



# 80%

## Road crashes due to human error!

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Road Safety Advocacy Coalition Uganda

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### **ABOUT ROSACU**

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The Road Safety Advocacy Coalition Uganda, fondly known as ROSACU, stands as a beacon of hope and change in Uganda's ongoing battle against road traffic injuries and fatalities. Established with a mission to create safer roads for all, ROSACU unites diverse stakeholders under a common cause - championing road safety as a shared responsibility.

Our journey began with a profound recognition of the urgent need for action in the face of alarmingly high yet rising road crashes and their devastating consequences. ROSACU has since evolved into a dynamic and committed coalition, tirelessly working to raise awareness, influence policy changes, and foster a culture of responsible road use.

At the heart of ROSACU's mission lies the unwavering belief that every life on Uganda's roads is precious, and every road user deserves the right to reach their destination safely. Through collaborative efforts, advocacy campaigns, and strategic partnerships, ROSACU strives to turn this belief into a reality.

Join us on this transformative road safety journey, as we work hand in hand with communities, government bodies, non-governmental organisations, and individuals, all sharing a common goal: a safer, more secure road environment for Uganda's present and future generations. Together, we can change the course of road safety in Uganda, one step at a time.

***To join the winning team, submit your application to our secretariat for consideration. Write to:***

**THE GENERAL SECRETARY**

**ROAD SAFETY ADVOCACY COALITION UGANDA (ROSACU)**

Mobile: +256 706762409 / +256 782 654888

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Skype: Bambanza Sam



# Message from Chairperson

*Dear Supporters and Advocates,*



As I pen down these words, a sombre veil of reflection envelops me. We gather not only as a coalition of purpose but also a community united by the weight of responsibility – duty bound to safeguard lives, to mend the shattered pieces left in the wake of road crashes, and to collectively strive for much need positive change.

Welcome to the Road Safety Advocacy Coalition Uganda (ROSACU), a place where our hearts beat in unison for a shared cause – a safer road environment for all. Each one of you who has joined our coalition brings a unique story, a personal connection, a determination to alter the trajectory of road safety in our nation.

ROSACU exists because the road toll speaks louder than we can ever imagine. It's etched in the numbers of lives lost, dreams shattered, and futures stolen away. It's a reality that compels us to rise, to unite, and to channel our energies towards advocacy, education, and policy change. We exist because we refuse to let the roads be a place of despair; instead, continue to envision them as redeemable pathways critical for economic growth and development of our country. This is precisely because of the role safe roads play in transportation, trade, employment and revenue generation.

In this journey, as we stand united, there's a sacred duty that binds us – the duty to remember. With each step we take, let's remember the lives that have been lost, the families that have been forever altered, and the pain that lingers long after the wreckage is cleared.

Let's not forget that road crashes claim Twelve (12) lives every day in Uganda. The burden of these fatal crashes continue to undermine the developments efforts as they claim Ugx 4.4trillion ( \$1.2Trillion) – equivalent to 5% of GDP (UNECE, 2018).

All this and other remembrances fuel our commitment to endlessly and tirelessly advocate for effective responses and actions from all stakeholders in road safety so that we bring the menace of fatal crashes to an end on our roads.

As we welcome you to ROSACU, I encourage you to carry this reflection with you. Let's remember the past as we navigate the present and chart the course for the future. Let's transform our sorrow into strength, our pain into purpose, and our loss into legacy.

ROSACU is more than an alliance; it's a testament to human resilience, to the power of collective action, and to the belief that change is possible. Together, we hold the pen that writes a new narrative – a narrative of safer roads, responsible drivers, and protected lives.

With a sombre heart and an unwavering spirit, I welcome you to ROSACU – a coalition of compassion, courage, and change.

In unity,

Fred Tumwine  
Executive Secretary, URENO  
Chairperson,  
Road Safety Advocacy Coalition Uganda (ROSACU)

# Message from the Coordinator, GHAI

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*Dear Stakeholders, Motorists,  
and Road Users.*



Greetings from the Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAI). It is with a sense of urgency and commitment that I reach out to you through this newsletter.

The roads we traverse daily hold more than just the promise of a destination; they hold our lives, our dreams, and our loved ones. Each journey we undertake should be a promise of safety, a commitment to responsibility, and an affirmation of the value we place on every life.

As GHAI's In-country Coordinator in Uganda, I stand in solidarity with all of you who work tirelessly to make our roads safer. Road safety is not just a cause; it's a collective responsibility that transcends organizations, borders, and backgrounds. It's a call to action that demands our attention, our dedication, and our unwavering resolve.

In partnership with ROSACU and other stakeholders, GHAI through the Bloomberg Initiative for Global Road Safety-BIGRS, and in Close collaboration with Global Road Safety Partnership, is committed to advocating for safer roads and promoting impactful interventions that save lives. We recognize the need for holistic strategies, comprehensive policies, and a unified voice that echoes the urgency of this issue.

Let us not be complacent in the face of road crashes and their devastating consequences. Let us be the change-makers, the advocates, and the champions of road safety. It starts with each one of us – as motorists, pedestrians, passengers, and advocates.

Through collaboration, education, and advocacy, we can transform our roads into safe passages, where lives are protected and futures are secured. Together, we can rewrite the narrative of road safety in Uganda, leaving behind a legacy of lives saved and tragedies prevented.

I urge you to be vigilant, responsible, and compassionate on the road. Let us keep each other safe, embrace the principles of road safety, and work hand in hand towards a future where road crashes are a rarity, not a grim reality.

Thank you for your commitment, your dedication, and your shared responsibility. Together, we can and will make our roads safer for everyone.

