

Recommendations from side event: Truckers Eye health programme in India and sustainable transport

15th October 2021

Second United Nations Global Sustainable Transport Conference,
14th to 16th October 2021, Beijing

Thematic session1: Sustainable transport, poverty eradication, livelihoods, and economic recovery

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United Nations
**Sustainable
Transport
Conference**

14-16
OCTOBER
2021
Beijing



Side
Event

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Webinar summary

On 15th October 2021, Sightsavers organised a webinar side event titled “Truckers Eye Health Programme in India and Sustainable transport” along with its partners Cholamandalam Investment & Finance Company Limited and Essilor India Private Limited as a part of United Nation’s Sustainable Global Transport Conference, Beijing 2021. The theme of this side event was thematic session 1: *Sustainable transport, poverty eradication, livelihoods, and economic recovery*. Speakers’ panellists from Sightsavers, Cholamandalam and Essilor shared their experiences and insights about truckers’ eye health programme in India, highlighted the importance of eye health interventions when it comes to ensure road safety and how truck drivers’ lives are impacted through such eye health interventions. The speaker panellists were Mr. R N Mohanty, CEO Sightsavers India, Ms. Monu Ravindran, State Programme Lead, Sightsavers India, Mr. Narendrakumar N, Head – CSR & Associate Vice President, Cholamandalam Investment & Finance Company Limited and Mr. Milind Jadhav, Senior Director Inclusive Business & Philanthropy, Essilor India Private Limited- South Asia. The webinar was Moderated by Ms. Archana Bhambal, Area Director, Sightsavers India. Wide range of participants from various NGOs, eye health organisations and professionals working towards road safety for truck driving communities attended this online event.

Contributors

Mr. Milind Jadhav, Senior Director - Inclusive Business & Philanthropy - South Asia, Essilor India Private Limited, Mr. Narendra Kumar N, Associate Vice President & Head-CSR, Cholamandalam Investment & Finance company Limited, Mr. R N Mohanty, Ms. Monu Ravindran, Ms. Archana Bhambal and Sightsavers India.

Key recommendations

SDG 11: Promote and Implement Inclusive and Accessible Transportation Strategies and Policies to ensure that no one is left behind: Article 9 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities stipulates that, States Parties need to take appropriate measures to ensure that persons with disabilities can access, on an equal basis with others, the physical environment, including transportation. SDG 11 emphasizes sustainable transport as reflected in Target 11. 2, by 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible, and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons. Accessibility is a

precondition for persons with disabilities to live independently and participate fully and equally in society. Affordability, reliability, accessibility, in transportation is critical for people with disabilities to access important opportunities in education, employment, health care, housing, and community life.

We recommend that:

- Member states and development partners to place increased focus on developing inclusive and accessible transportation strategies, policies, and accountability mechanisms to ensure that the most marginalized populations especially people with disabilities are not left behind.

SDG 3: Target 3.6 - Global consensus is needed to recognize the importance of good eye vision as essential to provide access to safe transport systems and enhance road safety: The United Nations General Assembly adopted the 'Vision for Everyone; accelerating action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals' Resolution committing the international community to eye health. Good Eye Vision is essential to provide safe transport systems and improve road safety. The transportation industry especially in the global south is unorganised and a propagator of labour-intensive work, with no social security benefits like eye health services, medical and retirement for its workforce. **We recommend that:**

- As part of the 'Vision for All' UNGA resolution and Target 3.6, policymakers, relevant UN, and multilateral entities, integrate eye health interventions in sustainable transport strategies and policies globally for occupational drivers and allied workers as an important building block in ensuring road safety.
- Mandatory, regular, and free eye check-ups, provisioning for free spectacles for those drivers who cannot afford them and ensuring fast spectacles delivery through innovative solutions like Ready2Clip spectacles can help improve the effectiveness of public eye health programs.
- Regulations and reforms in surface transport sector should address social security issues especially health care of its core workforce as well as empower businesses to directly impact growth in society. Social and community impact should be an integral part of strategy and value creation.