



Empowered Drivers, Safer Roads

COVID-19 PREVENTION PROJECT

16th September 2020



UPDN Executive Director (3rd right) and head of security at Elegu border point and Amuru district stakeholders during the launch of PPE distribution at Elegu

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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

On the 18th, August, UPDN field officers participated in a PPE handling and health guideline training at Safe Way Right Way training center in Mukono. A total of 10 peers/Field officers participated in the training with UPDN programs officer, where the training was successfully completed where both theory and practical lessons were conducted by the trainers.

Details of Participation

LOCATION	No. OF FIELD OFFICERS
Mutukula	2
Elegu	2
Lukaya	2
Pakwach	2
Kampala	2

- ❖ Delivery of PPEs took place in all 4 project locations of Lukaya, Mutukula, Pakwach and Elegu. However, deliveries and distribution of PPEs didn't take place in Kampala location.



PPE Delivery
Note.pdf

- ❖ The distribution exercise was launched in all project locations and notably by the Resident District Commissioners in Lukaya and Amuru for Elegu respectively. They were very appreciative to UPDN and Transaid for this initiative since their Districts were most affected by COVID 19 pandemic as major transport corridors and truckers stopovers.
- ❖ Distributions were successfully carried out in all the 4 project locations as follows;

LOCATIONS	JERICANS	FACE MASK	SOAP	Stickers
Lukaya	50 Pieces	50 Pieces	50 Bars	50(English), 50(Kiswahili, 50(Luganda)
Mutukula	50 Pieces	50 Pieces	50 Bars	50(English), 50(Kiswahili, 50(Luganda)
Pakwach	150 Bars	150 Bars	150 Bars	150(English), 150(Kiswahili, 150(Luganda) 25(French)

Elegu	150 Bars	150 Bars	150 Bars	150(English), 150(Kiswahili, 150(Luganda)
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NOTE: Distribution list is here attached below;



Lukaya Distribution
List.pdf



Mutukula Distribution
List.pdf



Pakwach Distribution
List.pdf



Elegu Distribution
List.pdf

Challenges

- ❖ The supplies of PPEs were in small quantity compared to the originally planned numbers.
- ❖ Strike by the truck drivers in relation to COVID 19 test fee at various border points paralysed some processes since truckers.
- ❖ There was no planned fund to conduct stakeholder engagements yet this was a requirement to engage with the District taskforce before delivery of PPEs
- ❖ Flooding affected some of our storage facilities specifically in Elegu causing the transfer of PPEs to another nearby storage facility.
- ❖ Some of the trained field officers rejected the facilitation offer since they expected a monthly facilitation and not the agreed £0.50 per kit issued out. However this didn't affect the distribution of PPEs.
- ❖ Most truckers only carried unclean face mask and didn't carry the sanitizers hence putting them at risk of Covid 19 infections.
- ❖ Limited capacity by field officers to take quality video interviews.



UPDN field officer sensitizing a truck driver on dangers of using handkerchief as face mask since it is also used in cleaning other body parts.

Next steps

- ❖ Securing of space for the next PPE distribution
- ❖ Coordination with stakeholders especially the COVID 19 District Task force leads.
- ❖ Continuous Driver sensitization of Covid 19 infections at various border points.
- ❖ Delivery of the next phase of PPEs.

Story

1. *Hakizimana Alphonse is a Rwandan Truck driver who has been on the road even during this Covid 19 Pandemic. “ I have driven for 15 years now, but my worst moment in truck driving was this Covid period where I spend a lot of time on the road and never get to know if I won't be tested positive tomorrow, my family keep on worries as am away on trips” He said. He also said there has been very minimal support to truckers other than the test and awareness. “ I didn't know cleaning my areas like steering, door handles, dash boards was important and didn't know I would contract Covid through that but I learnt this from Richard (UPDN) that is one of the risk. “ My problem has been on water access since bottled water is very expensive but with the Jerican and the soap, I can now keep my water in the truck” He said stop over points like Lukaya keep a lot of drivers on a daily basis and yet there is minimal control to keep truckers from crowding in.*
2. *My name is Milly a female truck driver from Tanzania and I have driven for more than 7 years now. It has not been an easy start since Covid began in March since I spend a lot of time on the road and being a woman. I take much more precautions on Covid 19 guidelines and would like to thank UPDN for this great initiative of giving me the PPEs. I only urge various stakeholders to advocate for the welfare of Female drivers since this industry has very few women. I didn't have a Jerican and would only wash at truck parking points since I could not store water but from now on will start storing water for cleaning my driver space routinely. Thanks to UPDN again.*



Hakizimana during a truck cleaning exercise on high risk areas in a truck (Hakizimana during a truck cleaning exercise on high risk areas in a truck.mp4)



Hakizimana cleaning his driver area in his truck

Photos



UPDN field officer during stakeholder engagement at Elegu during the PPE distribution launch.