With deep respect and determination,

Jackie Okao  
In-country Coordinator Uganda  
Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAI)



*Dear Readers,*

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the ROSACU RoadSafety Chronicles, a periodical dedicated to shedding light on one of Uganda's most pressing concerns – road crashes and safety. It is a collaborative effort put together by the Communication & Media Working Group led by the following; Onyum Charles (Chair), Ibuge Gorretti (Vice Chair), Monica Mutesi (Secretary) and Mark Ssenoga (Publicity).

As we stand at a crossroads where every journey comes with its share of risks, the need for a comprehensive understanding of road safety policy, emerging trends, statistics, and industry affairs has never been more critical.

Uganda's roads, once pathways of promise, have turned into arenas of tragedy, claiming precious lives and shattering families. Road crashes have become an epidemic that demands our unwavering attention.



In the face of this urgent challenge, the Road Safety Advocacy Coalition Uganda (ROSACU) emerges as a united force, committed to instigating change, influencing policy, and raising awareness.

ROSACU, a coalition of passionate civil society actors, government stakeholders, and private sector partners, is dedicated to fostering a safer road environment for all. Our alliance is built on the conviction that the fight for road safety requires collective action – it demands that we work together to reshape the landscape of road usage in our country.

This newsletter, the ROSACU RoadSafety Chronicles, is our platform to bridge the gap between statistics and stories, regulations and real-world impact. It's not just a collection of articles; it's a shared journey towards safer roads. With every issue, we intend to bring you insightful analyses, eye-opening statistics, success stories, and thought-provoking perspectives.

We aim to create a space where you, our readers, can engage with the complexities of road safety, share your experiences, and be inspired to take action. Our goal is to empower you with knowledge – knowledge that has the power to save lives. Join us as we explore the intricacies of road safety policy, uncover emerging trends, delve into the heart of statistics, and offer a glimpse into the road-safety industry's affairs.

Stay informed. Stay safe.

Warm regards,

*Editor-in-Chief*  
Baguma Richard,  
Secretary General  
United Nations Association of Uganda

*Editor*  
Onyum Charles  
ICT & Communications  
Chuma Technologies & Innovations Centre  
Foundation



# Spotlight On Road Safety: Knowledge as Catalyst

In the bustling rhythm of Uganda's roadways, a crucial narrative unfolds – one that is written in statistics, shaped by trends, and fueled by advocacy. As we delve into the latest road safety statistics, a clearer picture emerges, underlining the urgency of concerted efforts, like those championed by ROSACU.

## *The Unveiling of Numbers*

Every statistic holds a story, and when it comes to road safety, these stories often carry profound messages. The most recent data paints a complex tableau of road crashes in Uganda. In 2022, Uganda recorded **20,394** road crashes, a **16.9%** increase from the previous year. This surge raises a sobering redflag –road safety remains a pressing concern that demands immediate attention.

## *Unmasking the Causes*

Beneath these figures are the factors that necessitate our shared attention. Excessive speed, commonly dismissed as a minor transgression, arises as a significant factor in road accidents, while the issue of driving under the influence (DUI) poses a serious threat, evident in numerous instances. Regrettably, numerous cases remain unsolved regarding their exact origins, creating statistical voids and leaving families devastated without closure. It is imperative that every accident is thoroughly investigated and its causes unveiled to identify those responsible, underscoring the requirement for comprehensive approaches that effectively tackle these precise challenges.

## *The Trending Patterns*

Trends are not just numbers; they are arrows pointing toward the future. A closer examination of road safety statistics reveals unsettling patterns. Forty (**40%**) of road crash deaths involve pedestrians, while 46% involve motorcyclists and their passengers. These patterns are not isolated events; they reflect systemic issues that require immediate intervention.

## *The ROSACU Difference*

In this intricate web of data and insights, ROSACU emerges as a beacon of change. The urgency of these statistics underscores the importance of advocacy efforts that ROSACU passionately champions. By dissecting the numbers, ROSACU is not just reading statistics; they're reading the pulse of the nation, deciphering the pain, and translating it into tangible actions.



**61%**  
crashes due to  
reckless driving



Courtesy Photo

## *A Call to Action*

The road ahead demands action – a collective commitment to safety, awareness, and change. ROSACU's advocacy efforts, echoed in these statistics, emphasize the need for multifaceted interventions. From awareness campaigns to policy reforms, every step counts, and every statistic reinforces the urgency.

As we reflect on these statistics, let them serve as a reminder that behind every number is a life, a family, and a future. The road safety journey is a continuous one, and ROSACU's dedication to change is steering us toward a safer, more secure future for all. It's a journey marked by numbers, guided by purpose, and destined for impact.





# Elevating Road Safety through the Safe School Zones Report Launch: An Initiative by HOVITA

By Joseph Kato

The report on global traffic crashes and safe school zones was launched on July 27, 2023 at African Hotel by the minister of state for transport, Fred Byamukama, who extolled HOVITA and other CSOs for their enormous road safety sensitization. Byamukama pledged to support CSOs in developing a policy that would ensure a 30 km/hr speed is enforced in all school zones and built up areas.

However, Minister Byamukama, warned Ugandans against using boda-boda transport because more than 95 percent of the riders are mad. Byamukama added that the boda-boda sector needs to be streamline because it has become a last resort for everyone including criminals. HOVITA executive director, Sam Bambanza, said protecting safe school zones would reduce cases of more than 600 children dying on Ugandan roads every year.

This argument was backed up with statistics showing that 650 children below the age of 18 died in 2022. Bambanza said road deaths and injuries were causing a lot of pain to parents, and retarding the country's developing as most victims of road crash deaths and injuries are people below the age 35.

