



Developing an East African Community Standardised Driver Training Curriculum and Instructor's Manual for Drivers of Large Commercial Vehicles

Project Location:	East Africa Community (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda)
Project Start Date:	January 2015
Project Duration:	6 months

Introduction: Road transport is a key economic sector within the East African Community (EAC) which provides essential services in facilitating intraregional and international trade. Although the region has significant trade potential, it experiences exceptionally high road transport costs. This is often attributed to inadequate professional training of truck drivers and other transport operators, among other factors. A World Health Organisation (WHO) report published in 2013 estimates that some 1.24 million people lose their lives on the world's roads each year, with a further 20 to 50 million people suffering injury and/or disability. The report also indicates that 90% of these deaths occur in developing countries where road traffic crashes are now the leading cause of death for people aged 15 to 29. Therefore, both the human and economic cost of road traffic crashes in the East African region is high.

Research studies have revealed that there is an acute shortage of professionally trained and qualified commercial vehicle drivers in the East Africa region, with only about 38% of transport operators having ever undergone a professional course in transport since they were employed (EAC 2012). Studies further established that there is an inadequate supply of trainers and training facilities and that, with a few exceptions, the quality and scope of the training does not fully address the requirements of the industry. This situation has made it difficult for the EAC region to generate professionally skilled transport operators that are recognised and accepted across the region.

Transaid was contracted by the EAC to develop a Standardised Training Curriculum and Instructor's Manual for Drivers of Large Commercial Vehicles (freight and passengers) in January 2015. The EAC Secretariat supported the standardisation and harmonisation of road transport operations and policies among the member states, as part of efforts to fulfil the requirements of the EAC Treaty, this initiative is part of regional efforts to improve the training of road transport operators in the region. This programme was funded by TradeMark East Africa (TMEA), an organisation that works to promote advances in East Africa's integration, trade and global competitiveness.

Once established, a harmonised curriculum to support professional training and certification of drivers of large commercial vehicles is expected to significantly contribute in reducing the high incidences of

road crashes and fatalities, high operational costs and low productivity.

Methodology: Transaid and partners in Tanzania reviewed the relevant curricula and training material sourced from across the region. This was conducted through desk-based research; however, semi structured interviews were also sought with key stakeholders where possible. The team gained the endorsement from the respective national authorities to facilitate the sharing of materials by all involved.

The review of the curricula and the training materials gathered from across the EAC helped to identify existing good practice. The materials were assessed individually and a checklist was completed specifying which modules had been included in each curriculum. A summary was produced of each curriculum identifying its strengths and limitations. The curricula were assessed on a number of factors; including, comprehensiveness, the methodology behind their development, any supporting policies and Road Traffic Acts, whether they are competency-based or knowledge-based and their balance between theoretical and practical training. Any identified gaps were addressed through developing training content with input from key stakeholders.

A regional and technical committee was formed comprising of government, private sector and training schools from across the EAC member states. This committee held a meeting in May 2015 in Nairobi. A draft version of the curriculum was circulated two weeks prior to the workshop to allow input from the key stakeholders. The curriculum was then further updated based on feedback from the workshop. Once the curriculum was finalised, Transaid developed an instructors' reference manual and training materials for drivers of large commercial vehicles. It was found that there was limited existing material available at this level across the EAC, which was specific to large vehicles. As such, considerable content had to be written or sourced elsewhere as part of this assignment. The draft manual and training material were shared with the key stakeholders across the EAC at the third meeting of the Regional Technical Committee of the East Africa Trade and Transport Facilitation Project in Rwanda and then updated. This workshop included discussion on recommendations for national and regional institutional frameworks that will regulate the training and certification of trainees.

Outcomes: With input from key stakeholders, and drawing on good practices in the region, Transaid has developed a standardised training curriculum that will apply to drivers of large commercial vehicles for the East African Community. This curriculum specifies the minimum standards of competence for drivers of large commercial vehicles (freight and passenger). The curriculum has been designed to be competency-based; it includes the specification of training modules discerning clearly practical and theoretical training hours, entry requirements and duration of the course, as well as required

previous training and experience. The trainees will need to apply the skills learned and demonstrate competency in order to be granted a license/qualification. The final curriculum has been reviewed and approved by the Regional Technical Committee on East Africa Trade, Transport Facilitation Project.

The major topics covered by the curriculum are:

Classroom based theory modules on:

1. Driving Philosophy
2. Drivers' Welfare & Fitness to Drive
3. Traffic laws, rules, regulations and other relevant laws
4. Road signs, signals & markings
5. Basic Mechanical Principles
6. Defensive driving
7. HIV/AIDS awareness
8. Customer Care
9. Managing Incidents
10. First Aid
11. Transport Documentation
12. Environment & Transport
13. Carrying a Load

On-vehicle based practical modules on:

1. Basics of Driving
2. Reversing
3. Negotiating the road safely
4. Vehicle Checks HGV
5. Vehicle Checks PSV
6. Coupling & Uncoupling the trailer

An Instructors' Reference Manual was developed to complement the curriculum. It is aimed primarily as a training aid, a tool for instructors to help ensure quality and to provide key training material to be shared with drivers during the training. The curriculum, while being the principle guiding document, is supplemented not only by the instructors' manual, but also other relevant reference guides as appropriate; e.g. specific national laws and regulations etc. and other published driver training material which can be used to expand upon the content of this manual. Extracts from the manual can be used as handouts for the trainees. Most handouts would just be used as a reference by trainees; such as the tables on road signs and markings. Others would be used daily by them while training and in the future; such as the vehicle defect report.

A draft driving test was also provided for the consideration of the regional technical committee for use as a means of assessing the competency of the trainees after completion of the training. The tool is a method by which the examiner can record the faults made by the trainee during a driving test and allocate these faults to the categories: driving fault; serious fault and dangerous fault.

Conclusion: The development of the curriculum and Instructor's Manual is part of regional efforts to improve the training of road transport operators in the region.

Although the project team assessed a specific region of East Africa and designed a curriculum using the strongest practices existing in the region, the training materials are sufficiently generic to use beyond East Africa.

The development of a standardised curriculum and instructors' manual are important milestones. However, in order to improve the performance of the sector and to improve road safety the curriculum

needs implementation. A series of recommendations were made in the final report for the integration and adoption of the curriculum throughout the East Africa region.

Key recommendations include:

- Developing a legal framework in order to facilitate harmonisation of training across the region.
- Building large commercial vehicle training capacity should also be a priority.
- Establishment of a Centre of Excellence where trainers and driving examiners from across the EAC can be trained to a common standard
- The standards of testing and licensing need to be agreed across the five partner countries and partner countries will need to implement dissemination strategies appropriately.
- Investment in training
- Auditing and quality assurance processes are key to maintaining a good level of driver training standard in East Africa

Tools Developed: the East African Community Standardised Driver Training Curriculum and Instructor's Manual for Drivers of Large Commercial Vehicles

Partners: East Africa Community (EAC) and TradeMark East Africa

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 specialises 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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