



THE VIA PROGRAMME IN UGANDA

ABOUT UGANDA

Uganda is a landlocked country with a population of around 49.6 million, almost half of the population is under the age of 15, representing one of the youngest populations in the world. Uganda is located on the East African plateau, averaging about 1,100 meters (3,609 ft) above sea level. Major languages include English, Luganda, and Kiswahili.

Agriculture is a core sector of Uganda's economy, about 60 percent of Uganda's population is engaged in agriculture, forestry, and fishing. The agricultural sector provides the basis for growth in other sectors such as manufacturing and services.

ROAD SAFETY IN UGANDA

Road transport is the prominent mode of transportation in Uganda carrying about 95% of the country's goods and 99% of traffic. The road network gives overall connectivity both along the main national and international highways and in access to individual towns, villages, workplaces, and homesteads throughout the country.

According to the Police crime report, 12 lives are lost daily on the Ugandan roads. The majority of those who die in road crashes are pedestrians and motorcyclists. In 2022, 650 young people below the age of 18 died due to road crashes. Reports indicate that the majority of the crashes are attributed to speeding, drink driving, driving while fatigued, driving vehicles in dangerous mechanical condition, and poor roads. The severity of these crashes is exacerbated by not wearing seatbelts and crash helmets.

ABOUT SAFE WAY RIGHT WAY

Safe Way Right Way (SWRW) is a registered Non-Governmental Organization that was formed as a result of collaboration between the World Bank's "Global Road Safety Partnerships" and Total SA to improve road safety on Africa's economically critical corridors. It is funded by several private sector companies which include TotalEnergies MS Uganda Limited, Africa Global Logistics, TotalEnergies Exploration & Production, CFAO Motors, and Motorcentre EastAfrica

To reduce carnage on the road, Safe Way Right Way works with various stakeholders at national and local levels to review and advocate for enforcement of laws and regulations: to carry out speed management campaigns, school zone campaigns among others.

SWRW set up a professional driver training centre with support from GIZ to enable the training of drivers for Heavy Good Vehicles and Passenger Service Vehicles. With the training based on the East African Standardized Curriculum, the centre has trained 24 driving instructors from various driving schools in the country and 1502 drivers of Heavy Good Vehicles and 131 of these are female.

TotalEnergies IN UGANDA

TotalEnergies has been present in Uganda since 1955 through its Marketing and Services affiliate-TotalEnergies Marketing Uganda Ltd and is currently the market leader with over 200 service stations across the country and offers a full range of petroleum products and services. In 2010, the Company set up its Exploration & Production affiliate, TotalEnergies EP Uganda.

TotalEnergies places sustainable development in all its dimensions at the heart of its strategy, projects and operations to contribute to people's well-being and aims to be a benchmark for endorsement of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

VIA IN UGANDA

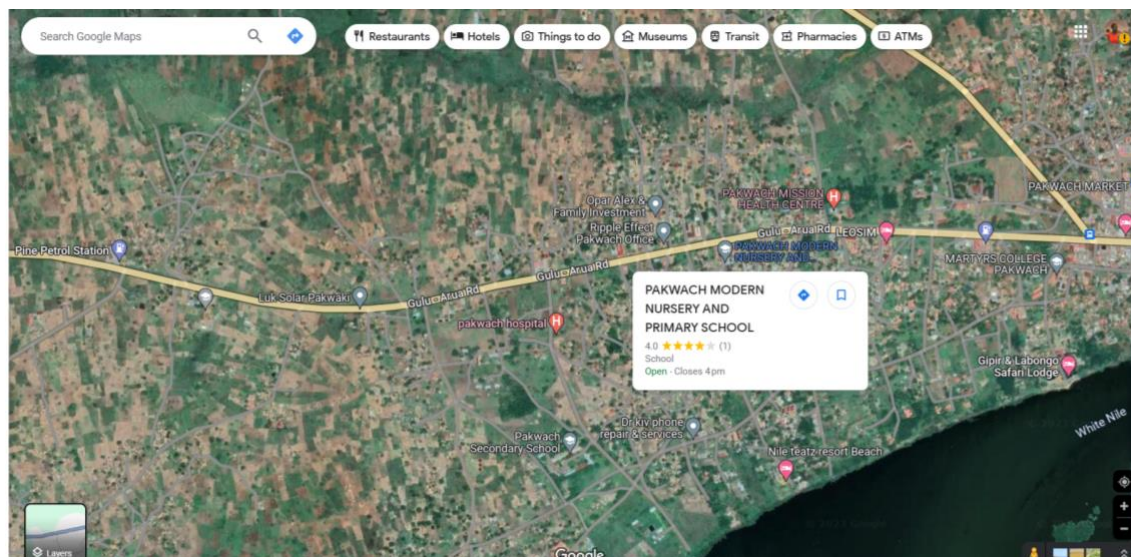
The VIA road safety project in Uganda commenced in February 2022 and specifically targets school going children in the Albertine region and Kampala city. The geographical scope of the project was informed by the road traffic trends; Kampala has the highest number of fatalities in road crashes and the Albertine region has registered tremendous growth in traffic because of oil and gas developments in the region and it ranks seventh out of the 24 regions outside Kampala for the number of crashes and fatalities recorded annually.

