

# PRESS RELEASE



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## HRH THE PRINCESS ROYAL LAUNCHES DRIVER TRAINING PROGRAMME TO INDUSTRY

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal officially launched Transaid's Zambian Professional Driver Training programme last night, during a special gala dinner in London to mark the charity's 10th anniversary.

With road deaths in poorer countries set to rise by 80% by 2020, The Princess Royal told an assembled audience of 300 leaders from within the road transport and logistics industry the new project would help to make commercial drivers significantly more skilled and safer, teaching them a greater understanding of the many risks, creating self-awareness about their impact to other road users and to pedestrians using the roads.

Designed to bridge the huge gap in professional driver training in Zambia, where road crashes are the third highest cause of death after HIV/Aids and Malaria, Transaid is implementing this new programme to build the capacity of the Industrial Training Centre in Lusaka and to introduce quality assured internationally recognised standards for professional driver training. This will see best practice shared from the European transport industry and standards set through working closely with the truck operators in Zambia to address the real shortage of professional HGV drivers, with the project designed to be self-funding within two years.

Chris Saunders, Chief Executive of Transaid, explains: "Fatal crashes involving buses, taxis and good vehicles are a regular occurrence as local drivers will typically have had little or no formal training and often represent a very real danger to both themselves and other road users. There is also a severe shortage of trained HGV drivers in Zambia, and whilst the transport industry is desperate for professional drivers, it currently lacks a facility to provide training on the scale in which it is needed."

Raymond Jhala, President of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport in Zambia, says: "The importance of the work which Transaid is undertaking in building capacity for commercial driver training in Zambia cannot be underestimated.

"Aside from the horror of road crashes and their direct social impact there is the basic logistical context that Zambia is a landlocked nation. The cost of goods in Zambia, whether it be medical supplies, building materials or even food is directly linked to the efficiency of our transport companies and in turn the quality of their drivers," he adds.

The project is being supported by Bibby, Britcom, CEVA, CILT, Hoyer, MAN Truck and Bus, Michelin, Norbert Dentressangle, Stagecoach and Wincanton, through the supply of vehicles, technical expertise and funding.

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## Note to Editor:

Transaid ([www.transaid.org](http://www.transaid.org)) is an international development agency that aims to improve people's quality of life in the developing world by making transport more available and affordable. It was founded by Save The Children and the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (UK) and works by sharing skills and knowledge with local people to enable them to put in place and manage efficient transport systems.

Transaid's core work includes creating transport management systems for the public sector and assisting with the provision of professional driving qualification development and the training of driver trainers. It also assists with teaching preventive vehicle maintenance management and introducing local, low cost transport solutions including its innovative bicycle ambulance. Transaid also helps promote HIV, AIDS and road safety awareness and shares its specialist knowledge with the humanitarian aid sector.

Transaid enjoys strong backing from the transport and logistics industry and the active involvement of its patron, HRH The Princess Royal.

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