



PARALLEL SESSION: PROTECTING CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

Session Conclusions

Date: 2 March 2020

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1. KEYWORDS

2. TITLE OF THE SESSION:

PROTECTING CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

3. TOPIC OF THE SESSION

Globally, road traffic injuries are the leading cause of death for people aged 5-29 years. Around 500 children are injured every single day due to road accidents and of which 90% are reported from developing countries. Road safety is key to not only toward reducing road traffic injury, but also tackling other related health and environmental challenges facing adolescents such as lack of physical activity, poor air quality, and NCDs.

4. SHORT SUMMARY OF SESSION

The session was started with introductory presentation by Margie Peden and then continued with questions and answers of panel members.

5. OVERALL MESSAGES

Enough talking, we need action!

Children are our most important community. We need to make adolescents' health as an urgent priority and putting road safety as a priority item in agenda of health of children and youth is crucial. Development of advocacy messages related children casualty due to road safety can make advocacy measures very effective, like paediatric cancer that is a very influential topic for advocacy.

Road safety should be integrated into a broader agenda for children and young people. It should be linked with NCDs. In addition, in line with universal health coverage, attention should be paid to protection of adolescents against traffic injury as a missing population.

We have to have multisectoral approach. Having partnership with key stakeholders is necessary. When the roads are safe for children and youth to walk and cycle to school, it means more physical activity, lower level of greenhouse gases and air pollution, as well as lower level of NCDs. Road safety should not be seen as an isolated development issue and policy makers should consider road safety, mental health, air quality, and climate change, which are interlinked, as top priorities in their agenda.

Besides, the missing ingredient to promote road safety are youth and we have to take this seriously. By acknowledging the biggest generation of young people in the history of human, we can take advantage of the young people. They can be involved not only in implementation of interventions but also in advocacy and policy making through investment in their education and empowerment, as well as providing them with space for advocacy and seeking accountability.

Last but not list, the focus should be on the schools to educate children and youths and to take infrastructure measures to have youth friendly road. In addition, reducing speed, based on safe system approach, is a kind of immunization and prevention measure of road injury like a vaccine, particularly around the school.

6. OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS

- The solutions that work in developed countries should still be tested in developing countries. To address this, some case studies in developing countries have been published recently; however, collaboration should be strengthened.
- It is necessary to link road safety with health promotion strategies in schools. The focus should be on schools because they have captive audiences. We should not just be looking at education but at infrastructure, supervision, and laws as well. Children and youth should be trained on road safety and how to protect themselves. We need to design safe roads, children and youth friendly roads where a safer city is the ultimate goal.

- Youth should be involved actively in advocacy. They should take action and go to policy makers and insist on accountability and say enough talking, we need action.
- Youth should be in front line to create a positive change into sad road stories. It is necessary to invest in young people and to share information and educate them. Education for young children is very crucial to enhance road safety. Usually children learn from their family. Given mobility is almost a new topic, lack of culture of safety on roads is a common problem in many developing countries. Therefore, education within the family is recommended.
- Considering positive experience in other areas peer to peer education by youth is recommended.
- Young people can be involved in policy making if countries invest in them, empower them and acknowledge youth as invaluable resources. It is a long-term investment towards better health and economy. It is necessary to provide young people with the platform to play their role in a collective way but not in isolation. We need to believe in capacity of young people.

Priority actions to protect children and youths against road injury:

- Reduce speed particularly around the school (school safety zone: max 30 KM/hours).
- Capacity building on how to get the people to know what this is, and to articulate it through different platforms like education.
- Advocacy on children casualties due to road accidents.

7. IMPORTANT FINDINGS (EX. TECHNICAL OR OTHERS)

[This can include key findings that have been confirmed and can be shared, as well as emerging issues that have been identified and will require more analysis.]

8. SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS INCLUDING GOVERNMENTS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR

[This can include recommendations for future studies or future collaborations.]

9. PREPARATION OF THE SESSION

[Mention here the persons and organisations that were involved in the preparation of the session]

10. SESSION PROGRAM

[Include actual the program of the session as it actually took place]

Chair:

Moderator: Saul Billingsley, Executive Director | FIA foundation

Plan and timing:

Approx. Time	Topic/Presentation title	Speaker (title, role/position, organisation)
10 min (09:02-09:12)	Introduction	Margie Peden Head of the Global Injury Programme The George Institute for Global Health
	Q/A	Basanta Kumar Nembang, Minister for Physical Infrastructure and Transport
	Q/A	Greig Craft President and Founder Asia Injury Prevention Foundation
	Q/A	Oliva Nalwadda Project Manager YOURS - Youth for Road Safety Uganda
	Q/A	Stefan Swartling Peterson Associate Director, Health Section, Programme Division UNICEF