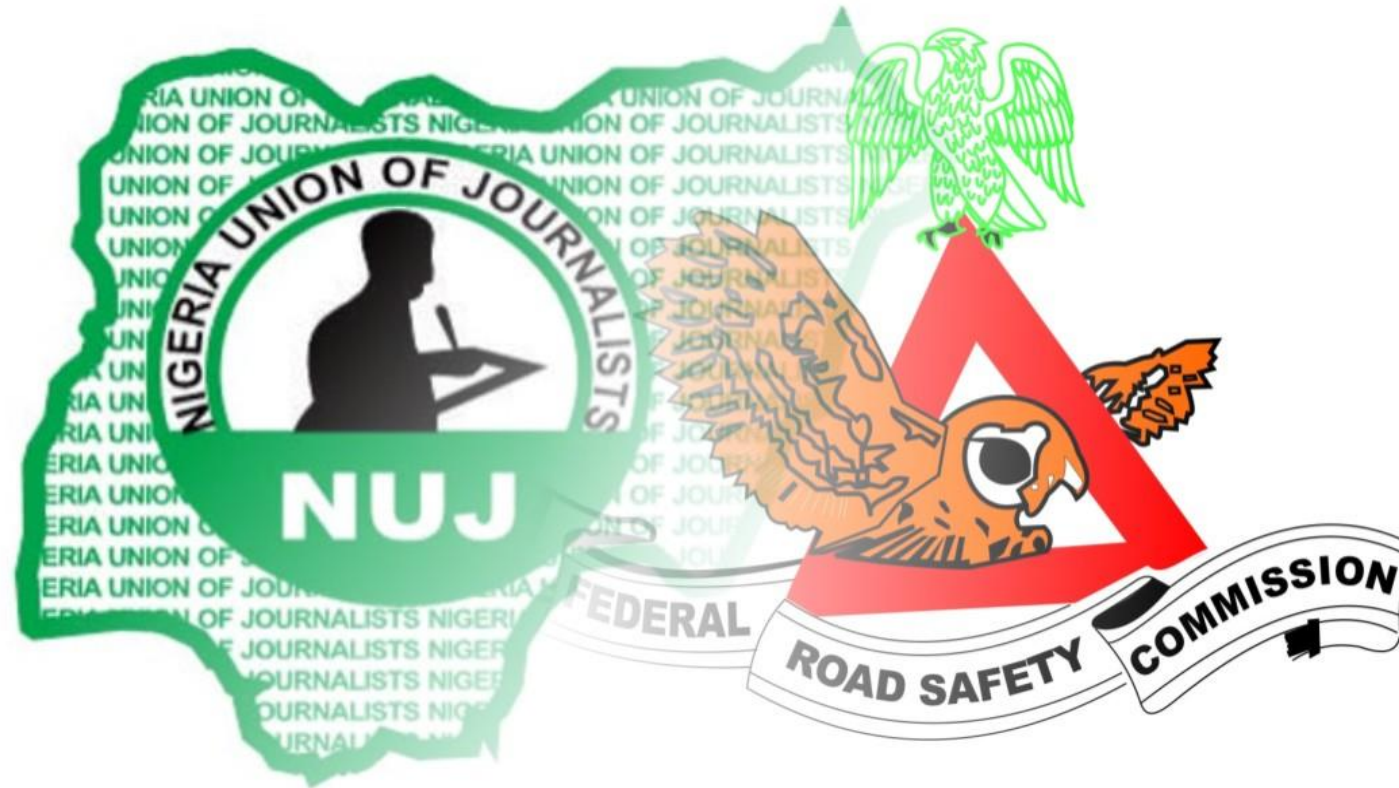


OYO NUJ PRESS WEEK, 2017



ROAD SAFETY IN NIGERIA

Challenges and Prospects

Boboye Oyeyemi, *MFR, mni, NPoM, Ph.D*
Corps Marshal, Federal Road Safety Corps

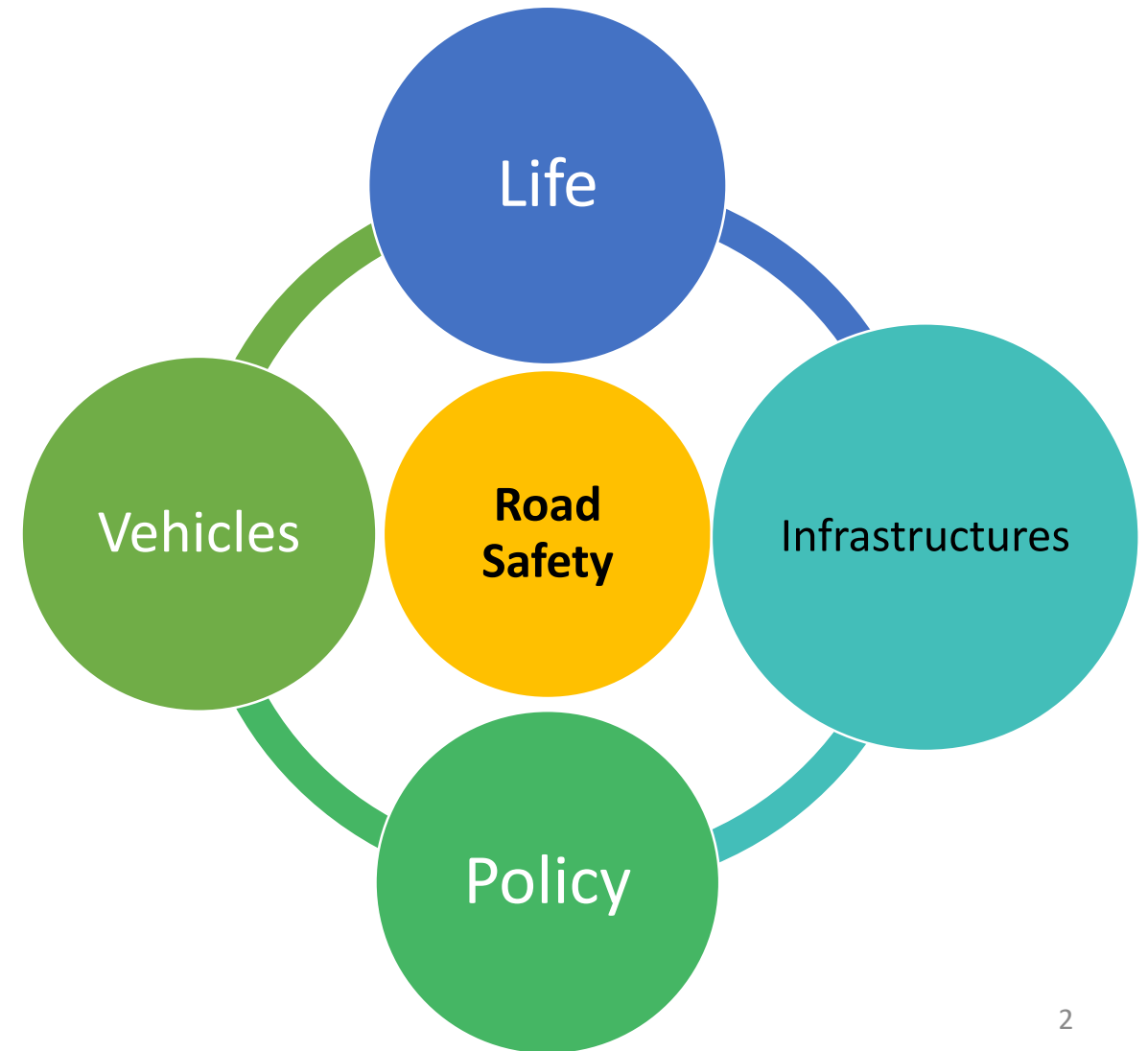
29 November
2017

Ibadan, Oyo State
Nigeria

Introduction

Road safety refers to the methods and measures used to prevent road users from being killed or seriously injured from road traffic collisions or crashes.

It is a deliberate action that encircles:



Introduction

Lack of measures to curb traffic mishaps has become a global health burden and causing the death of **1.4 million** people annually including injuries to over **50 million**.