## Call to Action for Road Safety: A Tribute and a Plea

In a poignant address at the memorial service of 23 Kitabi seminarians who lost their lives in a tragic road crash three decades ago, Sam Bambanza, Executive Director of HOVITA, highlighted the continued urgency of road safety. As they gathered to honor these young lives, Bambanza reminds us that the toll of road accidents remains alarmingly high. The 2022 traffic police report paints a grim picture, showing a 16.9% increase in road crashes from 17,443 in 2021 to 20,394. Tragically, fatalities rose by 9%, reaching 4,534 in 2022.

These statistics translate to an average of 12 deaths daily on Ugandan roads, and 42 individuals facing life-threatening injuries each day. The ramifications ripple through families, rendering breadwinners incapacitated or lost. Digging deeper into the root causes, Bambanza challenged the perception that these crashes are mere accidents. He emphasized that the causes are well-documented, including speeding, driving under the influence, lack of protective gear like helmets and

seat belts, distracted driving, substandard road infrastructure, and inadequate law enforcement. This call is clear. By driving responsibly, respecting fellow road users, using safety equipment, and advocating for necessary changes, we can significantly reduce the toll.

Bambanza's impassioned plea extends to everyone, urging us to leverage the tragic past to forge a safer future. He encouraged initiatives like Katabi Seminary's road safety advocacy campaign, transforming remembrance into tangible action. HOVITA and ROSACU are united in their demand for a 30 km/h speed limit in school zones, seeking to avert the loss of young lives on the roads.

As Bambanza echoes the voices of those who've suffered the anguish of road accidents, he aligned with the UN Global Road Safety Week with recent efforts like the pupil-led road safety sensitization activity, attended by Kitante Primary School and Africa Kids, exemplify the shared commitment to safer roads.

The event, in line with the United Nations' "Safe Mobility" theme, resonated with the urgent need to instill road safety awareness, especially among our youngest citizens.





# Elevating Road Safety: Uganda's Strategic Initiative



Uganda's commitment to enhancing road safety has been marked by a series of impactful campaigns. Among these, the United Nations Global Road Safety Campaign stands out as a significant endeavor. This initiative, launched in Kampala at the World Health Organization (WHO) Country Office, resonated with a poignant call to parents: a call to protect the lives of their children on the perilous roads. The campaign, aptly themed "Save kids' lives," aimed to extend its reach to over 4,300 children across ten districts including Buikwe, Lugazi, Iganga, Masaka, Kampala, Kasese, Jinja, Nakasongola, Gulu, Ibanda, and Wakiso.

More recently, Uganda unveiled its National Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan for 2021-2026, bolstered by an allocated budget of UGX 124 billion (approximately USD \$33 million) for the advancement of safer road infrastructure. This comprehensive strategy embraces a spectrum of strategic measures. Among them is the revision of the 2004 Road Safety Audit (RSA) Manual, aimed at enhancing the efficacy of recommended actions to elevate road safety.

Furthermore, the strategy prioritizes the implementation of mandatory road safety audits, spanning from feasibility assessment through detailed design and construction. These audits, conducted by accredited experts, are instrumental in upholding a minimum standard of a 3-star rating or higher for all road users.

A key facet of the strategy is the commitment to conducting periodic road safety inspections on existing thoroughfares. This proactive approach aims to identify potential safety hazards and establish a baseline safety performance standard for pre-existing roads<sup>3</sup>. Additionally, the strategy includes the development of a comprehensive black-spot management program. This program, encompassing hazard identification, analysis, countermeasure implementation, and evaluation, targets perilous locations within the road network.

Upholding the sanctity of school zones, the strategy intends to enact a comprehensive safe school zone management program. This initiative will be guided by meticulous risk assessments and seeks to ensure the safety of students at identified schools located alongside roads<sup>3</sup>.

Embracing innovation, the strategy underscores the importance of adopting pioneering technologies and initiatives to foster a safer road environment. This multifaceted approach, encapsulated within the National Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan, symbolizes Uganda's resolute commitment to safeguarding lives and ensuring a secure journey for all.

## Safe School Zone Report Launch: Elevating Road Safety continued

### *Why these statistics*

HOVITA has provided these statistics to show you that what happened 30 years ago where we lost lives of young students is still happening and more lethal today. Students' transportation is still unsafe because majority of the people we are losing on our roads are aged 5 to 29 years.

We all know that Uganda has one of the youngest population in the world and this means we are losing the fresh graduates, future leaders, administrators and our energetic labour force. As earlier indicated, parents sell almost everything in their possessions to educate children but they perish within minutes on our roads.

As HOVITA and ROSACU we are calling for a 30 km/h speed in all school zones and soon we'll be reaching you in your capacity to make this call a reality. If we join hands, we can reduce these road crashes claiming lives of our young people.

The grief and distress experienced by families and relatives of these young people dying on our roads is unbearable. Most of these crashes can be prevented. Protect citizens is a responsibility of the government and society and we can contribute by advocating for safe roads and transportation.

### **Major causes**

We often describe road crashes as accidents but for us we say they are not. Going by W.H.O definition of an accident is something that is unavoidable, and sudden. However, we all know the causes of road crashes and these have been proven beyond doubt world over.

They include speeding, driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, non-use of motorcycle helmets, seat-belts and child restraints.





# Harmony of Compassion: Embracing Road Safety for a Safer Uganda

*Motorcyclists persistently use the Non-Motorised Transport infrastructure to dodge traffic, forcing pedestrians off the designated NMTs (Nakawa-along Jinja road)*

In the bustling streets of Uganda, where the rhythm of life intertwines with the hum of engines, lies a profound truth that transcends the chaos – the undeniable importance of road safety.

Every day, lives are forever altered by tragic crashes that leave families shattered and communities heartbroken. But in the shadows of grief, there exists an unwavering hope, a beacon that reminds us of our collective responsibility to protect one another.

