



## Ghana Road Safety Forum: Building the Capacity of CSOs on Road Safety

### 1.0 Introduction and Rationale

Road accidents continue to be a national security issue in the country as more people continue to die from the canker than from terminal diseases. For example, between March 2020 when the first covid-19 case was reported in Ghana and March 2021, road accident deaths has overtaken total Covid-19 casualties<sup>1</sup>.

This essentially means more people have died due to road carnage in the period than the number of lives cumulatively claimed by the novel coronavirus since the country recorded its first two case back in March 2020. This chilling revelation forms part of data collated by the Motor Traffic & Transport Department (MTTD) of the Ghana Police Service. The economic impact of this trend has been massive as many families have lost breadwinners through road carnages.

Current statistics from the Motor Transport and Drivers Division (MTTD) of the Ghana Police Service paints a rather unfortunate picture with 2,560 road accidents cases reported between January and February of 2021. This involved 1,581 commercial vehicles, 974 motorcycles, and 2,766 pedestrians have been knocked down.

It also indicated that more than 771 persons have died in the first quarter of this year alone; an alarming trend that needs urgent attention. These deaths represent a 29.58% increase from the same period in 2020. The statistics also revealed that the majority of the accidents recorded in the first quarter of 2021 is as a result of the absence of street lights for both pedestrians and drivers, drunk driving, driving tired, and over-speeding.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.myjoyonline.com/2021-road-accident-deaths-overtake-total-covid-19-casualties-since-march-2020-in-ghana/>

The causes of accidents on our roads are numerous. These include poor road engineering, absence of street lights, behavioural risk driving including texting or receiving a call while driving or driving under the influence of alcohol, are all preventable causes of road accidents. Thus, a strong road safety policy framework, sustained public awareness campaigns and effective enforcement of road regulations and laws can contribute to the reduction of road traffic injuries and fatalities.

## **The Role of Civil Societies in Promoting Road Safety Campaigns**

Civil Society Organization (CSOs) has over the years played a critical role in engaging with policymakers and government to advocate for reforms aimed at making the country better. CSOs work have led to the passage of some laws and policies which have gone to deepen democratic governance and social cohesion. Through networking, advocacy and policy engagement, existing CSOs platforms on governance and anti-corruption, trade, among others have done a lot of work that has caused the government to act. It is on the same line that this coalition is being initiated to advocate and engage with policymakers on matters regarding road safety.

## **2.0 Overall Goal of the CSOs Forum on Road Safety**

The overall purpose of the Platform is to create a common platform involving CSOs and thereby use evidence and strength-in-numbers to bring about policy changes, amendments and enforcement on various road traffic regulations through dialogue, engagement and advocacy to reduce significantly the current surge in road accidents and pedestrian safety in the country.

## **3.0 Membership of the Forum**

The members of the Platform will consist of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working in the Road Safety space in Ghana. Other key partners from Academia, Government agencies, Municipal, Metropolitan and District Assemblies (MMDAs) and other private sector transport organizations, as well as Insurance companies will support the efforts of the

Forum. Until the platform members agree others, all activities of the platform would be managed and hosted by CUTS International, Accra.

**The list of Potential Members include:**

1. Amend Ghana
2. Road Sense Ghana
3. Centre for Road Safety and Accountability
4. Road Safety Advocate Ghana
5. Oli Best Road Safety Organization
6. Accident Victims Support Organization
7. Trans Aid Ghana
8. SEND Ghana
9. Participatory Development Associates (PDA)
10. Borderless Alliance
11. IDEG
12. CDD
13. Star Ghana
14. Consumer Protection Agency (CPA)

**4.0 Key Partners of the Platform**

1. National Road Safety Authority (NRSA)
2. Ministry of Road, Transport & Highways
3. Ghana Highway Authority
4. Ghana Private Road Transport Union (GPRTU)
5. Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA)
6. Department of Urban & Feeder Roads
7. Motor Transport and Traffic Division (MTTD) of Ghana Police Service
8. State Transport Corporation (STC)
9. Metro Mass Transit Company Limited (MMT)
10. Driver Vehicle and Licensing Authority (DVLA)
11. Chartered Institute for Transport and Logistics
12. Institute for Statistical Social and Economic Research (ISSER)
13. State Insurance Corporation (SIC)
14. Allianz Insurance
15. Star Assurance
16. Hollard Insurance
17. Donewell Insurance
18. Enterprise Insurance

## 4.0 Activities to be undertaken by the Forum

Frequently, the forum will engage in the following activities:

- Road Safety capacity building and sensitization (trainings, workshops.)
- Road Safety advocacy campaigns (media, community)
- Targeted public awareness campaigns (Schools, churches, Motorcycle riders, market places,)
- Supporting Road Safety Events e.g., National Road Safety, Week
- Collaborate with relevant Road Safety Agencies to ensure effective enforcement of Road Safety Laws