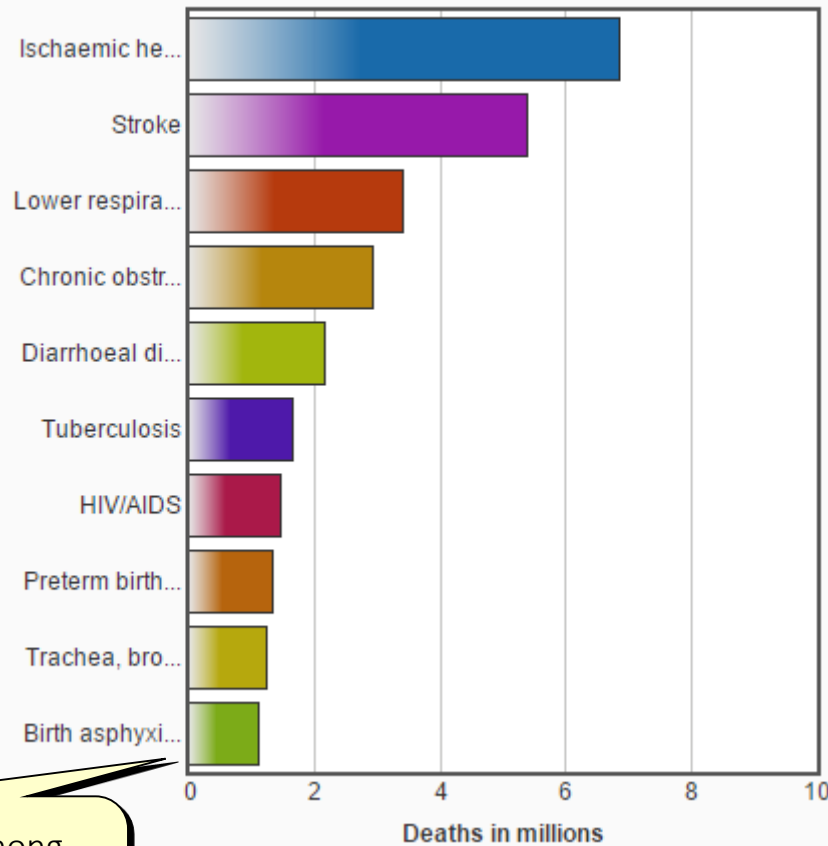


Road Safety is a *Challenge*

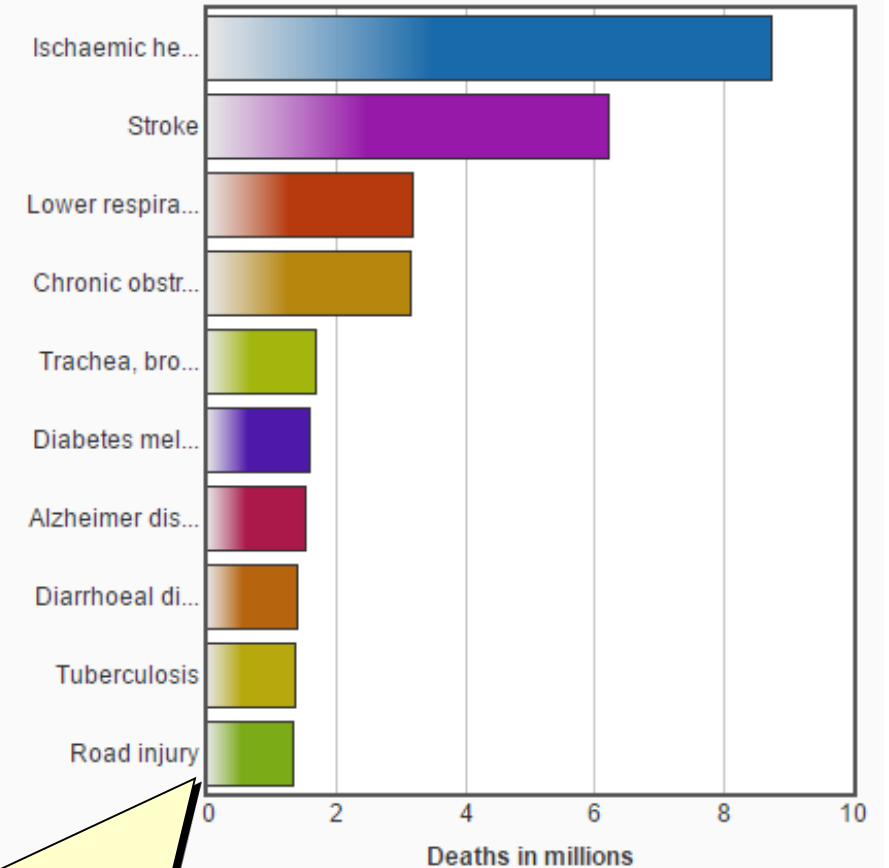
Road traffic safety has emerged to be a major challenge to contend with.