As the sun rises and paints the Ugandan landscape with its golden hues, countless vehicles navigate the intricate web of roads that connect our nation. These roads, while symbolic of progress and connectivity, also bear witness to a somber reality. The World Health Organization's reports echo a startling fact: Uganda is one of the countries with the highest road traffic fatality rates in the world.

Yet, amid these statistics lies a powerful message of change. It is a message that calls for unity, compassion, and a commitment to transforming our roads into safer passages for all. This message is the cornerstone of road safety advocacy, a movement that resonates deeply with organizations like ROSACU (Road Safety Advocacy Coalition Uganda).

ROSACU, a collective of dedicated individuals, organizations, and advocates, has undertaken the vital task of championing road safety across Uganda.

With a shared vision of safer roads and reduced accidents, ROSACU stands as a beacon of hope in a landscape shadowed by risks.

**"Harmony of Compassion"** is not just a poetic phrase; it's a reflection of our shared responsibility. The bustling streets can be tamed, the chaos hushed, and the tragedy minimized when we unite in a common purpose. It starts with understanding the causes of accidents – from speeding to intoxicated driving – and transforming this awareness into action.

Every moment, every life lost on the roads reminds us that road safety is not just an obligation but a moral duty. It is a commitment to our fellow citizens, to our families, and to the generations that will inherit the roads we navigate today.

As we navigate the intricate paths of our lives, let us remember that our actions behind the wheel reverberate beyond the confines of our vehicles. They shape the narrative of our nation, the story we tell the world about who we are and what we stand for.

**"Harmony of Compassion"** urges us to extend a helping hand, to follow traffic rules diligently, to raise awareness, and to advocate for safer roads. It's a call to prioritize lives above all else, to ensure that every journey undertaken ends in a safe arrival.

## The Quest

The quest for safer roads is not just a matter of legislation or infrastructure; it is an embodiment of our compassion and respect for human life. Let us embrace this harmony of compassion, working together to create a Uganda where every road leads to safety, and every journey is a testament to our collective commitment.

Join us in this noble endeavor. Together, let's weave a fabric of road safety awareness and action that protects every life, every dream, and every journey.

Because in the end, road safety is not just about roads; it's about humanity's enduring promise to care for one another.

By Gorreti Ibuge Doreen  
Communications Assistant  
Justice Development Council





Above, Bus Terminal with dedicated routes in Dar-es-Salaam (Tanzania) while Non Motorised Transport (NMTs) are clearly defined in Kigali (Rwanda)



# Motorist Insights: Contrasting East African Approaches to Road Safety and Carnage

From insights from The Daily Monitor and The Nile Post, Samuel Mbabazi, a motorist who spent a year working in Tanzania, contends that Tanzania outperforms Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, and Rwanda in the battle against road tragedies<sup>1</sup>. Mbabazi underscores that Tanzania's stringent traffic regulations and the provision of monthly allowances to traffic officers, in addition to their regular salaries, have eradicated the scourge of bribery and corruption<sup>1</sup>. Moreover, every commercial vehicle in Tanzania is equipped with tracking systems and speed limiters connected to the traffic police network. If a driver surpasses the prescribed speed threshold, penalties are imposed or even face incarceration<sup>1</sup>.

Discussing road infrastructure, a bus driver from Trinity bus company compares road widths between Rwanda and Uganda, noting that Rwanda's roads are narrower, and accompanied by rigorous traffic laws<sup>1</sup>.

According to data from the Uganda Police 2022 Annual Crime Report, the count of road accidents surged by 16.9 per cent from 17,443 in 2021 to 20,394 in 2022. These accidents resulted in a minimum of 4,534 fatalities, contrasting with 4,159 in 2021 and 3,663 in 2020<sup>2</sup>.

It appears that the different East African nations adopt diverse strategies to address the blight of road tragedies. Some, like Tanzania, enforce rigorous traffic laws and boast superior infrastructure, while others, such as Uganda, grapple with persistently high rates of road accidents.

Would you like to delve deeper into this topic? Let us know on: [newsletter@rosacu.org](mailto:newsletter@rosacu.org)

## Source:

(1) How different E.African countries are dealing with road carnage.

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/business/auto/how-different-e-african-countries-are-dealing-with-road-carnage-1864186>.

(2) Road accidents: What really has gone wrong? | Monitor. <https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/oped/commentary/road-accidents-what-really-has-gone-wrong--3851012>.

(3) The unprecedented spike in road crash deaths that rocked Uganda in 2022 <https://nilepost.co.ug/2023/01/02/the-unprecedented-spike-in-road-crash-deaths-that-rocked-uganda-in-2022/>.





Above, Hon Katumba Wamala (Minister for Works & Transport) launches the National Road Safety Plan, (Right) ROSACU executive share a light moment while attending the function

## Uganda's Road Safety Vision: The National Action Plan – CEPA

In a resounding declaration of commitment to safeguarding lives, Uganda achieved a significant milestone on Friday, October 14, 2022. The esteemed Minister of Works and Transport, General Katumba Wamala, presided over a momentous event at Mestil Hotel in Kampala: the launch of the National Road Safety Action Plan 2022–2026.

This five-year roadmap embodies an ambitious ambition: to curtail road crash fatalities and injuries by an impressive 25% before the year 2026. Aligned with the Global Plan for the Decade of Action 2021–2030, the plan resonates with the United Nations General Assembly's resolution A/RES/74/299, which ardently aims to avert at least 50% of road traffic fatalities and injuries by 2030.

Underlining the meticulous detailing and foresight invested in this endeavor, the estimated cost of implementing the action plan is a substantial UGX 645 billion.

