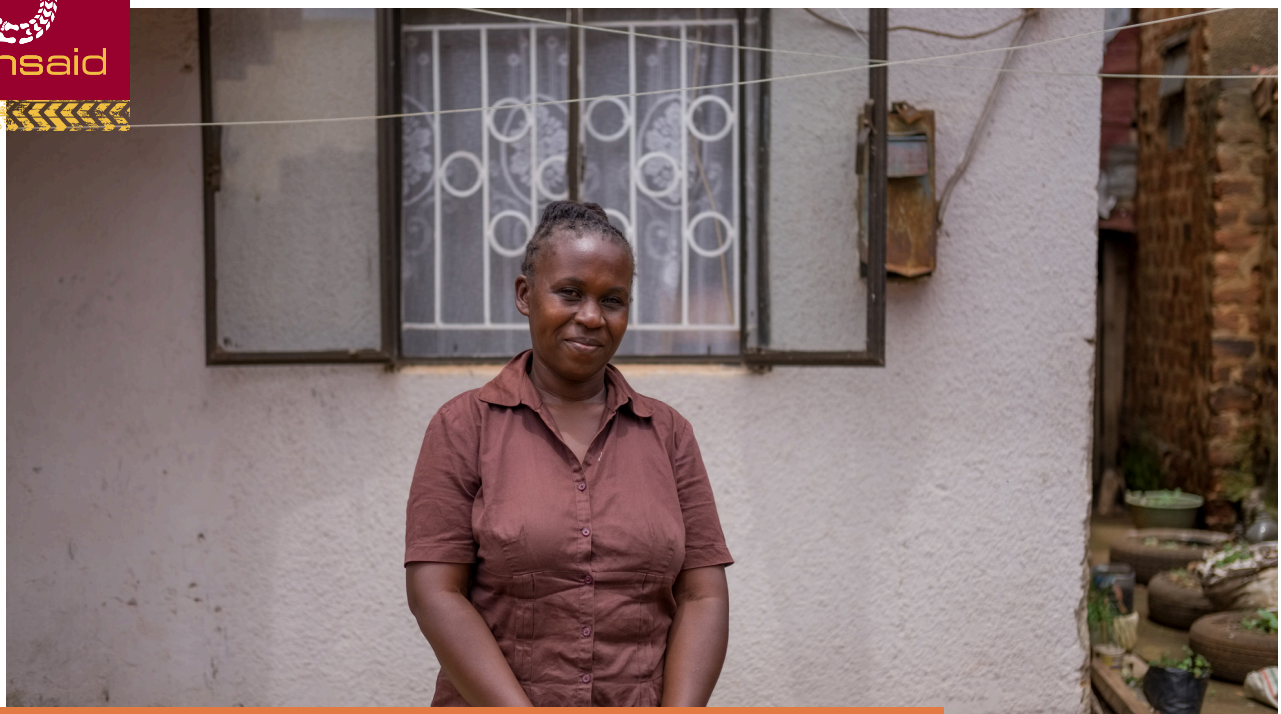


Judith Nakate Specioza

# Case study: Judith Nakate Specioza

## Professional Driver Training Uganda Project Phase Two (PDTU-2)

The Professional Driver Training Uganda Project Phase Two, which is part of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) Employment and Skills for Development in Africa (E4D) programme, aims to upskill drivers to take advantage of employment opportunities, while equipping them with the knowledge to be safer on Uganda's roads. It was implemented jointly by Transaid and Safe Way Right Way (SWRW) on behalf of GIZ E4D.

With the support of industry partners, Transaid has built the capacity of Master Trainers and Trainers in Uganda, in turn enabling them to train drivers to a level in accordance with the East African Community Standardised Curriculum for drivers of large commercial vehicles.

Born and raised in Zambia, Judith faced many difficulties after giving birth to her first child at seventeen years old. Over the years she welcomed more children into her home and worked tirelessly to provide for them - all the while, having great admiration for trucks and female drivers.

**"When I was young, I loved to see people driving. I would say 'that will be me one day!'**

**As I started my own businesses, I always dreamed of driving those trucks."**

At twenty-five years old, Judith was informally taught how to drive by a company that she worked for. She continued to drive informally, transporting feed for animals and other goods. However, she was often constrained by her lack of a legitimate licence. A subsequent road crash encouraged her to take up training at SWRW.

SWRW has been Transaid's partner since 2016, helping to respond to the huge rise in demand for Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) and

Passenger Service Vehicle (PSV) drivers in Uganda, by offering high quality driver training courses for new and existing drivers, and supporting drivers to find employment.

Judith explained that drivers in Uganda face many dangers when on the road. In addition to vehicles and roads often being in poor condition, many drivers do not follow the rules of the road.

Judith recounts how one day when driving to a catering job, she found herself in a dangerous situation on her journey to Masaka in southern Uganda: "It was raining, I was driving slowly, and two vehicles passed me so fast on both sides. It is a dangerous road, although I was doing the right thing, the other drivers were not."

Judith's son often fears for her when she drives trucks due to the driving behaviours of other motorists. Judith's experience testifies to the crucial need for training centres like SWRW, where professional trainers can deliver high quality training which is accessible and affordable to aspiring and existing professional drivers.

**"I enjoyed the training at SWRW very much. I feel more confident, and I would like to do more. I am a proud driver. Many women fear it because it is not easy. People often run to see me driving, and this inspires me. I look forward to learning and adding more classes to my licence."**

With new-found confidence in her abilities due to SWRW and Transaid, Judith aspires to get a job in truck driving and travel around the world. Resilient, determined, and dedicated, Judith always tries to learn new skills and would like to continue her training. She noted that there will always be opportunities to progress with a career in professional driving. She said: "Employers are always looking for people with bigger classes, if you have Class C, they want you to add on more classes."

For women like Judith, the opportunity for professional driver training means that she can support her children's schooling, and develop her own side businesses in fashion and catering, where she must travel to events and transport goods.

