Catalyst Series



CASE IN BRAZIL

Catalyzing others to replicate and scale



THE LEVERAGE AT WORK

Through a grant of USD 321,000, the UN Road Safety Fund (UNRSF) supported the State of Pará, Brazil, in strengthening its road traffic enforcement system. The Fund's investment helped the Department of Transit of Pará (DETRAN-PA) and the Military and Civil Police expand evidence-based operations, train enforcement officers, and introduce coordinated data management systems.



This catalytic support triggered significant state investment, totalling USD 23.9 million by 2024, to scale and sustain the model. The government has since financed new enforcement vehicles, expanded breathalyser testing, and installed speed cameras across 52 cities.

UNRSF funding: USD 321,000 Government and partners: USD 23.9 million

By developing an interoperable data collection and analysis system, we are replacing guesswork with science, ensuring that preventive countermeasures (whether in infrastructure or enforcement) are targeted, effective, and rapid, drastically reducing injuries and deaths. The result of this project will be a legacy of knowledge and safety for Brazil, fulfilling our mission to protect every citizen who uses our roads".

Adrualdo de Lima Catão, National Traffic Secretary, Ministry of Transports (Brazil)

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project: Strengthening Road Traffic Enforcement in Brazil

Challenge:

Before the project, enforcement operations were not focused on key risk factors, and traffic officers had low confidence in applying national road safety legislation. Activities were often carried out without proper planning, had low visibility and only done in the vacation month of July, and were mostly concentrated in Belém, the capital city of Pará.

UNRSF Intervention:

With UNRSF support, DETRAN-PA started to carry out enforcement operations in all of the state highways (not only Belém), strengthened enforcement capacity, institutional coordination, and data-driven decision-making). UNRSF's support also inspired a new Federal Law 14.954 in 2023 creating the National Day of Road Traffic Officers on 2 June, and a new State Law 10.587 in 2024 establishing a State Day of the Traffic Officer to be celebrated in the State of Pará every 11 May.

Key results include:

- New State Enforcement Protocol established to standardise operations;
- 171 officers trained across seven courses in 2022, with all reporting improved skills;
- Breathalyser tests more than doubled and fines increased by 73% in 2022;
- Traffic deaths fell by one-third, from 6.13 to 4.13 per 10,000 vehicles between 2021-2022;
- Public awareness video gained international recognition at the 2022 International Safety Media Awards.
- The project also supported the creation of a State Data Analysis Commission, improved coordination among enforcement agencies, and introduced a draft bill to formalise a professional career track for traffic officers.

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WHAT'S NEXT

The Government of Pará has fully integrated the UNRSF-supported enforcement model into its 2024–2027 Multiannual Plan, ensuring continued financing and policy alignment. Upcoming actions include:

- Updating the Brazilian Drug Information Observatory (OBID);
- Revising National Regulation No. 432/2013 on drink-driving enforcement (pending CONTRAN approval);
- Proposing a new bill to extend mandatory drug testing to taxi and motorcycle taxi drivers.



FOLLOW-ON INVESTMENT

Since the project's completion in 2022, the State of Pará has scaled up its enforcement capacity through substantial self-financing:

- Breathalysers increased from 4 in 2020 to 159 in 2024, including the nine units purchased through the UNRSF project;
- Fixed speed cameras expanded from 2 to 248 across 52 cities, covering 36% of municipalities;
- Enforcement budget grew fivefold, from USD 4.7 million in 2020 to USD 23.9 million in 2024:
- 80 new vehicles procured for traffic enforcement operations.

This sustained government investment demonstrates how UNRSF seed funding catalysed systemic, state-financed reform, transforming a targeted pilot into a scalable national model for safer roads.





