road traffic fatalities and serious injuries and changing behaviour. Each intervention was assessed for effectiveness as follows:

- ▶ Proven: evidence from robust studies such as randomised controlled trials, systematic reviews or case-control studies shows that these interventions are effective in reducing road traffic fatalities and injuries or in bringing about desired change in behaviour.
- ▶ Promising: evidence from robust studies shows that some road safety benefits have resulted from these interventions, but further evaluation from diverse settings is required and caution is needed when implementing them.
- ▶ Insufficient: evaluation of an intervention has not reached a firm conclusion about its effectiveness because of a lack of evidence.

Feedback from the review and intense discussion within the small working group led to the list of 44 specific interventions being revised, merged and consolidated into 22 measures, which are presented in [table 1](#).

CORE COMPONENTS AND INTERVENTIONS

The core components of the *Save LIVES* technical package are Speed management, Leadership, Infrastructure design and improvement, Vehicle safety



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Table 1 *Save LIVES*: 6 components and 22 interventions

Acronym	Component	Interventions
S	Speed management	Establish and enforce speed limit laws nationwide, locally and in cities. Build or modify roads that calm traffic, for example, roundabouts, road narrowing, speed bumps, chicanes and rumble strips. Require car makers to install new technologies, such as intelligent speed adaptation, to help drivers keep to speed limits.
		Create an agency to spearhead road safety. Develop and fund a road safety strategy. Evaluate the impact of road safety strategies. Monitor road safety by strengthening data systems.
L	Leadership on road safety	Raise awareness and public support through education and campaigns.
I	Infrastructure design and improvement	Provide safe infrastructure for all road users including sidewalks, safe crossings, refuges, overpasses and underpasses. Put in place bicycle and motorcycle lanes. Make the sides of roads safer by using clear zones, collapsible structures or barriers. Design safer intersections. Separate access roads from through-roads. Prioritise people by putting in place vehicle-free zones. Restrict traffic and speed in residential, commercial and school zones.
		Restrict traffic and speed in residential, commercial and school zones. Provide better, safer routes for public transport.
V	Vehicle safety	Establish and enforce motor vehicle safety standard regulations related to: ▶ Seat belts. ▶ Seat belt anchorages. ▶ Frontal impact. ▶ Side impact. ▶ Electronic stability control. ▶ Pedestrian protection. ▶ ISOFIX child restraint points.
		Establish and enforce regulations on motorcycle antilock braking.
E	Enforcement of traffic laws	Establish and enforce laws at national, local and city levels on: ▶ Drinking and driving. ▶ Motorcycle helmets. ▶ Seat belts. ▶ Child restraints.
S	Survival	Develop organised and integrated prehospital and facility-based emergency care systems. Train those who respond to crashes in basic emergency care. Promote community first responder training.

Source: WHO.⁴

standards, Enforcement of traffic laws and postcrash Survival (table 1). Each component of *Save LIVES* is associated with priority interventions that will assist road safety decision makers and practitioners in making tangible and sustained progress in reducing road traffic injuries in the next 5 years and beyond. These 6 components and 22 interventions are inter-related and need to be implemented in an integrated manner, following the Safe System approach, to effectively address the problem of road traffic deaths and injuries.

CONCLUSION

Since the reality of road safety policy implementation differs across countries, this package should not be seen as a one-size-fits-all solution but rather as a guide to support decisions for scaling up the road safety efforts.

To make effective use of this the package, countries need to do the following:

- ▶ Determine where they are now by conducting a situational assessment of their road safety programmes.
- ▶ Establish where they want to be in the next 5 years and beyond by setting targets and indicators (see http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/road_traffic/road-safety-targets/

en/ for recently agreed global targets and indicators for road safety risk factors and service delivery).

- ▶ Establish how they will get to their target by preparing strategic plans of action.
- ▶ Take practical steps to get where they want to be by consistently implementing their strategic plans of action.
- ▶ Monitor and evaluate the implementation of their strategic plans of action.

The *Save LIVES* package has been translated into the five other UN languages and is available at: http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/publications/road_traffic/save-lives-package/en/

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