

National Policy on First Aid for road users in Africa

-Carry First Aid Box Initiative: Prospects and challenges

ROAD SAFETY SITUATION IN AFRICA

-Africa is facing the world's 2nd most severe Road safety crisis - *World Health Organisation (WHO)-2008*

-Sub-Saharan Africa will experience at least 80% more road deaths in 2020 than in 2000 - *World Bank forecast 2008*

- Nigeria loses about N135 billion yearly as well as **85 lives daily** due to bad roads.

Minister of works, Senator Oluseye Ogunlewe, 2004

Road safety situation

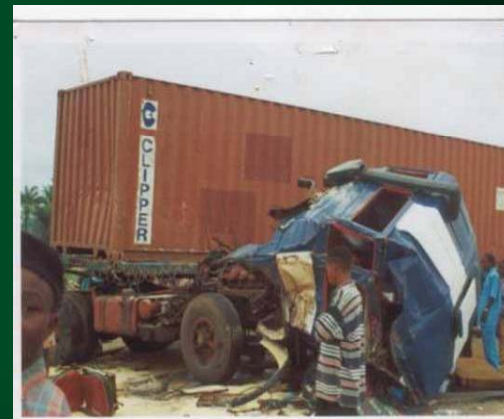


Poor Roads Condition

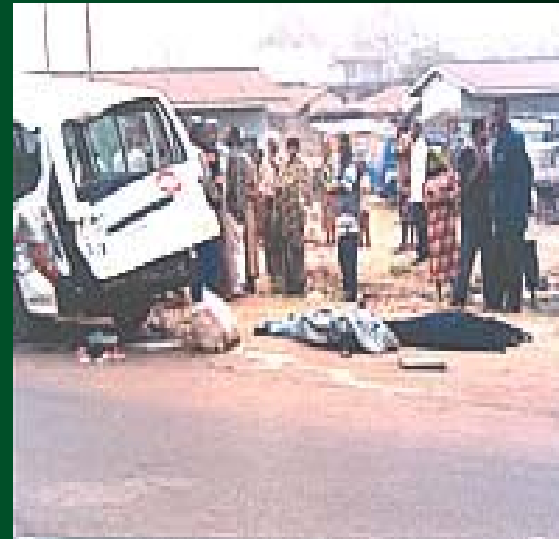


Road crash response situation

Every minute of every day, officials of National road safety agencies in Africa are faced with the challenge of getting to the scene of a road crash as quickly and as safely as possible.



Road crash scenes



EFFORTS IN ADDRESSING ROAD CRASHES IN AFRICA

- ✓ **On record, the African Road Safety Conference Accra, Ghana, 2007 remains the most visible credible and concerted effort of African countries to develop unique strategies for reducing road traffic fatalities by half by 2015.**

The deliberations at African Road Safety Conference, Ghana, 2007 by meeting of experts to institute mandatory First Aid training to all drivers and First Aid Box mandatory in all cars in Africa were largely based on the recognition of following Emergency response situation :