The strategic framework encompasses pivotal themes, namely:

1. Road Safety Management
2. Safe Road Infrastructure
3. Vehicle Safety
4. Safe Road Use and Post-Crash Response

Uganda proudly embraces its status as the second country in Africa and the trailblazer in East Africa to inaugurate such a comprehensive National Road Safety Action Plan. This strategic launch resonates as a vivid testament to the government's unwavering dedication to elevating the nation's road safety landscape.

The urgency of this initiative becomes even more apparent considering the rising toll of road accidents in Uganda. The escalating numbers of road fatalities call for steadfast measures to reverse this trend. Here, the united voices of civil society organizations, united under the banner of the Road Safety Advocacy Coalition Uganda, hold a pivotal role. Their engagement in supporting and implementing this action plan can prove instrumental in realizing its goals.

Guided by the invaluable assistance of development partners such as the Global Road Safety Partnership and the Global Health Advocacy Incubator, Uganda stands poised to turn this action plan into a tangible reality. These partners have consistently contributed to road safety initiatives in the country, and their continued support will be indispensable in attaining the ambitious objectives set forth by the plan.

In an alignment of purpose, CEPA's 2nd phase of the Road Safety project harmonizes with elements of the National Road Safety Action Plan. By sensitizing diverse stakeholders about road safety regulations, CEPA's efforts resonate with the broader national strategy.

However, the onus also lies on the Government of Uganda to prioritize funding for road safety in its national budgets. The availability of resources is a pivotal determinant in the translation of the plan's goals from aspiration to achievement. The commitment to safer roads, the preservation of lives, and the advancement of Uganda's road safety vision rests on these concerted endeavors.

As Uganda embarks on this transformative journey, the launch of the National Road Safety Action Plan serves as a beacon of hope. With collective dedication, strategic alignment, and unwavering commitment, Uganda aims to forge a safer road ahead for all its citizens.

By Angela Kemirembe  
Communications Officer  
Centre for Policy Analysis (CEPA)



*Below: Participants warm up at the Nakasero Primary School playgrounds shortly before the start of the Marathon*



# The Road Safety Marathon 2023: Inaugural Edition by LRSI

Greetings and a warm welcome to the inaugural edition of "The Road Safety Marathon 2023". We are delighted to kick-start this enlightening journey with you, dedicated to championing the cause of road safety and spreading awareness far and wide. As we laced up our digital sneakers and begin this marathon of knowledge, insights, and impactful stories, we invite you to stride alongside us and become a part of this vital movement.

## *Joining Forces*

Throughout this maiden issue, you'll find a collection of compelling articles, expert perspectives, and updates that aim to create a safer and more responsible road environment for all. Thank you for joining us on this important voyage, and together, let's pave the way for a future where every step we take contributes to a safer road for everyone.

## *Recap of the Road Safety Marathon 2023*

We are excited to bring you the latest updates and highlights from the highly successful Road Safety Marathon 2023, which took place on 23rd July 2023 at the Nakasero Primary School Play Grounds. With the theme "Running for Crash Victims",

this event aimed to raise awareness about road safety and promote responsible driving to prevent crashes and promote post-crash care.

## *Unity in Action*

We witnessed an overwhelming response from various partners, sponsors, participants, athletes, and volunteers who all came together to champion the cause of road safety. Their commitment to making our roads safer was truly inspiring.

## *Engaging the Community*

The event drew enthusiastic participation from all age groups, showcasing the widespread community interest in road safety. Families, students, professionals, decision-makers, local leaders, athletes, and road safety advocates united in their passion to create a safer environment for everyone.

## *Running for Crash Victims*

The theme of the marathon, "Running for Crash Victims," highlighted the importance of safe speeds, helmet wear, seatbelt wear, use of child restraint systems above all responsible driving among other factors. It underscored the life-changing impact that road crashes can have on individuals and their families. The marathon was a platform to share stories of survival, resilience, and hope among crash victims.

## *Key Highlights*

- Over 850 participants joined the marathon, including 23 organizations and 7 schools.
- The proceeds raised are to be used in the implementation of the campaign across the year.
- Winston Katushabe – Commissioner MoWT and a well-known road safety advocate, graced the event and shared powerful insights on the importance of responsible driving.
- We launched a campaign, which will continue to spread awareness about road safety throughout the year.

## *A Heartfelt Thank You*

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all our partners, sponsors, and supporters for their generous contributions and active involvement. Your dedication to the cause of road safety has made a lasting impact on our community, and we are truly grateful for your support.

Follow us on social media:

- FB: Legacy Road Safety Initiative
- Twitter: @lrsinitiative
- LinkedIn: LEGACY ROAD SAFETY INITIATIVE

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**Winston Katushabe, Commissioner Transport Regulation & Safety, MoWT shares a light moment with participating UNA staff during the Road Safety Marathon**

# UNITING FOR ROAD SAFETY: A marathon to remember

On July 23, 2023, I had the honor of participating in the Road Safety Marathon, an event dedicated to raising awareness about road safety and the consequences of accidents. This was organized by the Legacy Road Safety Initiative, bringing together individuals and organizations, including my own, the United Nations Association of Uganda (UNA), part of the Road Safety Advocacy Coalition Uganda (ROSACUG).

Starting at Nakasero Primary School Playground, runners prepared for the 21km challenge, with a shorter 10km option.

The marathon's message was clear – road safety is a collective responsibility, symbolizing our commitment to safer roads and saving lives from preventable accidents. Each year, numerous individuals suffer life-changing injuries and lose limbs in crashes.

Winstone Katushabe, Commissioner of Transport Regulation and Safety/Chief Licensing Officer of Motor Vehicles at the Ministry of Works and Transport, served as chief runner, emphasizing responsible driving, pedestrian safety, improved road infrastructure, and stricter traffic regulations. It was a call to action for policymakers, law enforcement, and the public to create safer roads.

