

SAFER ROADS FOR SAFER CHILDHOOD (SRSC) JORHAT CITY, INDIA



| LEAD ORGANISATION | CONSORTIUM PARTNER ORGANISATIONS | GRANT | DURATION | THEMES |
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| NFD - Centre for Environment Education Society (CEE) / Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati (IIT Guwahati) | * Home and Political Department * Government of Assam Indian Institute of Technology * Guwahati (IIT Guwahati) | CHF 400,000 | June 2018 - May 2020 | Road safety management; Infrastructure; Road user behaviour |

BACKGROUND

Jorhat city has **more than 50 schools**, many located on highways or arterial roads with fast moving vehicles.



Crossings nearby schools are generally not well marked and signage, speed breakers/bumps, signal lights or buzzers are absent or inadequate. Children crossing the roads during the school hours are unsupervised and exposed to vehicle traffic. Drop off and pick up times around schools are chaotic exposing children to further risk. Driver behaviour shows little consideration for pedestrians and cyclists and Police supervision is inadequate.

GOAL

The overall purpose of the project is to **enhance road safety for children** in Jorhat city through the development and implementation of **school road safety plans** aimed at improving road user behaviour and infrastructure especially around school zones and in the route from home to school.

OBJECTIVES

- 1 To conduct a situational assessment of child road safety in Jorhat to guide project implementation.
- 2 To develop and implement school road safety plans for five schools in Jorhat city to reduce injuries to children commuting to and from school.
- 3 To develop child road safety policy recommendations for Jorhat city decision makers to regulate establishment of schools and school transport.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Over a two-year period, the project consortium of the Centre for Environment Education Society (CEE), the India Institute of Technology Guwahati (IITG) and the Home and Political Department, Gov't of Assam will enhance child road safety in Jorhat city in cooperation with Schools, Education Department, Traffic Police, local Municipality, Transport Department, Health Department and Public Works Department (Roads division).

A situational assessment of road safety data, policy and practices from Jorhat, will be conducted to inform the development of the project. The project team will engage with up to 10 high-risk road side schools to develop individual school road safety plans. Each school road safety plan will include recommendations for infrastructure improvements around the schools, schedules for child road safety education, awareness raising of parents, teachers and other road users, and engagement of crossing guards. Youth volunteer

groups will be trained to play an active role in awareness raising in schools.

Infrastructure recommendations for the plans will be developed by IIT Guwahati based on road safety assessments and inputs from students, parents and teachers. Infrastructure improvements (zebra crossings, speed breakers, signage etc) will be implemented at up to 5 schools with the involvement of relevant government line departments. A regional Innovation Tech-challenge will be held for students from Indian technical schools and universities to generate ideas for low cost models of child road safety around schools.

Based on a review of existing regulations and data IIT Guwahati will develop child road safety policy recommendations for Jorhat City and Assam decision makers to regulate school transport and establishment of new schools to maximize child safety.