



transaid

PRESS RELEASE

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INDUSTRY TEAMS UP TO DELIVER DRIVER TRAINING SIMULATOR TO ZAMBIA

Four big names from the transport and logistics sector have come together to supply an HGV driver training simulator for the Industrial Training Centre (ITC) in Zambia, which Transaid has partnered with since 2008 to help meet the country's growing demand for professional driver training.

The donation followed a visit to ITC in 2018 by representatives of Big Change, Clipper Logistics, Malcolm Group and XPO. Following a discussion with the ITC team and board, it was identified that a simulator would allow new drivers to spend additional hours behind the wheel in the safety of the classroom. After learning some basic skills, they can then head out for some practical experience within ITC's grounds, before venturing onto quiet back roads with their instructor – often in a car at first – before taking to the wheel of one of ITC's full-size training vehicles.

Mike Daly, non-Exec Director of Clipper Logistics and long-time Transaid ambassador, sourced the simulator from Clipper's in-house training team, and then secured funds and expertise from the group to cover essential IT upgrades and shipping. Bishopsgate also stepped in to help, expertly crating the components without charge, to ensure they would be safe during the 5,000-mile journey.

The four partners also covered the travel expenses for Clipper's National Driver Training Manager, Jon Aspden, to visit Zambia and install the simulator with the ITC team just prior to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Once installed the need for further upgrades were identified, and the group collectively sourced the components during 2020, and they were personally delivered by a member of the Transaid team this year, enabling the simulator to be commissioned into service.

137 Euston Road, London, NW1 2AA
United Kingdom

T: +44 (0)20 7387 8136
F: +44 (0)20 7387 2669
E: info@transaid.org
W: www.transaid.org

Daly explains: “This is a wonderful example of a group of companies, including competitors, coming together to support Transaid and ITC. A huge effort went into this project, and whilst the pandemic put the brakes on temporarily, we’re delighted to see it now actively in use.

“We are all very confident it will bring genuine value to ITC, and prove particularly valuable for first-time HGV drivers, since any time behind the wheel of a simulator brings zero road risk and helps to protect the training fleet from the heavy wear and tear on driveline components which you get with new drivers. A simulator also adds a level of repeatability and flexibility which can be beneficial when training, before heading out onto the road.”

Transaid’s partnership with ITC is focused on helping raise the standards of HGV, PSV and forklift driver training. The project directly supports Transaid’s belief that every driver should be able to leave for a day’s work without the fear they may not come home because of a lack of training, or dangerous vehicles and roads.

Since Transaid’s involvement in the project began in August 2008, the charity’s corporate members have supported in a variety of ways – providing buses, trucks, trailers and forklifts for use as training vehicles. Some have even supplied staff on secondment to share skills and knowledge with local trainers, helping to introduce new skills in-country.

Caroline Barber, CEO of Transaid, says: “We are hugely grateful to Big Change, Clipper Logistics, Malcolm Group and XPO for securing the simulator and working with the talented team at ITC to ensure it was installed in Lusaka. It’s an amazing resource; and we’re confident it will help drive standards of training at ITC even higher, alongside the existing classroom, workshop and practical on-road teaching.

“The ITC is well positioned to become a centre of excellence in the region and access to this type of technology is a vital part of that journey.”

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

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Note to Editor:

About Transaid

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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For further press information:

Florence Bearman at Transaid +44 (0)20 7387 8136

James Keeler at Garnett Keeler +44 (0)20 8647 4467, or by email to james.keeler@garnettkeeler.com

TRAN/369/21