Throughout the marathon, we ran with purpose, knowing our efforts would save lives. Camaraderie among participants, united in a common cause, was inspiring. We were reminded that change begins with each of us – every runner, every advocate, and every community member.

Crossing the finish line, a sense of accomplishment washed over me. Our collective contribution would have a lasting impact. This marathon rallied for change. We must all foster a culture of road safety, ensuring every journey is safe. Embracing the responsibility to protect each other, every day we step onto the roads.

Reflecting on the Road Safety Marathon of 2023, let it be a catalyst for transformative action. Together, we guide communities toward safer roads, sparing families from losing loved ones and preserving mobility and independence for all.

By Tumwebaze Sanyu Amabel  
Volunteer-United Nations  
Association of Uganda (UNA)

**Left: Workers & Staff of UNA share a light moment after the marathon.  
Below: Volunteer pupils hold-up campaign placards.**





# REGULATIONS MADE UNDER THE TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY ACT, 1998 (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2020

Parliament passed the Traffic and Road Safety Act 1998 (Amendment) Act, 2020 on 29th January 2020 and it was assented to by H.E the President on 15th May 2020. The Ministry embarked on a review of existing regulations and formulation of new regulations where necessary to fully operationalize the Act.

## Key Highlights

1. The Traffic and Road Safety (Demerit Points System) Regulations, 2023.
2. The Traffic and Road Safety (Digital Networks) Regulations, 2023.
3. The Traffic and Road Safety (Post Crash Emergency Care) Regulations, 2023.
4. The Traffic and Road Safety (Prohibited Drugs and Alcohol Limit) Regulations, 2023.
5. The Traffic and Road Safety (Wearing of Safety Belts) (Amendment) Regulations, 2023.
6. The Traffic and Road Safety (Motorcycles and Motorised Tricycles) (Amendment) Regulations, 2023.
7. The Traffic and Road Safety (Licensing of Manufacturers and Garages) Regulations, 2023.
8. The Traffic and Road Safety (Driving Tests and Special Provisions for Drivers of Public Service Vehicles and Goods Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulations, 2023.
9. The Traffic and Road Safety (Driving Schools and Driving Instructors) (Amendment) Regulations, 2023.
10. The Traffic and Road Safety (Registration Plates) Regulations, 2022
11. The Traffic and Road Safety (Appeals) (Amendment) Regulations, 2023.

## Appeal to Stakeholders

Following the signing of the regulations, the Ministry requested stakeholders to be partners in the implementation of the regulations to achieve these objectives which are to create a robust system for the provision of road transport services and improve road safety by nurturing a safety culture among road users. Specifically;

1. We request for speedy prosecution and adjudication of offenders by the Directorate of Public Prosecutions and the Judiciary. In that, we still advocate for traffic courts to prioritise traffic cases and expedite the processes.
2. The Civil Society is requested to keenly look at the regulations and identify the areas that require further action for effective implementation. Specifically, post-crash emergency care, proper helmet use by both riders and passengers, use of child restraints, research on the impact of the regulations; and continuous engagement and advocacy of responsible institutions and offices are some of the areas where your involvement is needed.
3. The Forum of Permanent Secretaries and Transport Officers in MDAs is requested to be champions of these regulations and to ensure that the Government sets an example in the implementation of these regulations starting with obtaining digitized registration plates.

The Ministry of Works & Transport has committed to distributing these regulations widely and to conducting continuous public awareness campaigns to educate the general population about the new regulations. They are also requesting all stakeholders to actively promote road safety in their respective spheres of influence.





Top: Instructor Wasswa during a demonstration on vehicle electronics to one of the trainee mechanics. Top-Left: Executive Director William Warugaba attends a training session. Bottom-left: One of the mechanics shares a light moment with the instructor

# Revolutionizing Automotive Services for Safer Roads: CHUMATEIC's Retooling of Mechanics for RoadSafety

In an unprecedented move for the 1st cohort of garage owners and vehicle mechanics from Wakiso and Kampala districts, Chuma Technologies and Innovations Centre Foundation (CHUMATEIC) is pioneering a transformative initiative that is set to elevate service standards within the automotive industry. Running from February to May 2023, this comprehensive training program, was designed to ensure professionalism, effectiveness, and fitness for purpose, and is closely aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Uganda's developmental aspirations.

## Empowering Mechanics: A Cornerstone of Safer Roads

The importance of the automotive industry in shaping road safety cannot be overstated. It's with this understanding that CHUMATEIC embarked on a groundbreaking mission to empower mechanics with the skills and knowledge required to uphold professionalism, effectiveness, and safety within their garage operations.

Through this intensive training program, 24 mechanics, 3 garage owners and 1 intern (female) were being equipped to go beyond routine maintenance, ensuring vehicles are not only operational but also safe for the road.

## The SDG Connection: A Roadmap to Safer Roads

At the heart of this initiative lies a deep connection with the SDGs, particularly Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities). By enhancing the quality of automotive services, we believe this makes a significant contribution to the safety and well-being of individuals on the road. Moreover, our focus on effective garages and safer vehicles is in perfect harmony with Uganda's developmental goals, nurturing a transport sector that positively impacts economic growth and societal well-being.

## Professional Excellence: A Catalyst for Safer Roads

The impact of this initiative transcends the confines of garage walls. Well-trained mechanics are not only raising the bar for

service quality but shall also play a pivotal role in preventing road crashes and fatalities. This unwavering commitment to professional excellence reflects CHUMATEIC's dedication to a safer road environment.

