

JULY 31, 2023

# Mid Year News

January - June 2023 Newsletter



## JULY, 2023

Welcome to our midyear newsletter, where we are sharing the exciting results of the Safe Way Right Way programs over the first six months of the year 2023 in Uganda and beyond. The opportunity to share our experiences and results with you using this platform is a special and important part of our work. Our program portfolio has continued to grow since the year started and we have been privileged to launch two important programs during this period, growing our scope of work to include an additional 5 districts outside the central region and adding 8 schools to the 130 schools under our VIA road safety program.

With the growth of the SWRW program reach, we are excited that our program will potentially reach more than 50,000 people directly and over 4 million people indirectly in 2023. All that has been achieved in the first six months has only been possible thanks to the support and commitment of some of our exemplary community road safety champions and the strong partnerships with the political and technical leadership at district and national levels; not forgetting the commitment and support of our civil society colleagues especially through the Road Safety Coalition of Uganda (ROSACU).

## Newsletter Highlights

Update on our contribution to employment in Oil and Gas

Implementation of the VIA road safety program in 130 school!

Community road safety program launch and achievements so far!

## Our Program Reach

7

Districts

130

Schools

2M+

Community members reached

27,000

Children reached

1,778

Drivers trained for O&G

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## Internship Program for Female Drivers

Through a collaboration between Safe Way Right Way, Hima Cement and Victoria Motors, 10 female drivers were onboarded on a 6 month internship program aimed at improving their driving ability and confidence, developing their appreciation and familiarisation of the different routes and roads. As part of the program, each driver was attached to an experienced counterpart who during that time provided mentorship and guidance. The Internship was successfully concluded in May 2023 and all the drivers have been absorbed into employment by the companies.

## PROFESSIONAL DRIVER TRAINING FOR OIL & GAS

Inspired by the need for over 2,000 professional drivers for the Oil and Gas industry in Uganda, Safe Way Right Way has continued to train Ugandan novice drivers for employment in the sector under the Professional Driver Training Project. The training centre has continued to register interest of drivers who want to learn to drive heavy goods vehicles. Our refresher trainings for employed drivers are also getting more recognised for both heavy goods vehicles and 4X4s.

The school continues to see an increase of women signing up for driver training for heavy goods vehicles which is a big change from when the school started. The several efforts that have been made to attract women to the training such as workshops, employment support after training and ensuring gender mainstreaming in all our activities have paid off. So far 122 women have been trained to drive heavy goods vehicles since the school inception.



## Training of Trainers in Ghana – Our latest continental win.

Through our long standing partnership with Trasaïd UK, SWRW instructors to train 11 instructors in Ghana from 5th June to 27th June 2023. The training was covering both theory and practical and was aimed at refreshing participants' knowledge, skills/competences in conducting trainings for Heavy Goods Vehicle Drivers in order to;

- Improve road safety in the country through reducing the number of road crashes involving large vehicles thereby reducing the number of fatalities and injuries,
- Standardize training of drivers of large vehicles across the country,
- Improve skills of professional drivers, Optimize vehicle operation costs, Improve transport operations

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## VIA GLOBAL ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION - NOW IMPLEMENTED IN 130 SCHOOLS



VIA is a comprehensive a global road safety program for young people that seeks to address road safety challenges faced by vulnerable young people in the country. The program empowers the teachers and school going children on road safety through capacity building on the delivery of the VIA program. The program was first introduced in the Albertine in the Districts of Hoima, Buliisa, Nwoya, Pakwach and Kikuube. Secondly, in collaboration with KCCA 10 schools that are considered to be high risk for children to access on their journeys to and from school were identified in the Central Business District for implementation of the VIA program. Two teachers from each school were trained as Via Global road safety program trainers.

The teachers that were trained have proceeded to train the children and so far 912 children have been trained.

## Safe School Zone Road safety assessments

Working with iRap certified road safety engineers from Hope for Victims of Road Safety (HOVITA) SWRW conducted STAR rating assessments for schools in Buliisa district and Kampala. Mindful of the anticipated increase in motorisation in Buliisa district as a result of the Oil and Gas project, schools which are adjacent or along the main oil roads were prioritised for the assessment. This was informed by iRap and international best practice recommendations that roads along road corridors should be zoned within the Safe Schools Zone road safety standards.

The schools identified for assessment in Buliisa were 21 and the 10 schools in Kampala – the later were selected through consultation with the KCCA Road Safety engineers and Education Directorate with most at risk 10 schools in the Central Business District prioritised.

The assessments were completed in April 2023, and some of the key recommendations/treatment measures for the schools included but were not limited to: fencing off of schools, gating of schools, installation of zebra crossings and speed calming measures such as rumble strips; reducing speed limits from 50km/hr to 30 km/hr; and improving road signage around schools.

In Buliisa district, TotalEnergies has committed to finance the fencing of the 10 most at risk schools from the report and continues to consider further support towards supporting the schools and district towards making schools safer zones. The fencing work is being implemented in partnership with two Community Based Organisations registered in Buliisa – Alliance for Change and ACEU Uganda. All the 10 schools are located along the main oil roads in the district.