Emergency response situation

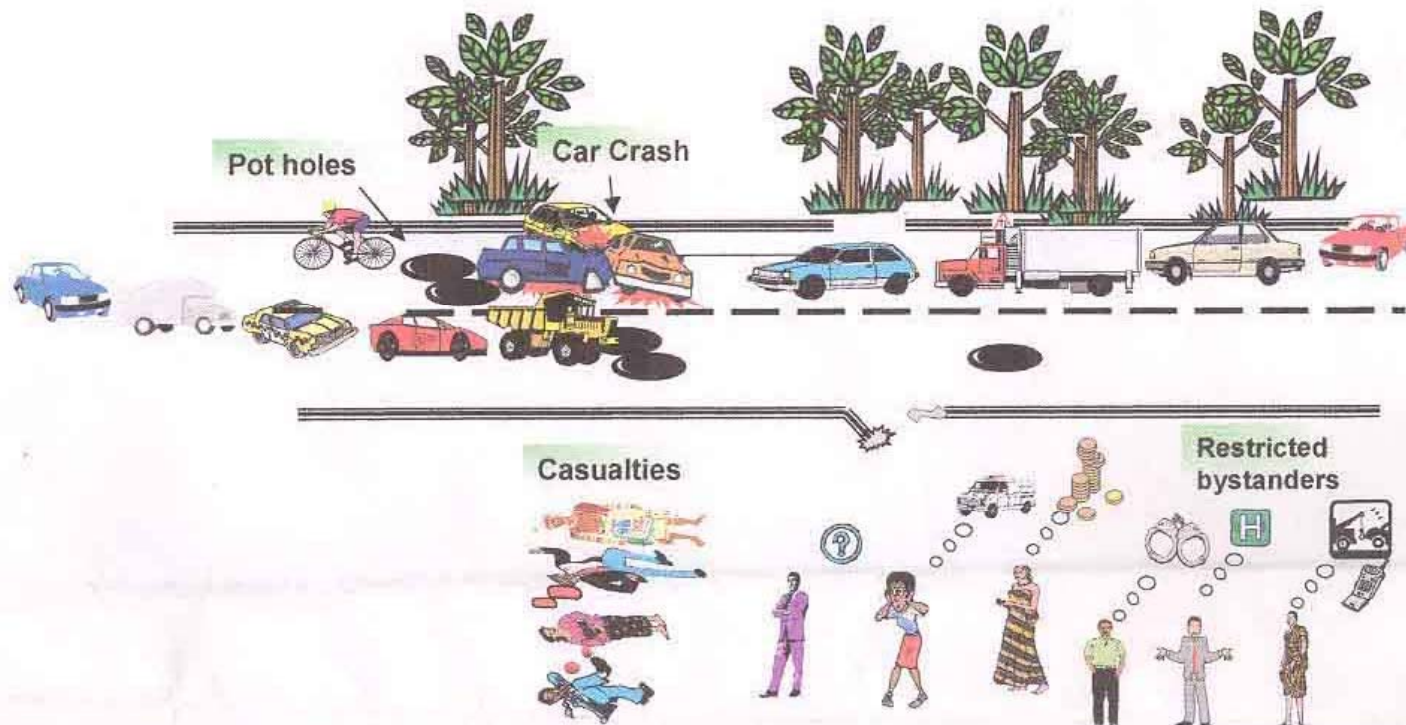
- ✦ Inadequate rescue facilities and weak capacity of existing National Road Safety Agencies
- ✦ Credible research findings on African communities showed that over 50% of deaths on the spot of road crash are not caused by severity of the crash but due to minor injuries like airway blockage, breathing difficulties and circulation problems which could have been addressed by First Aid application.
- ✦ There is no room for complacency because precious time lost can mean the difference between life and death for a road crash victim waiting for help based on a wealth of medical evidence to suggest that a 'golden hour' exists for casualties after a road crash

POOR & UN CO-ORDINATED RESCUE OPERATIONS



Pictorial Summary of the rescue problems

PROBLEM



Common problems of rescue for road crash victims in Africa

- ✓ Uncoordinated Community Rescue Efforts from by-standers
 - Hospital Rejection
 - Police Harassment
 - Financial Constraints
 - Lack of First Aid Skill
 - Poor Ambulance Response
 - Inadequate Communication Facilities

Yet, almost three years after the Accra declaration, the important aspect of the on First Aid as contained in item 45 of trauma section the declaration has not been implemented by any country.

Report of the Meeting of the Experts, 4th Africa Road safety Conference, Accra, Ghana, 5th–7th February 2007 by UN Economic Commission for Africa

http://www.who.int/entity/roadsafety/events/4arsc/accra_report.pdf.



item 45

Emergency Trauma Care

In examining the issue of Emergency Trauma Care, the meeting identified the major causes of road crashes and called for appropriate measures including:

Training

Institute mandatory training: at different levels; First aid training to all drivers, particularly commercial drivers; First aid box mandatory in all cars; and Accident prone areas should be priority.

Objective of study

- Reducing deaths on the spot of road crashes
- Investigating the benefits and challenges of implementing a National First Aid policy as endorsed by the Accra declaration
- Review existing advocacy efforts, proposals for implementation and make necessary recommendations.

Approach

- ✓ In the absence of a co-ordinated approach for the implementation of a National First Aid Policy, this study relied on
- ✓ The over whelming evidence on the efficacy of First Aid by experts including the deliberations that led to the Accra declaration that knowledge and application of First Aid will save lives and help minimise injuries when road crashes occur on African roads.
- ✓ Attention was focused on an existing advocacy and campaign initiative by the PATVORA Organisation “Carry First Aid box’ – CarryFAB and its proposal for the implementation of a National First Aid Policy through tri sector partnership.

Carry First Aid Box – CarryFAB

Africa's new hope for minimising road deaths and injuries

- ✓ The CarryFAB initiative is a focused strategy to support the endorsement of African Road Safety Experts on Accra Declaration that First Aid training should be a fundamental priority for road users and First Aid box, a standard measure in cars
- ✓ The initiative through local campaigns and development of a website www.carryfab.org offers a platform to foster expert advice, disseminate best practices, advance application on First Aid for road users.