## Charting a Safer Course for the Future

Through this groundbreaking initiative, CHUMATEIC envisions a future where garages across Wakiso and Kampala are synonymous with professionalism, effectiveness, and safety. As mechanics in this 1st cohort evolve into trusted professionals, the vehicles on our roads will become living proof of their commitment.

For inquiries or further information, please contact:

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# Empowering Change: The Nicole Foundation's Road Safety Journey

In the heart of Uganda, a passionate and dedicated force has emerged to address one of the nation's most pressing challenges: road safety. The Nicole Foundation, in alliance with its esteemed partners, has been on a relentless journey towards a safer road environment, and the strides they've made in just the first half of 2022/2023 are nothing short of inspiring.

As the festive season 2022 approached, the Nicole Foundation, in a bid to create heightened awareness and emphasize safety considerations, joined hands with partners to develop a road safety awareness campaign. Timed strategically for the December/January period, the campaign aimed to remind road users of the importance of safety during a time when the risk of crashes is particularly high.

In a momentous celebration, the Nicole Foundation marked its 2nd Anniversary on January 15th, 2023. The serene gardens of St. Marks Church of Uganda in Entebbe played host to the occasion, officiated by none other than the Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon. Major General (Rtd) Kahinda Otiatiire.

The event resonated with a call for stronger measures against the 'upside down mentality' exhibited by drivers, which contributes to a staggering number of fatalities each year. This sentiment was echoed by the Mayor of Entebbe, who expressed a willingness to collaborate with the foundation to enhance road safety within the municipality.

The Nicole Foundation's commitment to change was further manifested through impactful workshops and training sessions. Collaborating with URRENO, MOWT, and UPF, they organized a Defensive Riding course workshop for 87 boda-boda riders, arming them with essential skills and knowledge for safer road behavior. Another training initiative, held in conjunction with Uganda Red Cross, URRENO, and UIA, delved into emergency care, disease prevention, and road safety, benefiting 97 boda-boda riders.

Recognizing the global nature of the issue, the Nicole Foundation participated in the Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAi) workshop, advocating for safer speed policies in Uganda. Their engagement in the 7th UN Global Road Safety Week further amplified their dedication to creating a safer road environment.

Undeterred by challenges, the foundation ventured into the heart of danger itself. Field visits to road accident blackspots on the Kyengera-Masaka highway highlighted the urgent need for better road safety measures. Notably, the Nicole Foundation partnered with Uganda Insurers Association (UIA) and UNRA for these field visits, shedding light on pressing issues that need addressing.

In a true display of multifaceted commitment, the Nicole Foundation also made substantial contributions to raising awareness. From supporting the 250km Joe Walker Kampala-Mbale trek to participating in events advocating for pedestrian safety, they made their presence felt.

Embracing the power of information dissemination, the foundation published and distributed their quarterly newsletter, reaching out to their well-wishers and extending their message of change.

As the road safety landscape continues to evolve, the Nicole Foundation remains steadfast in its pursuit of a safer journey for all. Their work stands as a beacon of hope and change, reminding us all that the road to safer roads is a journey we must take together.

To learn more and stand united for safer roads, visit the Nicole Foundation's website: [www.nicolefoundation.org](http://www.nicolefoundation.org).



Boda Boda cyclists attend the training on defensive riding





Above: Iganga District Local Government Officials at the signing of the MOU and inception meeting. Right: Participants attend the training on road crashes as major causes of spinal injuries in Uganda



# Inclusive Healthcare Partnership: CEDIG's & Iganga Local Gov't

In a resolute stride towards fostering equitable and comprehensive healthcare, the 'Make Every Voice Heard in Health Services Project' by Centre for Disability Rights & Governance (CEDIG) has embarked on a transformative journey. A momentous milestone has been reached as an MOU was inked between CEDIG, Iganga Local Government, and Iganga Municipality. This pivotal partnership lays the foundation for a series of initiatives that promise to reshape healthcare access for individuals with spinal injuries.

## Training to Transform: Knowledge as the Vanguard

Central to this collaborative venture is the commitment to education. The partnership's first stride entails the comprehensive training of both policy makers and implementers, spotlighting road crashes as the cause of 95% of spinal injuries. By ingraining this awareness, CEDIG, Iganga Local Government, and Iganga Municipality aim to foster a collective responsibility towards road safety and injury prevention.

## Championing Rights: A Path to Empowerment

Stepping beyond training, this collaboration underscores the importance of understanding the rights of Persons with Spinal Injuries.

Through dedicated training programs, health workers will be equipped with the knowledge needed to uphold the principles enshrined in the UN-convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This effort ensures that those affected by spinal injuries receive not only medical care but also the dignity and respect they deserve.

## Guided Expertise: Enhancing Spine Management

Recognizing the intricate nature of spine management, CEDIG, Iganga Local Government, and Iganga Municipality are leaving no stone unturned. The project incorporates the expertise of external spinal specialists who will empower health workers with the advanced know-how required for effective spinal injury management. This infusion of expert guidance bolsters the quality of care provided to individuals with spinal injuries.

## Voice of Change: Advocacy at its Core

A significant dimension of this initiative lies in its advocacy pursuits. The collaborative partnership is committed to orchestrating advocacy meetings that revolve around a patient-centered procurement process. By tailoring procurement to the distinct needs of Persons with Spinal Injuries, CEDIG, Iganga Local Government, and Iganga Municipality seek to amplify the impact of resources, ensuring they truly address the challenges faced by this community.

## Digital Advocacy: A Future Envisioned

In an era driven by technology, the collaboration acknowledges the power of digital advocacy. The project is set to create cutting-edge ICT materials that fervently advocate for inclusive health services for Persons with Spinal Injuries. Through these digital mediums, the project aims to raise awareness, erase stigmas, and promote understanding, all while fostering a more empathetic and accessible healthcare landscape.