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## COMMUNITY ROAD SAFETY

In partnership with TotalEnergies' Exploration and Production (TEEP) Tilenga project, SWRW commenced the implementation of the Community Road Safety project under the Tilenga Oil project in five (05) districts of the Albertine region including: Buliisa, Hoima, Kikuube and Pakwach, and Nwoya District. The main aim of the program in the Albertine region is to address and mitigate the possible increase of road safety risks in the region due to the increase in vehicular activity and road infrastructure development as the result of the oil and gas activities taking place in the region.

In addition to introducing the project to the regional and district decision makers & key stakeholders, through inception meetings, SWRW has commenced key interventions for each road user group.

The key activities have mainly focused on road user behavioural change whilst prioritising the most at risk road user groups, that is pedestrian and motorcycle riders & passengers in the first half of the year.

In a bid to ensure sustainability, SWRW has prioritised the training and empowerment of community members to champion training and sensitisation on road safety particularly training motorcycle leaders (stage chairpersons) as trainers of trainers, working closely with the Traffic Police officials on community based road safety sensitisation; and also taking to main media channels especially radio to publicise and educate the local communities of road safety.



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## COMMUNITY ROAD SAFETY - TRAINING OF BODA BODA

Safe Way Right adopted the train a trainer approach to build the capacity of some of the boda boda leaders in the Albertine region who then later train their peers at their respective stages. This is the same approach practiced in the Kampala region. This approach ensures that more riders receive the training through their peers and also promotes ownership and sustainability. To date, 179 Trainers of Trainees have been trained in the districts of Buliisa, Hoima (city and District) Kikuube, Pakwach, and Nwoya. The trained leaders also referred to as Boda Boda Road Safety Champions have gone ahead to train 639 Boda Boda riders. The Boda Boda riders most of whom have never received any formal training found this training very informative and key stakeholders have observed an improvement in their behaviour on the road. The modules covered under this training are; Introduction to the motorcycle, Risks and dangers of motorcycles, Legal requirements for a motorcyclist, Road signs, signals and markings, Defensive riding, causes of crashes to Boda Boda riders and passengers, Measures to prevent crashes and or minimize injury and Customer care.

*“My name is Bagonza Jackson. I am the chairperson of Boda Boda riders at Kibaati stage in Hoima city. I would like to thank SWRW for the training on road safety. Before the training I used not to put on a helmet while riding, but during the training they emphasized the importance of putting on helmet while riding and I started wearing my helmet since then. Recently I was involved in an accident and I hit my head on the tarmac, and helmet cracked but my head was not hurt at all. If I was not putting on the helmet I would be dead by now. The helmet is the reason I am a live today and I call upon all riders to put helmets while riding for their own safety”.*

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## SAFE HELMETS CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

Safe Way Right Way (SWRW), in collaboration the Road Safety Advocacy Coalition (ROSACU) & the Boda Boda Leadership in Kampala district and with support from the Global Road Safety Programme (GRSP) and the Global Alliance of NGOs for Road Safety organized the Launch of the Helmet Campaign in Kampala. The campaign was planned as part of the Safe Helmets Uganda project activities and one of the events to commemorate the UN Global Road Safety week. The launch was attended by the Minister of Kampala, the Resident City Commissioner, The Commissioner Transport Regulation and Safety, Commissioner of Emergency services in Ministry of Health, Traffic Police, staff of CSO organizations, Boda Boda leadership and riders.

The event was attended by about 870 guests and 847 of these were boda boda riders. The main purpose of the event was raise awareness about the importance of helmets.

The Commissioner for Transport and Regulation and the Deputy Commander of Traffic Police explained the legal implications of not wearing helmets and the Commissioner Emergency services explained the medical and physical implication of not wearing a helmet incase of a crash. Motorcycle crash survivors shared testimonies about how wearing helmets saved their lives. They advised riders to wear helmets and reflector jackets to be visible on the roads.

World Resources Institute, supported the campaign by conducting a demonstration on how different road users can share the road safely and how Non-Motorized Transport corridors should be used.

SWRW distributed 500 reflector jackets, 10 standard helmets and leaflets with road safety messages to the riders.

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SWRW was invited by the Global Alliance of NGOs for Road Safety to attend the 8th Global meeting that took place from 6th March to 10th March 2023 in El Salvador. This was an opportunity share experiences and best practices from different countries across the globe.

## FUN AND LEARNING

Our Chief Executive Officer had the opportunity to join other road safety advocates from, Uganda and across the world in the Global Road Safety Leadership Course in Baltimore, Maryland. Earlier, Peter was also privileged to participate and learn from other road safety experts at the BIGRS Africa Regional Partner meeting in Ghana in January 2023.



In partnership with KCCA and other stakeholders, SWRW participated in the organisation the Kampala car free day on 26th March 2023. The event was aimed at highlighting the numerous benefits of having a car free city to the citizens which include better air quality due to reduced pollution, less traffic jam and as a result less traffic related incidents like crashes. SWRW utilised the opportunity to exhibit and promote awareness about the Safe System approach to addressing the road safety burden.