Traffic Injuries were not among the leading causes of human death

Top 10 causes of death globally 2000



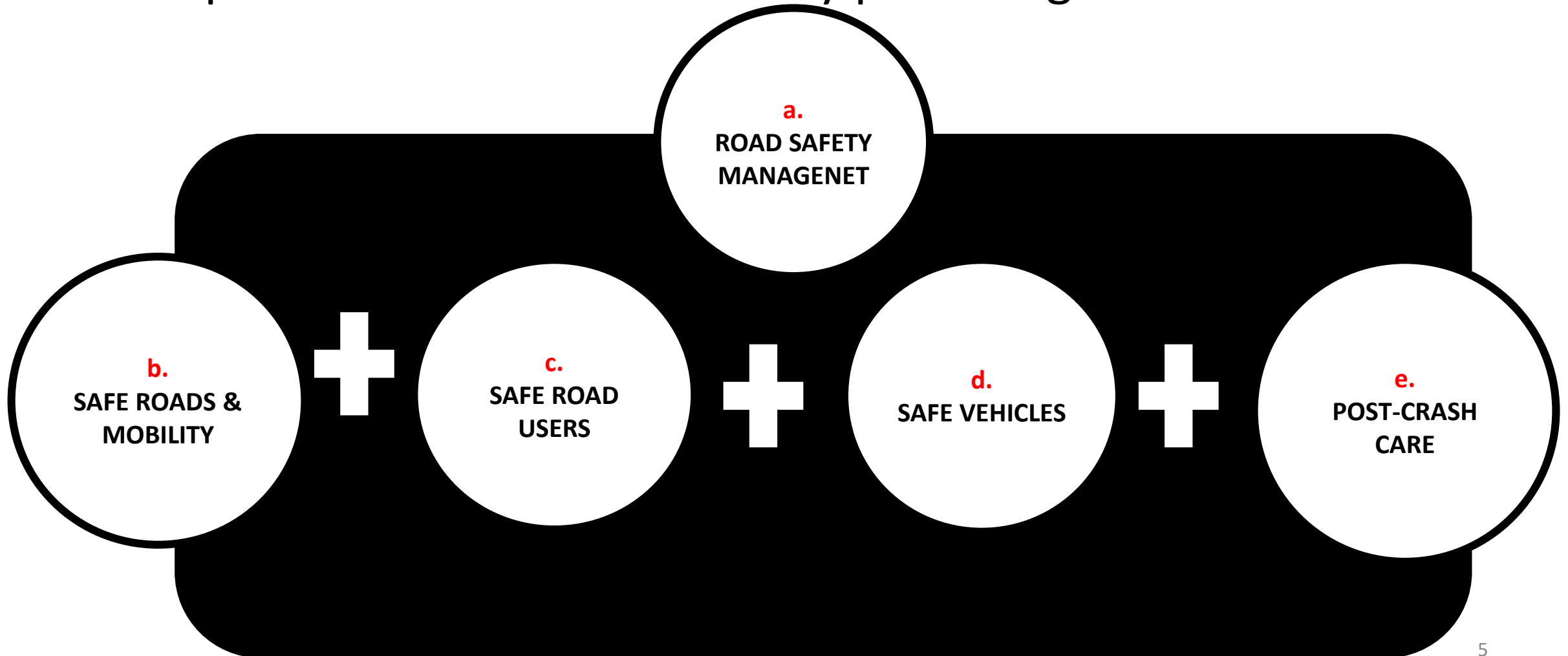
Top 10 causes of death globally 2015



Road Traffic Injuries would be **3rd** causes of human deaths if no action is taken to mitigate the trend

Making the Roads Better: A Traffic Safety Concept

A well defined framework has been developed and accepted worldwide for the implementation of Road Safety plans or goals.



Road Safety in *Nigeria*

The global road safety picture is a challenge in Nigeria too.

