



Empowered Drivers, Safer Roads

COVID-19 PREVENTION PROJECT

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Drivers participating in COVID 19 awareness during field sensitization at Elegu Border Point

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Introduction

In August,2020, Uganda Professional Drivers Network signed a services contract with Transaid World Wide Services Limited for the distribution of Personal Protective Equipments (PPEs) at 5 Border points in Uganda namely; Elegu in Amuru District, Pakwach in Pakwach District, Kampala in Kampala City, Mutukula in Rakai District and Lukaya in Kalungu District.

Activities and progress

- ❖ The second batch of 600 PPEs were received in all the four project locations making the current distribution at a total of 900 PPEs (inclusive of the first distribution). All the PPEs were successfully distributed by the field officers.
- ❖ Todate a total of 900 PPEs have so far been given out in all 4 project locations. Elegu-350, Pakwach- 350, Lukaya- 150, and Mutukula- 150.
- ❖ A field visit was successfully conducted in 3 distribution points of Pakwach, Lukaya and Mutukula by a team from Safe way Right Way (Susan) and Valentina (GIZ).
- ❖ Key to note is that some trained field officers withdrew from distribution exercise either due to personal commitments and some few indicated to us that they were not comfortable with the payment mode of payment per PPE distributed rather than a monthly stipend. 5 out of the 10 were affected though UPDN ensured all the gaps were filled by inducting new field officers. We also made sure at least each location had a trained field officer except Pakwach.
- ❖ Distributions were successfully carried out in all the 4 project locations as follows;

LOCATIONS	JERICANS	FACE MASK	SOAP	Stickers
Lukaya	100 Pieces	100 Pieces	5 boxes (100 Bars)	25(English), 25(Kiswahili), 50(Luganda)
Mutukula	100 Pieces	100 Pieces	5 boxes (100 Bars)	25(English), 25(Kiswahili, 25(Luganda) 25(French)
Pakwach	200 Pieces	200 Pieces	10 boxes (200 Bars)	100(English), 50(Kiswahili, 25(Luganda) 25(French)
Elegu	200 Pieces	200 Pieces	10 boxes (200 Bars)	125(English), 50(Kiswahili, 25(Luganda)

NOTE: Distribution list is here attached below;



Lukaya Distribution List 2.pdf



Mutukula Distribution List 2.pdf



Pakwach Distribution List 2.pdf



Elegu Distribution List 2.pdf

Challenges

- ❖ There is currently much rain in the region which has affected distribution in some areas like Elegu, Pakwach and Lukaya since distribution exercise can not move on when it is raining.
- ❖ Driver strikes due to COVID 19 test results are common at Border post of Elegu and Mutukula which sometimes slowed distribution processes. There were cases of drivers paying bribery in order to get negative results.
- ❖ UPDN are financially limited to conduct routine field visits since there was no fund planned for field monitoring.
- ❖ The new 3 field officers do not have reflective jackets though we are trying to recover the jackets from the old field officers. UPDN though printed one additional jacket.
- ❖ Some drivers are always not willing to listen to Covid 19 educative messages from our field officers claiming they have limited time due to the long periods they keep on waiting for test results. This were common in Pakwach and Mutukula.
- ❖ Some field officers still had gaps in communications especially regarding the project since they confused it to Government project. This has been handled through re induction and replacement.



UPDN field officer educating truckers on Covid-19 after receiving their PPEs in Elegu.

Next steps

- ❖ Already received the PPEs in Pakwach and Elegu for 3rd distribution
- ❖ Continuous Driver sensitization of Covid 19 infections at various border points.
- ❖ Waiting for 3rd PPE deliveries in Lukaya and Mutukula.

Change Story

1. *Eunice Ndugere is a truck driver from Nairobi-Kenya and currently working for Hima Cement in Uganda. “ I have been driving for 19 years now and Covid 19 has been one of my test time in truck driving. I received a mask, a jerrican, a sticker and a bar of soap at Pakwach from UPDN on my way to Tororo. The mask I got is very good and nice since I can easily wash and re-use it unlike the disposable mask I have been using. The most important item is the jerrican that I only do not use it for washing my hands but have started treating my water in this Jerican with Safeguard tablets for my drinking. She said. “ One day during lock down, I travelled from Tororo to Moyo in Uganda without drinking any water*

since the community kept chasing me away from stopping since they claimed truck drivers were infecting people with Covid-19. I decided to stop and take dirty swamp water along Moyo road since I was too thirsty to keep on. The truck is now my bathroom, bedroom and kitchen since I move alone and we are not allowed to carry turn men as a COVID 19 measure. Besides, a lady like me need much water and this jerrican is helping me a lot to carry water “ Imagine travelling from Tororo to Bunagana is 700km and you only stop in the bush to rest and cook something which need water. I make sure I always wear my mask everytime I get out of my truck and my advice to my fellow drivers are; to observe health guidelines, wash hands, wear clean mask and keep social distance.

(This was a follow up interview conducted by Denis-UPDN Program Officer on the impact of PPEs to drivers)



Eunice getting her PPEs from a UPDN field officer in Pakwach



Zilabbamuzale
Ronald.mp4

Zilabbamuzale Ronald is a Tanzanian Truck driver who has appreciated the efforts of UPDN to ensure drivers are supported on Covid 19 response. He admitted that the Jerican will help him keep water hence keeping cleanliness. “ The mask given to me will help me protect myself from possible Covid19 infection from others” he said. He continued saying that he had insecurity especially at home where his family always want him to first bath and change cloth before reaching home. He says “ I am not freely accepted at home and my cloths are kept outside for fear of Covid 19 infections” For now he is sure he can routinely wash his clothings by stocking water since there is much delay at the border while waiting for Covid 19 test results.



Zilabbamuzale Ronald
after receiving his PPE
from Mutukula border post