



Henry Kunda

## Henry Kunda Bicycle Ambulance Custodian

Henry Kunda is the custodian of the bicycle ambulance in his village. Passionate about helping his community, Henry has been working with the Mobilising Access to Maternal Health Services in Zambia (MAMaZ) programmes for around seven years.

One day, Henry received a call about a patient suffering from suspected severe malaria 36 kilometres away. As the patient lived behind the mountains inaccessible by car, Henry prepared the bicycle ambulance and the rider left to collect the patient. When the rider reached the house ten hours later, the patient was in a critical condition.

The rider managed to transport the patient to Henry's house, arriving after another ten hours of travel. Where Henry lives the roads are more suited to cars, and so the patient was transferred to an available vehicle to travel the 21-kilometre journey to the health facility. The patient recovered at the facility after further treatment.

Due to the terrain in rural areas of Zambia, a bicycle ambulance is often more accessible and quicker than a car.

**"The bicycle ambulance manages to go where the roads would be impossible for a car."**

Speaking about the positive impact of the programme in his community, Henry says: "MAMaZ has done a lot, especially in reducing mortalities - both maternal and malarial. When we received these bicycle ambulances, we noticed that deaths reduced."

**"I'm appealing for the continuation of the MAMaZ programme. It should not end."**

*\*the Mobilising Access to Maternal Health Services in Zambia (MAMaZ) Against Malaria programme partners include: Transaid, the Zambian National Malaria Elimination Centre, District Health Management Teams, DAI Global Health Limited, Development Data, and Disacare.*

