



---

# EMPOWERING ROAD TRANSPORT OPERATORS (FREIGHT AND PASSENGER) TO RESPOND TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

---

3<sup>rd</sup> JUNE 2020

Speakers: Sam Clark, Peter Tibigambwa & Jason Finch.

---



## PROFESSIONAL DRIVER TRAINING – UGANDA



Project Timeframe: Nov 2016 to Nov 2020  
Project Partners: GIZ, Transaid, Safe Way Right Way

Building the capacity of Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) and Passenger Service Vehicle (PSV) driver training leading to increased employment of Ugandan drivers in the transport sector and to improved road safety in Uganda.



Questions

Want answers?



Ask the staff a question

Exit

Send



---

# Sam Clark

---

Head of Programmes, Transaid



# PROFESSIONAL DRIVER TRAINING – UGANDA



Project Timeframe:

Nov 2016 to Nov 2020

Project Partners:

GlZ, Transaid, Safe Way Right Way

Building the capacity of Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) and Passenger Service Vehicle (PSV) driver training leading to increased employment of Ugandan drivers in the transport sector and to improved road safety in Uganda.





# PDT-U ACHIEVEMENTS



**16 UGANDAN TRAINERS** trained to deliver HGV training to the standard defined by the EAC curriculum



More and **170 DRIVERS TRAINED** to date by SWRW training centre with a commitment to support graduates into work



**A NEW SPECIALIST TRAINING CENTRE** delivering training to drivers since June 2018



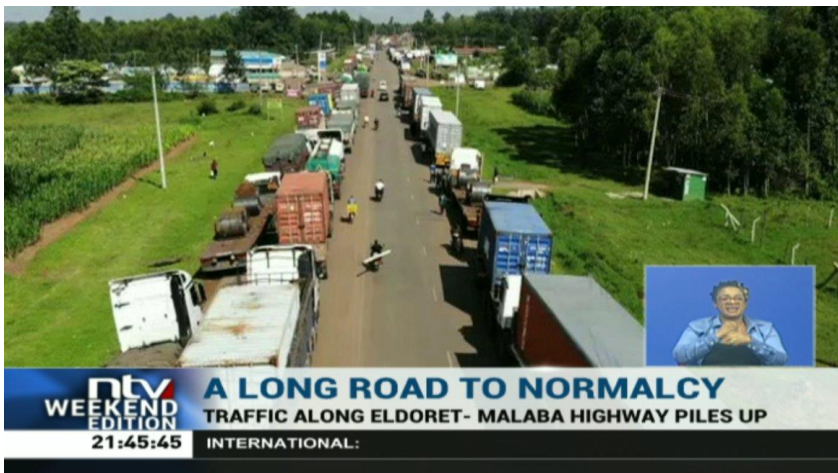
**PARTIAL ADOPTION OF THE EAC CURRICULUM** as the standard for the oil and gas sector by the Petroleum Authority of Uganda





# SINCE COVID-19...

- Review and adjust training materials
- Continue building the skills of trainers
- Strengthen our engagement with private sector transporters
- Integrate a COVID-19 response into project activities





---

# Peter Tibigambwa

---

CEO, Safe Way Right Way



# ABOUT SAFE WAY RIGHT WAY

We are pioneering road safety champions. Born out of the need to promote safer roads in Uganda.

We exist to contribute to the achievement of a crash free road network for Uganda

SWRW has partnered up with a number of private sectors organisations as well as government and bilateral funders to bring forth the conversation about road safety and promote professional driver training in Uganda.

As it stands road crashes are one of the 5 leading causes of death in Uganda and there has not been a professional standard for HGV drivers training until 2016







# UGANDA FREIGHT TRANSPORT

- Over 31,588 long distance truck drivers are estimated by researchers to be living in Uganda at any given time.
- Over 1,800 trucks are estimated to cross the Malaba and Busia borders.
- Uganda's coronavirus risk, for now, remains cross-border truck drivers – According to the Ministry of Health
- Long-distance truckers and other transport workers are known to be a risk in acquiring and spreading infectious diseases.