The partnership between CEDIG, Iganga Local Government, and Iganga Municipality is not just a memorandum; it's a pact of transformation. Through education, empowerment, expertise, advocacy, and digital innovation, the 'Make Every Voice Heard in Health Services Project' takes bold strides towards a more inclusive and compassionate healthcare system. This partnership embodies the essence of change, where every voice matters, and no one is left behind.

By Angela Balaba  
Executive Director  
Centre for Disability Rights & Governance (CEDIG)





Left: Riders criss-cross through road signage to dodge the traffic jam. Right: A motorcyclist continues to load his motorcycle with disregard for where he shall sit and the weight.

# Riding the Roads of Life:

## A Heartfelt Journey of Safety and Vigilance

Step into a world where the hum of engines blends with the pulse of life, where the Boda-Boda transport offers a swift passage through bustling streets and hidden alleys. A journey of convenience and speed, but one that comes with its share of risks. In the midst of this exhilarating ride, we find solace in being vigilant passengers, guiding our riders to traverse the roads with utmost care, as we embrace the joy and peril of the Boda-Boda experience.

With helmets donned and hearts ready, we embark on this remarkable voyage, for we know that while speed may thrill, safety is the anchor that keeps us steady.

The Boda-Boda, a symbol of mobility and resilience, propels us through the city's arteries, weaving between cars and pedestrians. In this bustling dance, we hold on to the precious thread of life, reminding our riders to chart a cautious course.

In the backseat, we are not just passengers but protectors of our destiny. We choose licensed riders who journey with the law on their side, navigating the labyrinth of roads responsibly.

Our voices become a lifeline of communication with the rider, for safety knows no silence. We share our destination, seeking the smoothest route while staying alert to every turn.

As the sun sets and shadows stretch, we ensure that the boda-boda carries a weight it can bear, for we know that balance is the key to safe passage. Our eyes are trained on the road ahead, scanning for potential hazards, while our hearts beat in tandem with the rhythm of the journey. We cherish the moments of exhilaration, but never forget the essence of vigilance.

Amidst the symphony of movement, we are guided by our instincts. If unease sets in, we hold the power to steer our fate, choosing the path that ensures our safety. With each journey, we seek riders who embrace the responsibility of road safety, riders who understand that their passengers' lives are held in their hands.

Together, we embark on this poignant voyage, cherishing moments of freedom and adventure while cherishing the gift of life. We celebrate the Boda-Boda's role as a bridge between places, carrying dreams and aspirations on its trusty wheels. In the embrace of this thrilling journey, let us remember that safety is not a destination but a constant companion. May we forever ride the roads of life with hearts ablaze, guided by vigilance and a profound love for life's most precious gift.

Let us be the guardians of our journeys, and may every Boda-Boda ride be a testament to the enduring spirit of unity, safety, and boundless possibilities.

By Mwesigwa Sam Thompson  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Road Safety Club-Uganda.

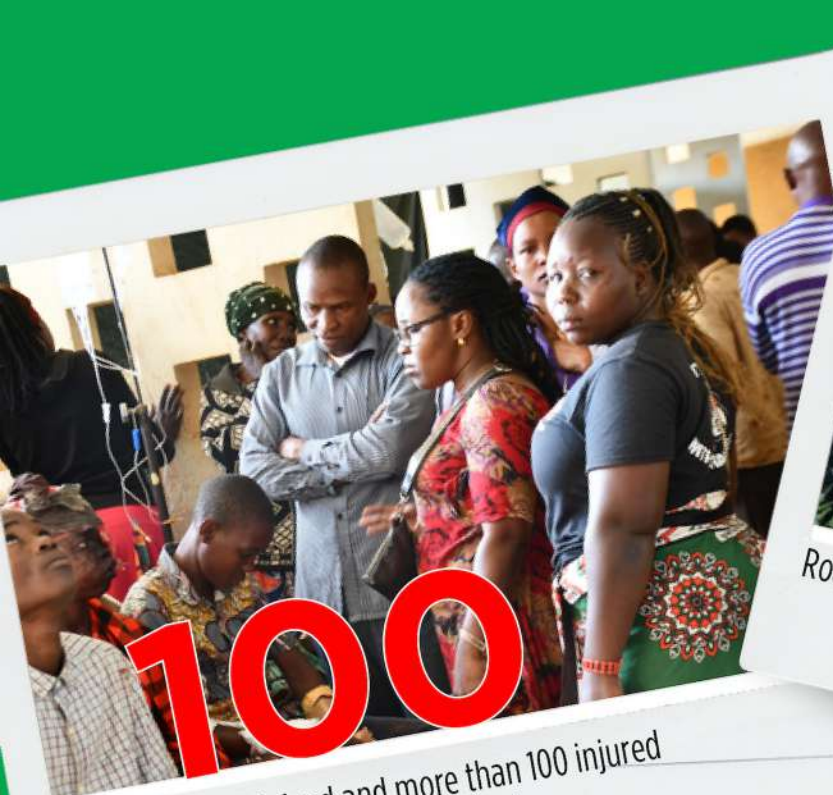




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1 pupil dead and more than 100 injured  
Manafwa Road



Road Crashes between 23-29 July 2023  
-Uganda Police



Pedestrians kills in 2022- Uganda Police Annual  
Crime Report 2022



43% of all accidents involved Boda Boda cyclists

# ALERT!!

According to UN Development Report 2018, the economic burden of road crashes to Uganda **was** estimated at **UgShs 4.4 trillion**. However, new preliminary data indicates this may more than quadrupled to Ugshs 17.4 trillion!  
(that is Shs 17,400,000,000,000/=)

Isn't it **TIME** we **ACT**?