CarryFAB volunteers & advocates



CarryFAB volunteers and partners



CarryFAB volunteers, advocates & Partners



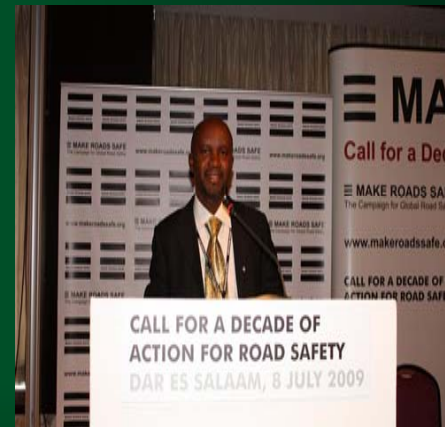
CarryFAB International campaign with Victims & Experts



CarryFAB International Advocacy with friends, partners & experts



CarryFAB Continental Advocacy

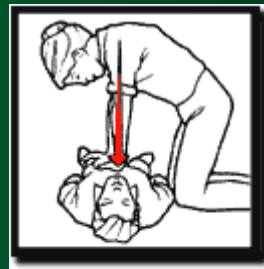


The CarryFAB Community campaign

- The campaign has worked with people at community levels by making them understand that there are steps which in their own interest they need to take to know how to minimise the impact of road traffic injuries by responding rapidly and appropriately to road crashes.

-

First steps to Rescue



The CarryFAB campaign results

The pilot schemes on CarryFAB campaign in 12 months of the initiative successfully built capacity of road users on First Aid by training over 100,000 road users including petrol station attendants on highways and drivers at commercial motor parks in five States of Nigeria through support and funding of the PATVORA Organisation.

Specifically, in Delta State of Nigeria it yielded a reduction of road deaths on road crash spots by 52-64% in sections where the campaign was conducted.

The CarryFAB implementation strategy for a National First Aid Policy

To scale up the training of road users for both free and commercial First Aid programmes on a National level, the CarryFAB initiative recognises funding constraints as a major hindrance both for NGOs like PATVORA and National Road Safety Agencies in Africa. Therefore, it proposes a special casualty reduction programme based on a Tri-sector partnering model. The proposed scheme for the implementation of a National First Aid Policy, demonstrates how the private sector, civil society and government can work together to achieve maximum benefits on First Aid use for all the parties and road users.

As such, the initiative provides a strategy that does not require government funding, would not attract any cost to a large section of the population, yet provide free FA training and medical support for over 85% of the population. The scheme was presented and published by Safety 2004, a WHO organised Conference in Vienna, Austria.

Recommended Partners

NGOs, Private Sector & Government

- The Initiative recommends First Aid kit producers as private sector participants for the purpose of providing finance, project management and engineering skills with limited medical assistance to encourage doctors to commence treatment of crash victims.
- The formation of a National Intervention Agency on First Aid or use of lead National Road Safety Agency for providing strategic co-ordination and enforcement.
- Selected NGOs would provide leadership to mobilise local community participation for First Aid capacity building by recruiting, training, deploying and managing volunteers through professional structures.

Complementary initiative

-Issuance of First Aid proficiency certificate

- ✓ Through the issuance of First Aid proficiency certificate to licensed drivers, the scheme provides the Government Agency with an additional option to generate resources for its short and long term needs.
- ✓ This initiative is projected to be a major and permanent source of revenue for the lead road safety agency every five years being renewable period for First Aid certificates. Thus, addressing inadequate funding of National Road Safety Agencies, a major problem of road safety growth in Africa. NGOs will support in the training.

FUNDING STRATEGY

- The Private sector will sell standardized First Aid boxes and offer 10% of the revenue from sales to the National Lead Road Safety Agency.
- The Private sector will fund NGO participation in First Aid training.
- National Lead Road Safety Agency will generate additional revenue from issuance of first aid proficiency certificate

EXPECTED BENEFITS (1)