# COVID-19 EXPOSURE

- Truckers are highly at risk essential workers to COVID 19.
  - Samples tested in Uganda – 96,825 – MoH, 3<sup>rd</sup> June.
  - Number of positive cases in Uganda – **489** , MoH, 3<sup>rd</sup> June.
  - **Number of Truckers testing positive – 332; 1<sup>st</sup> June presidential update)**
  - **Number of Truck drivers turned away – 386; 1<sup>st</sup> June presidential update)**
  - **Number of Ugandan Truck drivers testing positive – 277; 1<sup>st</sup> June presidential update**
  - Number of recoveries – 82 MoH, 3<sup>rd</sup> June.
  - Number of Truck driver recoveries – **15 (1<sup>st</sup> June presidential update)**
  - Number of deaths reported – 0
- Border strikes have exposed drivers to increased infection.
- Truckers turned away from Uganda from 20<sup>th</sup> May.





# CHALLENGES FOR TRUCK DRIVERS

---

- Stigmatisation of drivers – with most of us seeing them as importers of COVID-19
- Government ban on use of hotels and guest houses limiting access to resting places and WASH facilities
- Cases of Truck drivers turned away from public places even when they have tested negative
- Restriction on number of drivers in cab (understandably in relation to social distancing)
- Relay driving which poses a threat for SME operators with limited human resource
- Lack of truck driver specific guidance on COVID-19
- Under appreciation of the effort of drivers as essential workers/heroes of a nation as they continue to work through this period



# RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- Testing regimes at border crossings
- Government commitment to return test results ASAP
- Drivers being turned back at borders in large numbers and contradictions in testing results between countries.
- Longer waiting times for clearance at borders affecting the Transport & Logistics sector especially for perishable goods.
- Cases of drivers left stranded at isolation and quarantine areas
- Border visit by MoH including minister resulting in instalment of testing point in Elegu
- Challenges of managing cases in border districts – MoH plans to install tents for mild cases.







