

Professional Driver Training – Uganda

Launch Event; Thursday, 6th July 2017 at KCCA grounds

Transaid and PDT-U speech by Neil Rettie, Transaid Project Manager

Honourable Ministers,... Deputy High Commissioner,... honoured guests...

Transaid transforms lives through safe, available, and sustainable transport. Founded by Save the Children, The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT), and our Patron, HRH The Princess Royal, the international development organisation shares 25 years' worth of expertise... in 23 countries... with partners and governments – empowering people to build the skills they need to transform their own lives.

- **Our priority is the people on the ground**

Every driver should be able to leave for a day's work... without the fear they may not come home at the end of it... because of a lack of training,... or dangerous vehicles and roads.

Every person should have the opportunity to build the skills they need to transform their future.

- **Our power comes from our strong partnerships**

We are a unique, passionate organisation that works with partners and governments to solve transport challenges in economically developing countries. We couldn't make a

tangible, sustainable difference without our partnerships internationally and our corporate supporters in the UK.

- **Sharing expertise is our passion**

We are trusted by international organisations, governments, and communities, to share our knowledge, and to bring together expertise from other organisations.

We have a unique technical reputation in the transport and development niche. We believe that knowledge should be open and accessible and have removed the Intellectual Property rights from our information to make sure it can be shared for the widest impact.

We focus on professional driver training,... transport management systems,... and rural access to transport,... to solve some of the biggest transport challenges in economically developing countries.

- **We support drivers, governments, and training institutions to improve road safety**

In sub-saharan Africa, road deaths are the third biggest killer... following HIV/AIDS and Malaria... and the problem will only rise with the growing population.

Drivers are at risk every time they sit behind the wheel due to a lack of legal enforcement and training, and badly maintained and overloaded vehicles.

We transform driver training – We work with partners and governments to train driver trainers. Our driver training programmes make drivers more competent, vehicles safer, and reduce death and injury on the road.

We transform standards and systems – We work with governments and other organisations to create and promote far-reaching improvements in driving standards,... including curricula development. We also work on transport management systems, joining with partners to increase efficiency, reduce costs, and improve the management and maintenance of vehicle fleets.

Our own Professional Driver Training Project began in Zambia in 2008 after having supported the development of the Zambian national HGV curriculum... Transaid is providing technical support to strengthen the capacity and capability of the Industrial Training Centre (ITC) in professional driver training. As a reflection on the quality of training now available at the ITC, it is now one of only two training providers in Zambia authorised to conduct HGV driver training for licence acquisition.

In 2010 the Professional Driver Training Project expanded to include the National Institute of Transport in Tanzania. Ensuring full engagement from the authorities and industry, Transaid again supported the development of curricula for both PSV and HGV driving.

In 2012 Transaid partnered with Safe Way Right Way and Total Oil here in Uganda to deliver training of trainers and a couple of years later we began working in collaboration with the Ministry of Works and Transport to train PSV driver trainers.

Malawi was added to our Professional Driver Training Project in 2016 where we worked with the Directorate of Road Transport and Safety Services to provide training to both HGV and PSV trainers and also conducted vehicle inspection training for traffic police and DRTSS officers.

This work and our development of the EAC Standardised Curriculum for Drivers of Large Commercial Vehicles, of which you will hear more later, led to our being invited to join in partnership with GIZ and Safe Way Right Way to deliver this... the Professional Driver Training – Uganda project.

In the coming years there will be a growing need for a large number of additional truck and bus drivers and our project aims to meet this demand.

This PDTU project aims to train a minimum of 12 driving instructors from existing driving schools,... as well as a new school being developed under Safe Way Right Way,... to deliver training based on the EAC curriculum for both truck and bus drivers.

This training will suit drivers wishing to advance from cars to driving trucks and buses as well as drivers already working in the industry seeking to increase their skills and knowledge.

The project aims to provide training to at least 800 drivers over the next two years and, to ensure sustainability beyond that timeframe, a number of Master Trainers will be trained to meet the needs of developing future driving instructors as the economy and transport demand continues to grow.

There have been thirteen participants to date undergoing training – many of whom are here with us today. Six have successfully completed the training so far... and the remainder continues to undergo training from our expert international trainers as well as working together to build skills and confidence – coaching each other.

Two of those still undergoing training will shortly demonstrate some of the tasks and manoeuvres required of a highly trained, professional truck driver.

The EAC curriculum and its associated training manual is not a lightweight document; they extend to over 250 pages and cover topics such as: the Traffic and Road Safety Act; road signs, signals and markings; defensive driving; first aid; customer care; basic mechanical

principles; load security and the carriage of dangerous goods.. amongst other modules. In addition to the classroom based theory training there are 45 to 50 hours of practical training in a suitable vehicle such as the one parked behind you.

The development of the driver training capacity, the establishment of a new training facility and the training of drivers are only part of the Professional Driver Training – Uganda project. Other components include the development of additional training modules and material to meet the additional needs of the Ugandan Oil & Gas sector and a media campaign ‘Linnya Class’ to encourage people to upgrade their skills.

In addition to funding from the British, German and Norwegian governments, through GIZ’s E4D/SOGA - Employment and Skills for Eastern Africa programme,... this project could not be delivered successfully without the kind support of Safe Way Right Way board member companies... and specifically Total Oil Uganda and Super Star Forwarders in providing the project with training vehicles... and Sibel Transport for the provision of premises and land in Mukono for our training facility.

Collaboration: local, regional and international will enable this project to address the growing demands for competent professional drivers here in Uganda and... in time... beyond.

Before the next speaker is invited to the stage... I would like to take the opportunity to have our project's advertising jingle played for you. Hopefully you will be hearing it regularly on various radio stations over the coming months.

Thank you.