350,961
*people killed
on Nigerian
roads from
1960 to 2016*



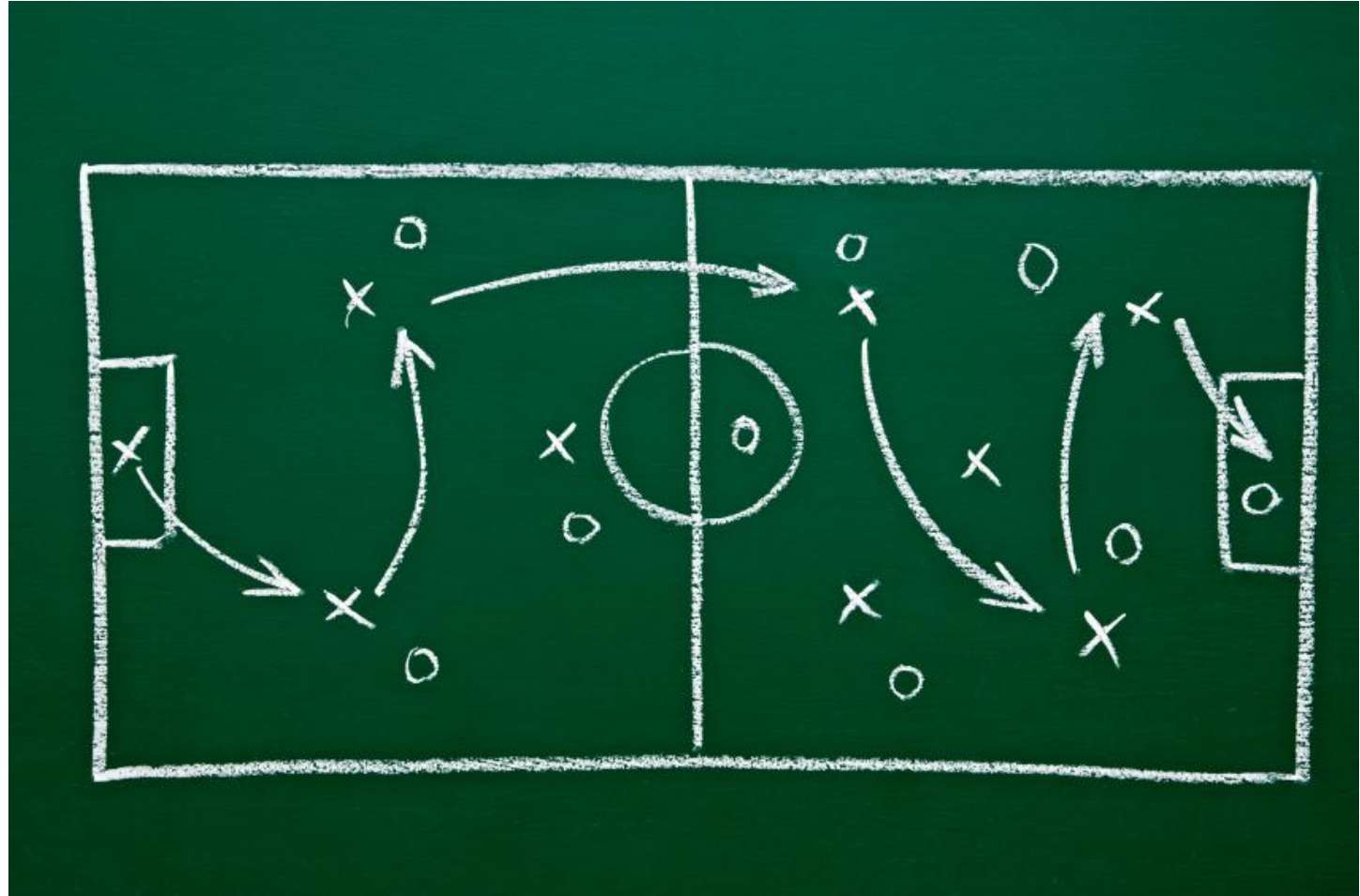
1,208,890
*people
Injured from
1960 to 2016*



Every road became a potential **death trap** until government's response and intervention.

