



PRESS RELEASE

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TRANSAID APPEALS FOR TRUCK AND TRAILER TO SUPPORT DRIVER TRAINING IN UGANDA

International development organisation Transaid has launched a nationwide appeal to find a second-hand tractor unit and trailer to support its new driver training project in Uganda.

Transaid urgently requires an artic combination to bolster its training fleet from early 2018, and is calling on manufacturers, dealers, used vehicle retailers and operators to come forward with potential assets which could be donated.

The tractor and trailer will be used for training hundreds of new commercial vehicle drivers every year in the Mukono district, east of Kampala, where Transaid has embarked on a major new training initiative to ensure Ugandan drivers can meet the needs of the oil, gas and related sectors, in the face of rising demand for qualified drivers.

Neil Rettie, Transaid's Road Safety Project Manager, says: "Uganda is a right-hand drive market, so ex-UK trucks are commonplace here.

"We are ideally seeking a 6x2 or 6x4 tractor unit with a large high-roof sleeper cab, sufficient to comfortably accommodate an instructor and three students. We're quite used to removing sleeper bunks to facilitate additional seating inside the cab – the key thing is ensuring it's got sufficient leg room to make a conversion possible, plus ideally a flat floor or minimal intrusion from an engine tunnel."

Transaid preferably requires a tractor unit which is no more than five years old, and ideally with a manual gearbox and standard flat-glass mirrors. Tractors with minimal electronics and ancillary equipment are preferred, as are vehicles which don't require AdBlue. Low ride-height tractors are unsuitable, due to the need to frequently navigate large speed bumps and sometimes rough road conditions.

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For the trailer, Transaid is ideally seeking a tri-axle box van, tanker, flat bed or skeletal (supplied with an empty shipping container), and no more than 10 years old.

The donated assets are expected to remain in service for many years, and can be supplied with special livery to reflect the supplying company's generous donation.

Uganda currently suffers from one of Africa's highest road traffic incident rates, claiming approximately 2,937* lives each year. Transaid is working with its project partners to improve road safety by enhancing the commercial vehicle driver training capacity.

Transaid's involvement in this new project was secured because of its proven ability to raise the driving standards of thousands of commercial vehicle drivers in Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia – life-saving work which it began in 2008 with the support of the UK transport and logistics industry. Training vehicles have previously been donated for these projects from firms including Co-Op, IVECO and MAN.

Due to the complex logistics of transporting vehicles to central Africa, Transaid requires assets which can be made available as soon as possible. They can be donated by separate organisations, and should ideally be delivered to the nominated port (to be confirmed). Shipping can be arranged by Transaid, although any offers of support are welcome.

Offers of assistance are requested to be sent to Jade Ashby, Corporate Partnerships Office at Transaid's London headquarters on 020 7387 8136, or by email to jade@transaid.org.

For more information and to find out how you can support the organisation visit www.transaid.org.

*WHO Global Status Report on Road Safety 2015

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Note to Editor:

Transaid transforms lives through safe, available, and sustainable transport. Founded by Save the Children, The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT), and its Patron, HRH The Princess Royal, the international development organisation shares 25 years' worth of expertise in 23 countries with partners and governments – empowering people to build the skills they need to transform their own lives.

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 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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