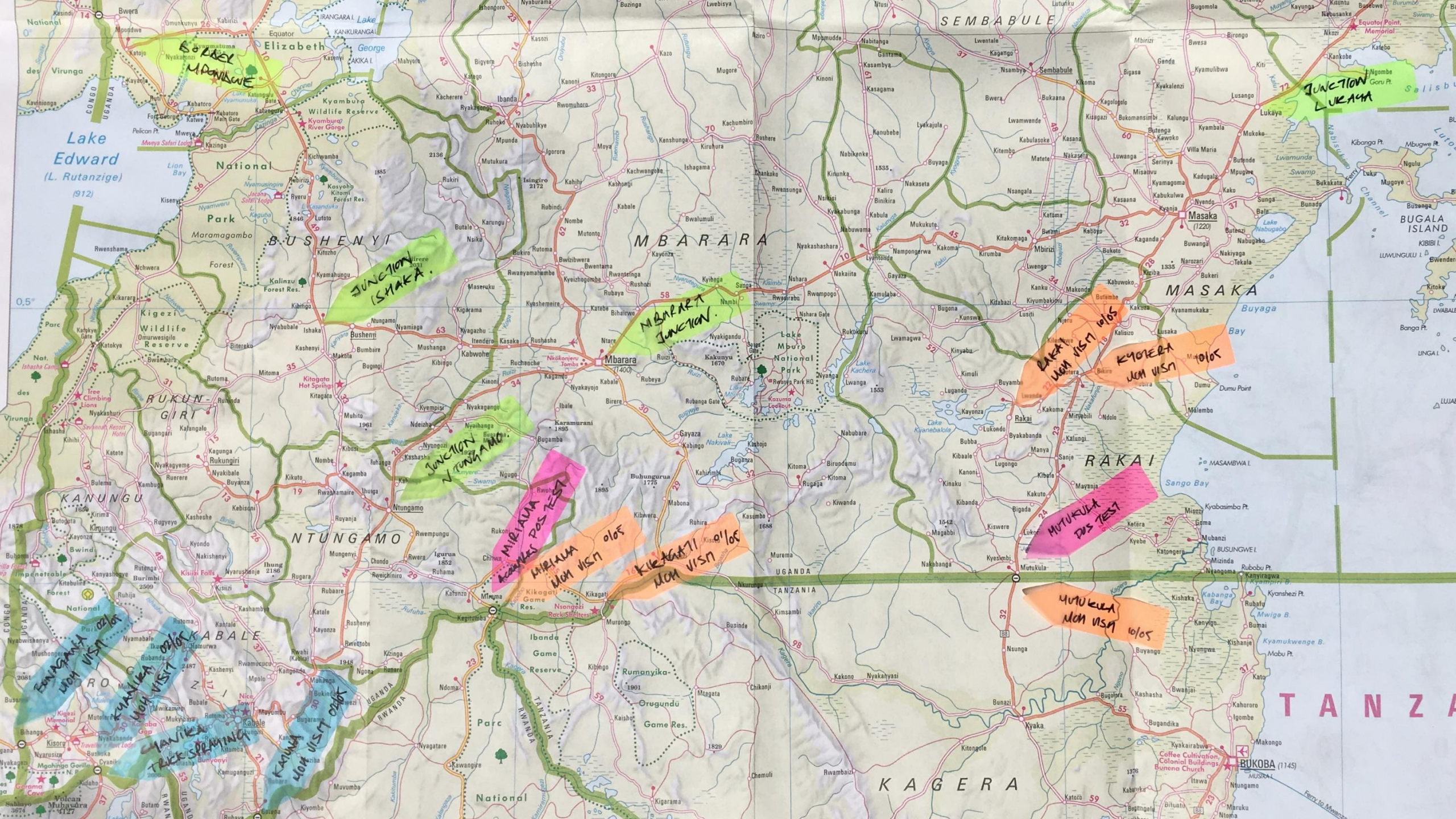
---

# Jason Finch

---

Project Manager, Transaid









# CHANGING CONDITIONS AND EMERGING RISK FACTORS

## CHANGING CONDITIONS

Closure of roadside businesses

Fewer passenger vehicles on the road

Bans of HGV drivers lodging in hotels along routes

Closure of many known lorry parks and rest stops

Increased hostility towards drivers, and the disinclination to park and take regular stops

Testing regimes at the border crossings

## RISK FACTORS

Fewer options to purchase food and basic essentials

Vehicles travelling at higher speeds

Fewer rest and sanitation points

Unfamiliarity and changes to routine

Driving longer hours and increased threat of fatigue

Challenge to social distancing



# DEVELOPING AN APPROACH IN PARTNERSHIP WITH TRANSPORT ASSOCIATIONS

## Understanding Risks and Limiting Exposure

- ✓ Coronavirus is real and government guidelines need to be followed
- ✓ Correct use of PPE can reduce the risk of transmission
- ✓ Regular cleaning of surfaces can reduce the risk of transmission

## Changing Work Conditions can Affect Road Safety

- ✓ COVID-19 is introducing new hazards and changes to routine
- ✓ Quieter roads and long delays could lead to increase of speed
- ✓ Stress and Fatigue could increase the chance of road crashes

## Countering the Emerging Negative Account of Truck Driver Behaviours

- ✓ Drivers need to be seen to be adhering to the rules
- ✓ Positive behaviours can help reduce hostility felt in some areas



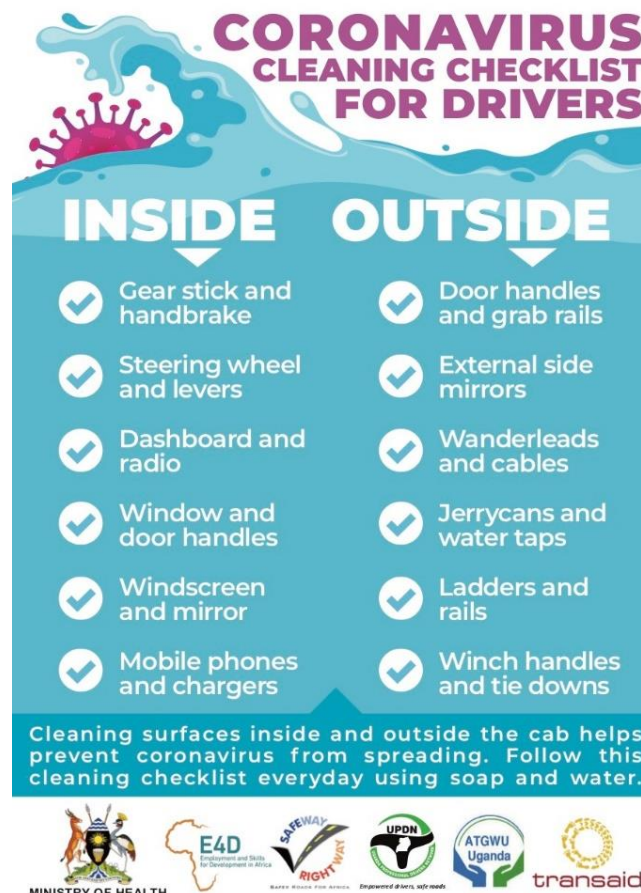




# DRIVER SPECIFIC AND SAFETY-ORIENTED SENSITISATION

Integrating driver specific sensitisation into the current MoH guidelines.

