

PAAPAM

Pan African Action Plan for Active Mobility

UN 
environment
programme



In Africa, where over a billion people rely on walking and cycling for their daily transport needs, there are notable hurdles to their mobility experience, particularly concerning safety.

Amidst the challenges, there is a growing recognition of the benefits of investing in walking and cycling. Several governments are exploring investments in active mobility for the air quality, health, accessibility, and sustainable mobility benefits.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in partnership with UN-Habitat and others, is supporting the development of PAAPAM, an initiative that acknowledges both the obstacles and opportunities in investing in walking and cycling. It draws on successful policies and existing commitments across the continent and seeks to create an enabling environment for walking and cycling in African cities, recognizing the massive potential in these sustainable modes of transport.

The priority actions for the PAAPAM framework emphasize the importance of active mobility in promoting public health, economic growth, reducing traffic congestion and pollution, ensuring social inclusivity, and mitigating environmental impacts.

PAAPAM is inspired by successful policies and existing commitments in Africa for active mobility. It seeks to address the pressing challenges and make the most of the opportunities of walking and cycling in Africa.

Throughout 2024, national and local governments together with representatives from academia and civil society across Africa will be invited to join workshops, trainings and networking events to finalize the action plan and develop regionally specific methodologies for a greener, cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable transportation future.

“ **More than a billion people walk or cycle for almost an hour daily in Africa.** ”





Objectives

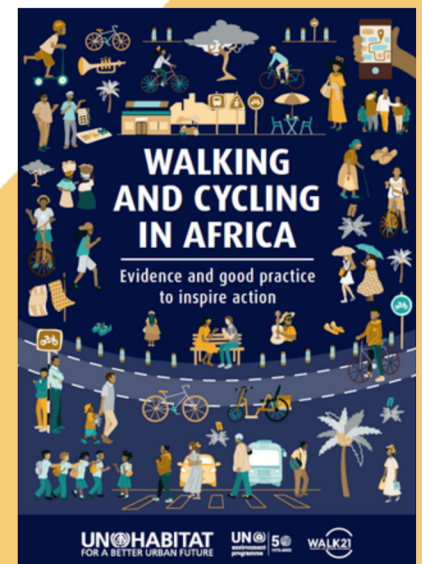
- Define **common priorities related to walking and cycling**—a checklist for government prioritisation and action at national and local levels.
- **Raise the profile of active mobility**, highlighting the role of walking and cycling in addressing deteriorating air quality and the climate crisis.
- **Encourage walking and cycling investments** by national and city governments and by bilateral and multilateral development banks.
- **Promote dialogue and knowledge sharing** among governments across the Africa region.
- Identify key **performance indicators** to enable governments to track progress over time and to see where they stand compared to counterparts in the region.

What has happened so far...

After conducting significant research to baseline walking and cycling conditions in each African country, together with various stakeholders, UNEP drafted an action plan for the region. The draft plan relies predominantly on African best practice from existing national and city active mobility policies and has been validated through consultation with a wide range of stakeholders including government officials, civil society, academia, and financial institutions.

To date, UNEP has engaged more than 850 stakeholders in the PAAPAM development process. This includes the Africa Network for Walking and Cycling (ANWAC), bilateral discussions with UN-Habitat and World Health Organisation (WHO), two side events at COP27 in Egypt and the 2023 Walk21 Kigali Conference.

We are committed to maintaining our consultative approach with senior government officials leading up to the planned launch at the end of 2024.



Walking and
Cycling in Africa -
Evidence and
Good Practice to
Inspire Action