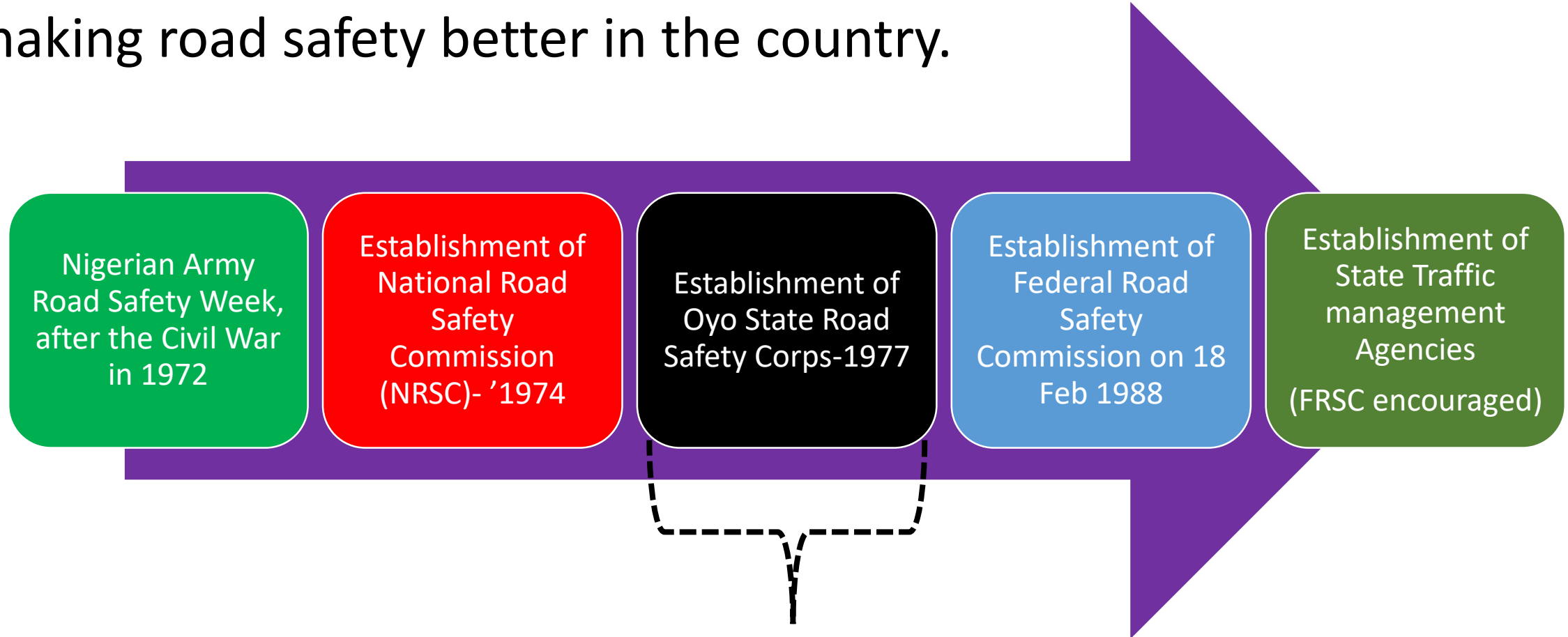
Achieving Road Safety in *Nigeria*

Achieving Road traffic safety in Nigeria required a well focused government intervention which has been manifested in a number of ways over the years



Intervention of *Government*

From 1970 till date, government has been relentless in efforts at making road safety better in the country.



