



## AFCAP/Transaid Emergency Transport Workshop

**Project Location:** Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

**Project Start date:** December 2013 (workshop = March 2014)

**Project duration:** 4 months (workshop = 2 days)

**Introduction:** On the 26th - 27th March 2014, Transaid organised a workshop in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. This workshop was made possible by the Africa Community Access Programme (AFCAP), which is funded by UKaid from the Department of International Development (DfID) and managed by Crown Agents. The aim of this workshop was to promote the dissemination of research findings on emergency transport across sub-Saharan Africa, thus encouraging debate about how to improve emergency transport and associated dialogue and advocacy for policy change across the continent.

**Methodology:** This workshop brought together key emergency transport stakeholders from across sub-Saharan Africa to discuss and explore how to improve emergency transport for health. A total of 40 delegates from over 10 different countries attended the workshop. These participants included Ministry of Health representatives, ambulance practitioners, NGOs, donors and leading academics in the field. The workshop was an important route to the dissemination of recent AFCAP research into emergency transport services to encourage and assist pan-African debate on improving emergency transport across the continent. It also, in parts, had a special focus on the improvement of emergency rural transport services across Africa, with crucial implications in particular for maternal and child health.

The key themes of panel presentation and discussion were:

- Operational Practice
  - Fleet Management
  - Staff Training & Links to Emergency Medicine
- Monitoring & Evaluation, research and academic perspectives
- Innovations to Extend the Reach-
  - Innovation, Communication and Technology
  - The role of Motorcycle Taxis/Motorcycle Ambulances in Emergency Transport

- How do we take evidence into practice?
  - Advocacy and Knowledge Management for Emergency Transport

### Findings/Outcomes:

Key findings from the workshop-

- There are many different vehicles that can make up a National Ambulance Service and the vehicle must match the specification of the role that it plays
- It is not the number of vehicles that determine the efficiency of a fleet, it is how you manage them
- You cannot leave transport management to chance – you must plan it, control it, measure it and understand its role in health delivery
- Any effort to improve healthcare must approach the whole (emergency) system rather than one component of patient care. The objective must be to provide a robust and sustainable improvement in care.
- A successful Emergency Medical System needs sustained political commitment, technical expertise, available finances, public awareness and pressure
- There needs to be robust M&E frameworks to transport projects
- There is very little published research on maternal referral and emergency transport
- There is a significant relationship between how long women take to arrive at a referral facility and their vital signs on arrival
- Interventions such as bicycle and motorcycle ambulances need to be carefully designed with community/user involvement then monitored and evaluated based on user needs
- Community engagement and support is integral for a successful rural transport intervention
- Public-Private Partnerships can work to improve emergency transport and ensure sustainability
- Motorcycles have an important role to play in emergency transport in rural areas but more research needs to be done



- The relationship between research, policy and practice is complex, multi-factoral, non-linear and highly context specific
- It is important to build in a policy engagement component of an emergency transport project right from the design stage. This enables implementation and policy advocacy to become an integral part of the project

#### Key outcomes-

- A working group has been set up to develop a 'transport protocol' for the essential data that needs to be collected for sound data analysis to enable wider use through potential comparative analysis across projects
- There is a webpage on the Transaid website dedicated to workshop knowledge dissemination
- Three follow-up activities have been supported by AFCAP in Ghana, Madagascar & Zanzibar
- Further learning and collaborations –
  - The Community of Practice on Referral are making a learning visit to the Mobilising Access to Maternal Health Services in Zambia (MAMaZ) project
  - The London Ambulance Service has shared materials with other institutions including the Ghana Ambulance Services
  - The Africa Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC) are using the M&E toolkit from AFCAP/Transaid research in their own intervention

**Conclusions:** Overall, it was a highly successful workshop with a number of enthusiastic presentations and critical debates. Thoughts were shared on emergency transport good practice and ideas were generated on how to strengthen the evidence base and advocate for policy change. The workshop has been a catalyst for many exciting collaborations, all with the ultimate goal to improve emergency transport services across sub-Saharan Africa.

**Partners:** AFCAP (funded by DfID and managed by Crown Agents). For full participant list see 'AFCAP/Transaid Emergency Transport Final Report'.

#### About Transaid:

Transaid is an international UK development charity that aims to reduce poverty and improve livelihoods across Africa and the developing world through creating better transport. Transaid was founded by Save the Children and the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport. Our Patron is HRH The Princess Royal. Transaid specializes in the following:

- Building the capacity of public health authorities to provide effective, safe and cost efficient transport management systems to promote equitable access to primary health care services.
- Developing and improving logistics and supply chain systems to enhance the delivery of medicines, equipment and relief services to vulnerable communities.
- Promoting effective partnerships to support and enhance community participation in developing sustainable transport solutions in rural areas.
- Developing and delivering transport and logistics training and qualifications for public and private sector operators.

Transaid has the capacity and reach to lead projects throughout the developing world, but is equally capable of providing niche technical assistance to large scale health systems strengthening projects. Transaid maintains strong relationships with a number of leading international organizations including donor agencies such as DfID, DANIDA and USAID, and implementing organizations such as Health Partners International, Options Consulting, John Snow Inc. and Management Sciences for Health.

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