To date, the project has been introduced to 138 schools in 5 districts that is Nwoya, Pakwach, Hoima, Kikuube. Buliisa and Kampala districts. Secondly, **269** teachers have been trained as VIA educators, and they have in turn sensitized over **30,000** Students on road safety using the VIA manual. There has been a reported increase in the number of children using the road safely. Over 50 Road safety drama clubs have been established in schools to improve learning and motivate learners to use the roads safely.

SWRW conducted iRAP assessments in Kampala and Buliisa districts which provided a rich insight into the infrastructure challenges faced by the children and provided SWRW an opportunity for evidence-based advocacy to upgrade and improve the roads around schools. A report of the findings in Kampala detailing the specific road safety issues was presented to the engineering department to be factored in the infrastructure development plans for the city to reduce these risks for road users. And in Buliisa, SWRW received funding from TotalEnergies to fence 11 schools on the highway.

About the school - PAKWACH MODERN NURSERY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Pakwach Modern Nursery and primary School is a mixed boys and girls school found in Pakwach district, Pakwach town council in the Northern region of Uganda. It is government aided and has an enrolment of over 400 pupils.



VIA Ambassadors

Pakwach Modern Nursery and primary School

VIA Ambassadors

Nyavita Vivian
Ofoyrwoth Settler
Ajolorwoth Hilda
Marpamungu Faith
Pirwoth Jonathan
Yikparwoth Anna Maria

VIA Teachers

Opio John Baptist
Onenarach Stephen



Key road safety Risks

The school is on the highway and that in itself is a risk for the pupils. The highway has heavy traffic with vehicles operated by drivers who sometimes drive under the influence of alcohol and other narcotics.

The road is a single carriage way with heavy traffic of heavy goods, passenger service, light vehicles, motorcycles (Boda Boda), and bicycles without clearly marked riding or walking lane to the extent that pedestrians and cyclists mix up and are often forced to the margins. In Uganda, Pedestrians are the most vulnerable road users constituting over 40% of the number of persons killed in road crashes.

The prevalent mode of transportation in Pakwach district are commercial motorcycles (Boda Boda), these are unregulated, with untrained and unsafe drivers. Most pupils use motorcycles or walk to travel to and from school exposing them to the dangers associated with using motorcycles given that they are the most prevalent road users to road crashes in the country.



Recommendations of the VIA ambassadors to improve the situation.\$

Spreading awareness about the dangers of drunk driving to all pupils through road safety awareness sessions at their school and other neighbouring schools during interchange activities.

Request for meetings with district leaders and traffic officers to present the concerns of the pupils and teachers about the dangers drunk drivers pose to school going children and ask them to put in place the necessary controls to curb the vice.

Seek for opportunities to be hosted on radio time to sensitize the local communities in Pakwach district and use it to call upon leaders to take the necessary actions to address the problem.

Develop IEC materials with messages about the dangers of drunk driving that will be Pinned at all public notice boards in the district to raise awareness.

Seek support from well-wishers to support meetings with leaders and to develop and print more information and educational materials to distribute to all stakeholders about the dangers of drunk driving.

Compose more messages and drama and songs to raise awareness.

Their prevention poster

