

Strengthening Patient Transport Systems in sub-Saharan Africa



Emergency Transport Systems Increased Access to Essential Health Services, Reduced Travel Times and Costs, and Improved Patient Outcomes

Transport availability, transportation costs, and travel times effect health care seeking behaviour.

Transaid works with transport providers and communities to implement locally appropriate and sustainable transport solutions, improving health outcomes

MADAGASCAR

In northern Madagascar, Transaid worked with difficult-to-reach communities to put in place Emergency Transport Systems (ETS) and Emergency Evacuation Plans as part of the JSI led, USAID funded Community Capacity for Health Program. Locally available transport options, including rickshaws, bicycle ambulances, stretchers, carts and canoe ambulances, improved communities' readiness to respond to health emergencies. Demand for this service increased significantly between 2017-2021. Communities were also encouraged to use public transport to support prompt referral.

Transaid also worked with local taxi co-operatives to set up an ETS delivered by three-wheeler and minibus taxi drivers who supplied their services at an affordable rate.



Pregnant women, children under 5 years old and other patients utilising ETS solutions **25,578**

Increase in patients using community ETS and public transport from 2017-2021 **> 3,000%**

No. patients using ETS provided by local taxi co-operatives 2020-2021 **4,196**

Reduction in commercial taxi fares once ETS established **>90%**

UGANDA

To improve access to maternal health services, Transaid trained 324 boda boda (motorcycle taxi) riders in 5 districts to provide affordable and safe patient transport to private Profam clinics under the PSI-led MSD for Ugandan Mothers Programme. Riders pledged to offer affordable prices and were promoted as preferential providers in the community. Over a 7-month period, 3,720 women benefitted from the scheme and transfer costs reduced considerably. The scheme was still operating four years after the project ended, with an estimated 13,000 women beneficiaries across 5 project districts between 2015-2019.

Average reduction in cost of patient transfers by private motorcycle riders for antenatal care, delivery, and other illnesses:

| | |
|------------|-------------------|
| 42% | Mubende district |
| 40% | Hoima district |
| 35% | Ibando district |
| 27% | Lira district |
| 26% | Alebtong district |



NIGERIA

Transaid worked with the National Union of Road Transport Workers in Adamawa State between 2013-2018 funded by Comic Relief (UK). Over this period 741 ETS drivers were trained and almost 19,000 pregnant women were transferred to the health facility by ETS. ETS served the poorest women and ensured that women arrived at the health facility in a better condition than those who did not use the service.

ETS users were more likely than non-users to organise transport and reach the health facility within one hour

Pregnant women arriving by ETS at the health facility had a better clinical condition score than those not using ETS

ETS users who were from the two poorest socio-economic groups **59%**

Women who arrived at the health facility without ETS who were from the two poorest groups **35%**