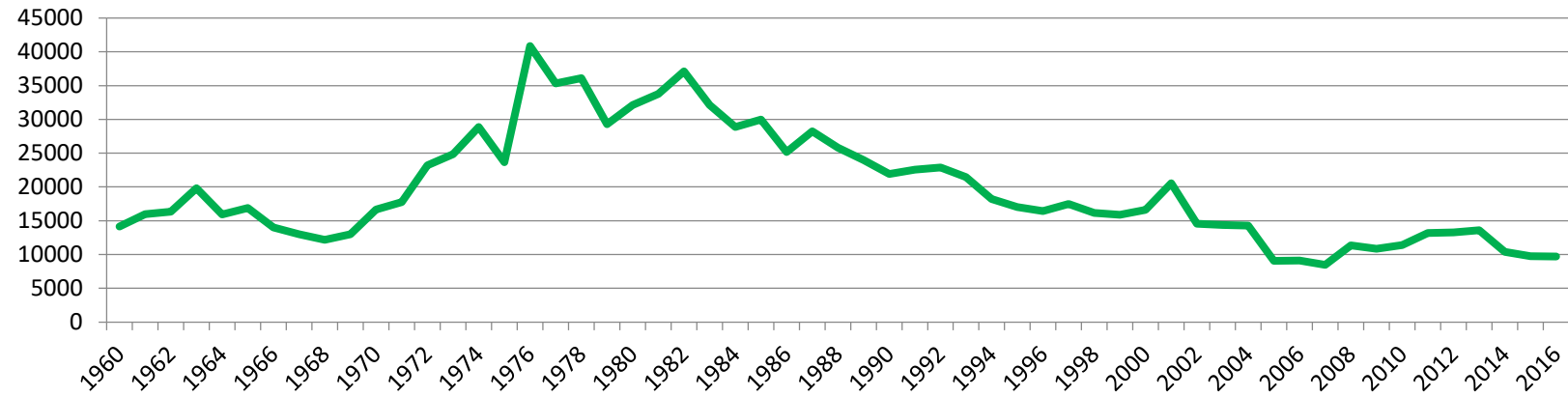
It is worthy to note that **Oyo State** is a landmark in road safety history in Nigeria.

Impact of the Interventions

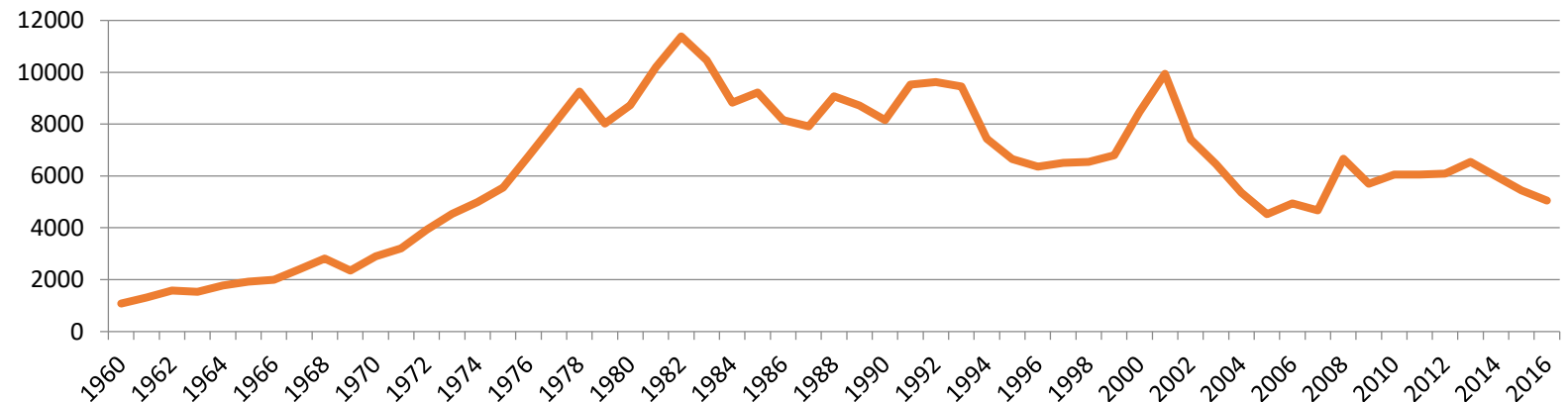
A paradigm shift in the frequency of crashes and fatalities have been achieved as a result of government's efforts.

However, certain road safety challenges persist that have not delivered the desired road safety outcome in Nigeria.

**LINE GRAPH OF TOTAL NO. OF ROAD TRAFFIC CRASHES IN NIGERIA:
1960-2016**



**LINE GRAPH OF TOTAL NO. KILLED OF PERSONS KILLED IN ROAD
TRAFFIC CRASHES IN NIGERIA: 1960-2016**



The challenges militating against the thriving of Road Safety in Nigeria varies from political to legislative differences as well as human and cultural acceptability.

CULTURAL CONFLICT

Certain cultures in some parts of the country do not align with basic road safety rules as it is perceived to conflict with their cultural practice.



