

PRESS RELEASE



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BIG HEARTED FTA MEMBERS TALLY £50,000 FOR TRANSAID

Freight Transport Association members have donated £50,000 to support the work of international development charity Transaid as part of their annual membership renewals since January 2010. This has enabled over 1,400 drivers in Africa to receive professional training, helping to make roads and communities safer.

Today, FTA President Stewart Oades presented Transaid's outgoing Chief Executive with a cheque to celebrate reaching the £50k mark.

Stewart said: "By opting to donate a proportion of their annual membership fee to Transaid, FTA members have not only shown an outstanding level of generosity in these undeniably tough times, but will help support Transaid to do the exceptional work it does in improving transport in those developing countries where it is literally a life or death issue."

In sub-Saharan Africa, road deaths are the third biggest premature killer, following HIV/AIDS and malaria. In many parts of Africa, road crashes occur at an alarming rate and high numbers of fatalities result. Many serious crashes involve heavy goods vehicles or public service vehicles, and Transaid is working to create a safer operating environment through the development of commercial vehicle driver training and qualifications.

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Through its partnership with two national training institutions in Zambia and Tanzania, Transaid's Professional Driver Training Project is improving commercial vehicle driver training standards and safety awareness in order to address the shortage of skilled drivers. FTA has also contributed to the project through the provision of expertise in the shape of one of its Vehicle Inspection Services engineers, Graham Pink, who has recently conducted a course on vehicle inspection to help improve day-to-day vehicle safety which was well received in Tanzania.

Chris Saunders, outgoing Chief Executive of Transaid, said:

“It is difficult to measure how much £50,000 means to Transaid's cause. Around 1.3 million people die in road crashes globally every year, and a large proportion of these happen across the developing world. We are very grateful to FTA members for their unswerving support in helping us to fund projects to raise awareness of this massive problem and help us tackle the challenges to make roads safer. The fact that we are already expanding the project into Tanzania is testament to this.”

The cheque presentation was Chris's last assignment for Transaid as the new Chief Executive, Gary Forster, takes on the role as of today.

Note to Editor:

Transaid (www.transaid.org) is an international development agency that aims to improve people's quality of life in the developing world by making transport more available and affordable. It was founded by Save The Children and the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (UK) and works by sharing skills and knowledge with local people to enable them to put in place and manage efficient transport systems. Transaid's core work includes creating transport management systems for the public sector and assisting with the provision of professional driving qualification development and the training of driver trainers. It also assists with teaching preventive vehicle maintenance management and introducing local, low cost transport solutions including its innovative bicycle ambulance. Transaid also helps promote road safety awareness and shares its specialist knowledge with the industry and the active involvement of its Patron, HRH The Princess Royal.

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