



PRESS RELEASE

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GO-AHEAD ENGINEER SWAPS CAMBERWELL FOR LUSAKA TO DELIVER MECHANICAL TRAINING IN ZAMBIA

Go-Ahead's Senior Vehicle Engineer, Robert Watson, has completed his first placement with Transaid's Professional Driver Training programme. The voluntary secondment delivered an intensive mechanical training course designed to help improve road safety and reduce the number of transport-related deaths in Africa.

The placement was part of Go-Ahead's wider commitment to supporting international development organisation Transaid. Earlier this year, Go-Ahead London donated a 2006 Dennis Dart Pointer single decker bus to Transaid's partners, the Industrial Training Centre (ITC) in Lusaka, the only government-backed commercial driver training centre in Zambia.

Watson used his time in-country to train six mechanics on the correct maintenance procedures and operation of the bus, which will be used to train both new and existing commercial drivers, as well as increasing the ITC's training capacity.

His work focused on helping the ITC mechanics have a better understanding of maintenance, repairs and safety of the vehicle through a combination of classroom-based theory and practical exercises in the workshop.

Watson says: "In my opinion, the most valuable thing I have passed on to them is about increasing safety. These guys are not short of knowledge in mechanics in any shape or form, but a lot of the safety standards we uphold here in the UK are more relaxed in Zambia. It's about demonstrating best practice and reinforcing why this is so important."

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Transaid partnered with the ITC in August 2008 to help raise the professional standards of HGV, PSV and forklift driver training. Transaid's corporate partners have provided valuable resources including buses, trucks, trailers, forklifts and, indeed, staff over the last decade.

Since the launch of its first Professional Driver Training programme, Transaid has supported the teaching of more than 40,000 professional drivers across Africa – currently working on projects in Tanzania, Uganda, Ghana and Zambia.

Transaid's Chief Executive, Caroline Barber, says: "Road traffic deaths kill 1.35 million people every year, and a disproportionate burden falls in low and middle income countries. Go-Ahead's support for our programmes is vital for increasing education and awareness around road safety and driving forward the current standards of training available.

"Our sincere thanks to Robert and the Go-Ahead team for their generous donation of the vehicle and staff time to help the driving instructors carry out their everyday work. This will make a huge impact on the ground."

Go-Ahead Group has been a long-term supporter of Transaid's work and became a corporate member in 2012.

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

*Based on the road traffic fatality rate per 100,000 population by WHO region, *Global Status Report on Road Safety 2018*, World Health Organisation.

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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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