As a result, enforcement of road safety laws in these areas come with resistance even when the consequences are obvious. For example, the use of crash helmet as some people have mystical and health beliefs

MYTHS AND BELIFES

Certain beliefs of some Sects are in contradiction to Road Safety laws.



Pre-destination beliefs which apparently cannot be substantiated when weighed side-by-side with Road Safety considerations pervade in some parts of the country. For example, the belief that “**what will be, will be**”.

INEFFECTIVE TRAFFIC LAWS IMPLEMENTATION

The non-alignment of some States Traffic Laws is an issue, but more worrisome is the ineffective implementation of the traffic laws at the States and Local Government Areas.

The resultant effect is that, the Federal Government Agencies like the FRSC becomes over-stretched and that is why States are encouraged to establish States Traffic Agencies to supplement FRSC's efforts.

STATE OF ROAD INFRASTRUCTURES

The State of roads and road infrastructures is another major challenge to road safety.

While road traffic enforcement is coordinated by FRSC, administration and management of road infrastructure is handled by Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing. This brings about a *lacuna*.



INEFFECTIVE VEHICLE INSPECTION SYSTEM

Myriads of vehicles which are not road-worthy ply our roads today. This contribute proportionally to fatalities and crashes in Nigeria



The ineffectiveness of inspection system is responsible for this lapse.

MINDSET AND POVERTY

One of the major challenges facing Road Safety in Nigeria today is lack of proper mindset of those who engage in public transportation business.

The rush to make more money at the perils of others is a concern this manifests in overloading and over-speeding



IMPATIENCE AND SUBVERSION OF DUE PROCESS

The level of impatience in accessing road safety products and services like the National Drivers License and Number Plate coupled with diversion of processes by some officials is a major concern.

The overall effect is lack of comprehensive records, data and database for planning and policy purposes.



USE OF HIGHWAYS AS A MARKET PLACE

The use of some portion of major roads(highways) for trading has brought about reduction in the width of the road and safety and security concerns.



ALMS BEGGING ON THE ROADS/ BUSE OF ROAD INFRASTRUCTURES

Sick people who are supposed to be in a conducive environment are usually found on our major highways soliciting for alms.

Abuse of road infrastructures such pedestrian bridges are common.



Despite the challenges to road safety in Nigeria enumerated above, there are prospects to road safety based on current efforts and strategies being implemented.

HOLISTIC INVOLVEMENT



*NIGERIA ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY
(NRSS)
2014 - 2018*

Road Safety in Nigeria has a brighter future with the implementation of a mechanism that is all-involving.

Federal, States, MDAs, Stakeholders and the PRESS now see road safety as a collective task.

2013

EFFECTIVE GRADUATED DRIVERS TRAINING AND POLICY

With a well articulated Driving School Standardization Programme (DSSP), the country is assured of safety-conscious trained drivers in the future.



ENTRENCHED SAFER ROAD USE CULTURE

The implementation and infusion of road safety education in the primary and secondary school curriculum in Nigeria will ensure that the road use culture of future generations of Nigerians is well sharpened.

EFFECTIVE FLEET MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Public mass road transportation accounts for nearly 80% of transportation needs of the country.

Efforts and measures have been put in place on the Road Transport Safety Standardization Scheme (RTSSS) to regulate activities of market players.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

With the focus of the Country on being the 20th Safest Road in the world by year 2020 and other implementation of global targets like the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is projected to rise astronomically in coming years.

The loss to GDP which is put at 3% will be eliminated and such losses re-invested into the economy for profitable development.

ZERO TRAFFIC FATALITY IN THE FUTURE

The dividends of policies and strategies on road traffic safety shows a positive trending.

It is evident that if efforts are being sustained with support from all Stakeholders including the NUJ, ZERO-traffic fatality will be achieved in no distant time in Nigeria.

Conclusion

Road Safety in Nigeria is no different from Road Safety elsewhere in the world. The major challenge is the mindset and will to effect measures that will enhance every road user's safety.

Until Road Safety is seen as a personal commitment and shared responsibility, efforts and interventions of government alone cannot solve the problem.

Road Safety is **YOU** and **I**.

Let's join hands to get it done.



Safety starts with
you

THANK YOU

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