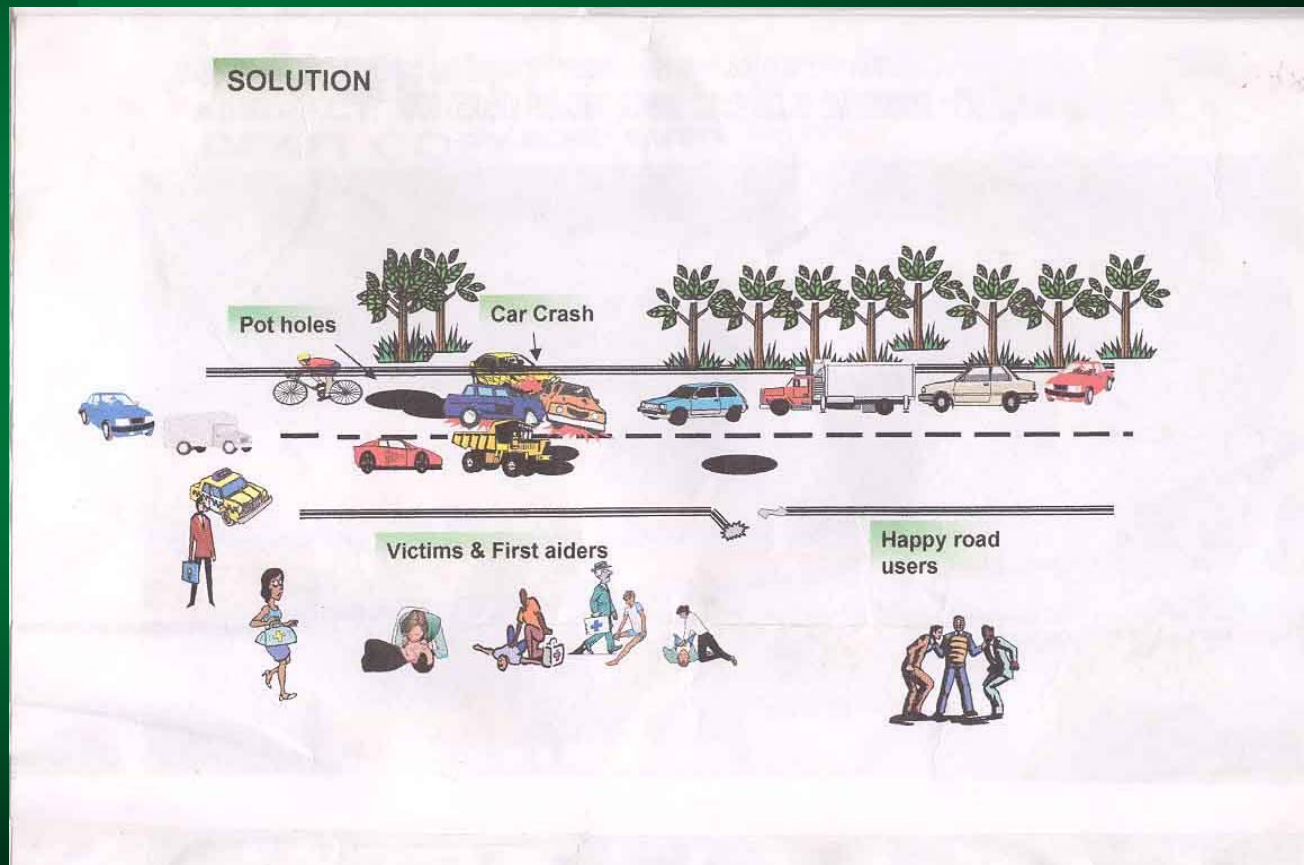
- ✔ Offers a new paradigm for dealing with road safety crisis through enhanced community participation in rescue operations.
- ✔ Addresses rescue operations through Public Private Partnership using First Aid as a basis for collaboration.
- ✔ A first real bid to give impetus to the Accra declaration on emergency rescue operations for minimising deaths and injuries.
- ✔ A major and permanent source of revenue for the lead road safety agencies in Africa.
- ✔ Addresses inadequate funding of National Road Safety Agencies and NGOs, a major problem of road safety growth in Africa.
- ✔ Places a very real responsibility on the populace to be able to use effectively their skills.

.

EXPECTED BENEFITS (2)

- ✔ Promotes voluntary service and community responsibility in emergency preparedness and response.
- ✔ Recognises that funding for road safety improvements should be shared with those who stand to gain from crash prevention measures especially vehicle owners
- ✔ The initiative is at little or no cost to public transport users who are mostly deprived.
- ✔ Offers a wide network of strategies and services from which information can be procured for the execution of other road safety programmes.
- ✔ Will release pressure on medical facilities, reductions in deaths and injuries will produce savings that can be spent on other aspects of health care, or can be invested to deliver better public services by Governments.

EXPECTED RESULTS



Conclusion

Engages concrete partnership for minimising road deaths and injuries, thus significantly contributing to the goal of African countries to halve the number of road traffic fatalities by 2015. Also, the scheme when properly implemented is predicted to be the biggest lifesaver on the spot of road crashes in Africa

Authors

Names:

(1) David Oba, Ph.d

(2) Charles Chude Ojugbana

Organisation: Prompt Assistance to Victims of
Road Accidents-PATVORA –Nigeria

Contact: www.patvora.org



Email: patvoranig@yahoo.ca