The United Nations has set Global Road Safety Performance Targets which include ensuring all new roads are built to a 3-star or better standard for all road users (Goal 3), and more than 75% of travel is on the equivalent of 3-star or better roads for all road users by 2030 (Goal 4). Star Ratings provide an evidence-based objective measure of crash risk to ensure that safety is built-in to designs for upgrades and new roads prior to construction. For governments and development banks, the process opens the opportunity to set performance-based targets for vehicle occupants, motorcyclists, pedestrians and cyclists that not only improve safety but create a high level of transparency and accountability. The impact of raising high-risk road networks to a 3-star or better standard will deliver long term savings in death and serious injuries, and hospital and insurance costs whilst also providing a positive way for Governments to track performance. Optimising investment to maximize travel on 3-star or better roads provides agencies with both the business case and metric to manage the safety of road infrastructure in their jurisdiction, the return on investment and the lives saved.

The International Road Assessment Programme is a global registered charity. iRAP partners with automobile associations, governments, funding agencies, research institutes and other non-government organisations in more than 85 countries to provide the tools and training to make roads safe.

Registered Charity Number: 1140357
Registered Office: 60 Trafalgar Square, London, WC2N 5DS, United Kingdom
Published: June 2019

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CASE STUDY
RAP PARTNERSHIPS SAVING LIVES

3-Star or Better Policy

WHAT COULD BE ACHIEVED IF MEET TARGETS 3 & 4 BY 2030

- 467,000 lives would be saved each year
- 100 million deaths & serious injuries saved over 20 years
- Economic benefit $8 savings for every $1 invested
- A person’s risk of death or injury is halved for each star rating improvement

A world free of high risk roads: #3StarorBetter

China: Five year Road Safety Plan requires national implementation of road assessments and rapid treatment of high-risk road sections
Netherlands: No 1 or 2-star national roads by 2020
Chile: Autopista Central toll roads upgrade to meet minimum 3-star standard
Australia: 80% of travel on 3-star or better for state roads and 90% for national highways by 2020; Queensland target 90% of travel on 3-star or better roads by 2022; Tasmanian Midlands Highway 3-star minimum standard

UN Global Road Safety Performance Target: All new roads to be built to a 3-star or better standard for all road users (Goal 3), and more than 75% of travel is on the equivalent of 3-star or better roads for all road users by 2030 (Goal 4).

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL LEADERSHIP

ADB: Recommendation for 4-star roads for pedestrians and cyclists in linear settlements, 4-star for vehicles on roads carrying 50,000 vehicles or more, and 3-star or better for all other road projects

UNESCAP: On the Asian Highway network in member countries, all new roads, and more than 75% of travel on existing roads, to be 3-star or better for all road users

Millennium Challenge Corporation: Eliminating 1 and 2-star roads in Moldova, Philippines, El Salvador, Cote d’Ivoire and Senegal

World Bank: Minimum 3-star roads for projects in India and Kazakhstan, amongst others.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP

United Kingdom: 90% of travel on 3-star or better strategic road network by 2020, and 4 and 5-star motorways
New Zealand: 4-star roads of national significance; toll road minimum 4-star standards; Safety Alliance to upgrade existing roads to 3-star or better standards
Malaysia: 75% of travel on 3-star or better high volume roads by 2020
Sweden: 75% of network at 3-star or better by 2020 and near 100% by 2025