- Aligning driver specific materials with national campaigns and slogans
- Including Road Safety information in Government approved messages
- Working with our Corporate Members to develop driver-specific preventative measures
- Distributing materials nationwide in several languages





# DISTRIBUTION OF SENSITISATION MATERIALS AND PPE PACKAGES TO TRUCK DRIVERS

## Sensitisation Materials

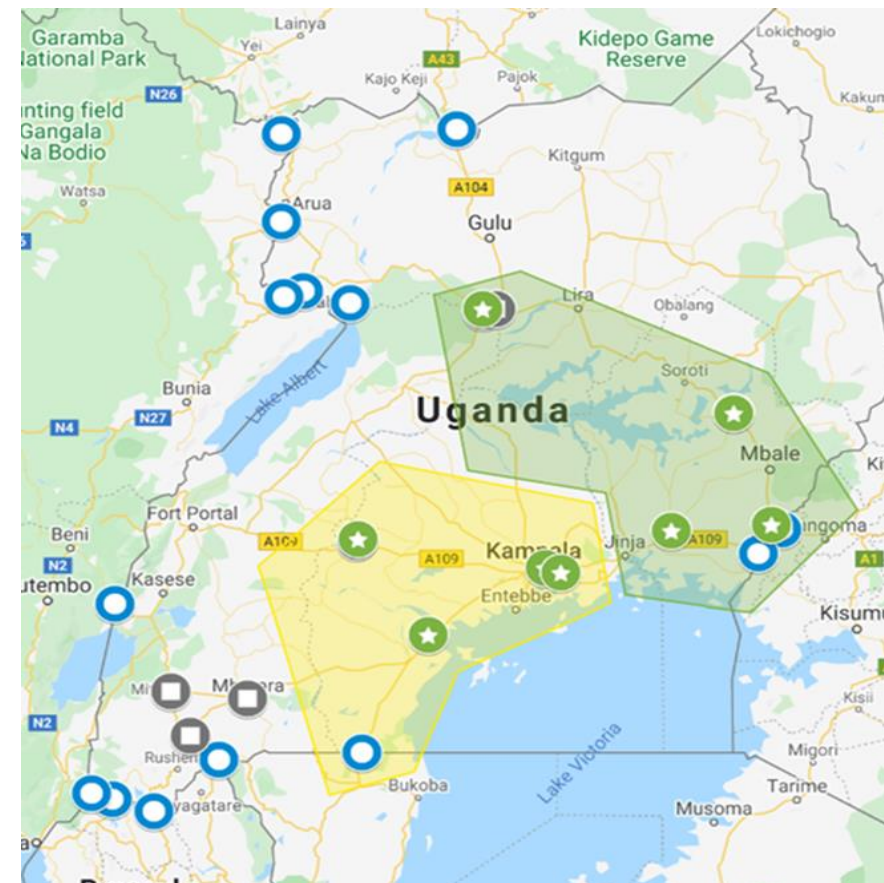
- ✓ Driver-specific sensitisation and key Road Safety messaging
- ✓ Truck cleaning guide

## PPE Packages

- ✓ Washable and reusable facemask
- ✓ Bar or hygiene soap for hand washing
- ✓ Jerrycan for collecting and transporting water

## WhatsApp Channel Registration

- ✓ Video demonstrations reinforcing current guidelines
- ✓ Text updates with new information as it becomes available





# INITIAL TARGETS AND SCALING OUR APPROACH

---

## Project Duration

4 months – June to September 2020

## Initial Targets

- ✓ 3,500 – 5,000 drivers equipped with PPE Materials
- ✓ 3,500 – 5,000 truck drivers given sensitisation materials
- ✓ 3,500 – 5,000 truck drivers given a cab cleaning guide
- ✓ 8,000 – 10,000 truck drivers subscribed to the WhatsApp Channel

## Scaling the Project – Next Steps

- ✓ Scaling the project to reach more drivers in Uganda
- ✓ Developing more resilient and long term project activities in Uganda
- ✓ Replicating our approach in neighbouring EAC countries and Zambia.



---

## Questions and Comments

---

[edwardoconnor@transaid.org](mailto:edwardoconnor@transaid.org)

[samclark@transaid.org](mailto:samclark@transaid.org)

[jasonfinch@transaid.org](mailto:jasonfinch@transaid.org)

[Peter.tibigambwa@safewayrightwayug.org](mailto:Peter.tibigambwa@safewayrightwayug.org)

---