



## Developing Zambia's National Fleet Safety Policy

<b>Project Location:</b>	Lusaka, Zambia
<b>Project Start Date:</b>	2009
<b>Project Duration:</b>	2 Years

**Introduction:** In 2008 Zambia experienced approximately 20,000 road crashes which led to the death of 1,238 people and the serious injury of 3,123. Road traffic crashes have been ranked as the third highest cause of premature death in Zambia after HIV/AIDS and Malaria. In economic terms the cost of road traffic crashes in Zambia is estimated at 3% of GDP.

In 2008, Transaid facilitated the establishment of the Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP) in Zambia. GRSP Zambia aimed to support and supplement the ongoing and commendable efforts of the government's Road Transport and Safety Agency. GRSP established its operations in the country firstly by finding a host in the Zambia Red Cross Society, and secondly by pulling together a variety of stakeholders and initiating discussions regarding a number of road safety topics. GRSP's mission in Zambia is to work alongside the Road Transport and Safety Agency to achieve the following:

- I. To gain an understanding of the road safety issues in Zambia
- II. To develop a comprehensive yet targeted programme of activities to reduce the number of road crash fatalities and injuries in Zambia
- III. To encourage a concerted and multi-disciplinary approach in solving road safety related issues
- IV. To empower community members to play a role in road safety activities and sustain the pedestrian improvement programme

GRSP has formed a number of sub-committees; one of these which Transaid initially chaired is the Fleet Management Sub-Committee which primarily focuses on fleet safety. One major output of the Fleet Management Sub-Committee has been the national guidelines for fleet safety.

**Methodology:** The development of the guidelines was a result of a broad based consultation among stakeholders in the country including government, private sector, civil society, transport operators and commercial vehicle drivers. The guidelines were designed to focus on the following target groups:

1. Owners of vehicle fleets providing goods or passenger transport services
2. Professional drivers engaged in the management of vehicles
3. Passengers

The aim of the guidelines was two-fold; firstly to promote the harmonization of good fleet safety practices, and secondly to provide fleet management guidelines to all goods and passenger transporters on driving and vehicle standards. Members of the Fleet Management Sub-Committee include a diverse array of stakeholders from civil society, and the public and private sectors. The members of the sub-committee are as follows:

- The Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA)
- Transaid
- The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport
- Zambia Electricity Supply Corporation (ZESCO)
- UNICEF
- Lafarge Cement
- Total
- BP
- Industrial Training Centre
- Zambia Red Cross Society
- Zambia Sugar Company
- Madison Insurance

The development of the Fleet Safety Policy was as much about providing guidance as it was about influencing behaviour change for fleet managers and drivers. Developing a safety culture is of paramount importance when seeking to improve the road safety record of a fleet. Fleet managers and drivers need to feel comfortable highlighting potential safety concerns.

**Outcomes:** The Key outcome of the activities to date was the development of the draft fleet safety guidelines. The guidelines include guidance and standard on a number of topics including the following:

1. Training
2. Vehicle Requirements
3. Drivers and Passengers
4. Driving Limitations and Standards
5. Alcohol and Drugs
6. Vehicles and Drivers Provided Under Contract
7. Hazardous Materials
8. Crashes/Accidents
9. Obligations of Stakeholders
10. Obligations of Company Employees
11. Roles of the Ministry of Communications and Transport and the agency RTSA
12. The role of Zambia Police
13. The role of Zambia Red Cross Society

As well as providing guidance on fleet management and fleet safety best practises, the guidelines also include a code of conduct for vehicle users (drivers). The code of conduct details the standards which drivers must adhere to in order to make the implementation of the Fleet Safety Policy successful. The code of conduct includes a

number of statements including some regarding drink driving, wearing of the seatbelt, observing speed limits and defect reporting.

**Conclusion:** The development of the National Fleet Safety Guidelines in Zambia is a commendable step forward. Now the guidelines must now be disseminated through groups such as the Truckers Association of Zambia (TAZ) and the Federation of Zambian Hauliers (FedHaul) to ensure that implementation is widespread. As the Fleet Safety Policy also includes elements of fleet management best practise the benefits to operators will go beyond improvements in safety records;

- Reduced vehicle downtime: drivers who conduct daily vehicle checks will identify potential problems before they become serious. The impact of this is an improved ability to schedule maintenance activities rather than being surprised by unexpected downtime.
- Reduced running costs: fleet managers who track vehicle running costs will be able to identify poor driving techniques which lead to increased fuel consumption and maintenance costs.
- Longer vehicle life: by enacting best practise maintenance regimes, servicing will be completed on time and daily checks will identify minor problems before they become significant.

GRSP and the Road Transport and Safety Agency must continue to work with fleet operators, continually checking levels of implementation of the guidelines and discussing implementation issues with those using the guidelines at the grass roots level.

**Tools Utilised:** GRSP Fleet Safety Manual, Transaid Transport Management Manual

**Partners:** The development of the Fleet Safety Policy was driven by the Road Transport and Safety Agency (RTSA), with support from GRSP Zambia. The process itself included input by the Fleet Management Sub-committee and its 12 members.

#### 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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