

WE'RE GREAT: A SONG FOR SAFETY AND HOPE

Gulu City, Uganda



Ollipop (Traffic guide) helping children cross road everyday.

Introduction

Mama Cave Primary School stands proudly as a beacon of transformation through the Safe Journey to School - MyCityMyLife project, a groundbreaking initiative ensuring children can travel to school safely and confidently. Funded by UN-Habitat and implemented by Responsive Drivers Uganda (ReDU), this project has brought life-changing milestones to the school, parents, Ministry of Works and Transport a culture of road safety and community awareness.

For years, parents worried about their children's safety on the dangerous Gulu-Juba-to-Egypt highway. Many pupils, walking long distances or riding on overcrowded boda-bodas, faced daily risks. The school community longed for change—and that change arrived with the Safe Journey to School project.

An Anthem for the Better Future

Through the project, road safety awareness soared, leading to the formation of a vibrant Road Safety Club. At the heart of this club, 15 young pupils found their voice, becoming advocates for change. Guided by UN-Habitat's support, they became champions of safe travel, spreading critical road safety messages through song, creativity, and passion.

Their journey began with a song—an anthem of hope and gratitude that captured the community's heart. A song they wrote together, infused with their hopes and dreams for a safer road, brighter future. With a rhythm that captured the hearts of both children and adults alike, the song celebrated their role in making the roads safer and thanked those who made it possible.

Title: We're GREAT!

(Verse 1)

*I'm a driver, you know,
The one who drives the car,
For all of you depend on me,
Without me, you wouldn't go far.
You are the driver, you see,
You're the one behind the wheel,
But remember, you depend on me,
For safety on the road is real.*

(Chorus)

*Zebra Crossing, here I stand,
I keep you safe across the land,
You depend on me, it's true,
Without me, what would you do?*

(Verse 2)

*A Government of Uganda, yes,
They help construct roads for us,
Greater they are, so strong and true,
Building roads to keep us safe too.*

(Chorus)

*You are UN-Habitat, we thank you,
For all the help you give, it's true,
Now we can go to school with care,
And safely return, everywhere.*

(Bridge)

*We thank the Government, Ministry of Works,
Responsive Drivers Uganda too,
For making sure our journey's safe,
And for the work that they all do.*

(Chorus)

*We are great, we are strong,
We are safe all day long,
We are greater, we are the best,
Thanks to those who help us rest.*

(Outro)

*We thank you all, UN-Habitat,
For keeping us safe, now that's a fact,
We're great, we're greater, we're the best,
Together, we're safer, that's our quest!*

The children of Mama Cave primary school didn't just write a song—they shared a vision. A vision of safety, of unity, and of collective effort.

Thanks to the efforts of Responsive Drivers Uganda (ReDU) and the generous support from UN-Habitat, the children had the opportunity to learn about road safety and become active participants in creating a safer environment for themselves and their families. The pupils' voices have inspired not only their peers but also the larger community, driving home the importance of road safety for all.

Teacher Felix, a devoted educator at Mama Cave primary, shared his heartfelt gratitude for the program:

“We, as a school, are truly thankful for the support we've received from UN-Habitat and ReDU. These young pupils have become the shining light of road safety in our community. They not only lead by example but also share their knowledge with everyone around them. The song they've created is a testament to their hard work and passion.”

A Legacy of Safety

Through the efforts of Responsive Drivers Uganda (ReDU) and the unwavering support of UN-Habitat, Mama Cave Primary School has become a model of what is possible when a community comes together. From zebra crossings to safety clubs, the initiative has not only saved lives but also built a legacy of safety, collaboration, and hope for future generations.

The journey doesn't end here. The pupils of Mama Cave Primary School continue to sing, learn, and advocate, proving that together, we can create a safer, brighter tomorrow for every child.

Key Highlights

- 1. Ongoing support from ReDU:** Even as the official project concludes, the partnership continues, with ReDU visiting the school regularly to assess the pupils' progress and provide further guidance.
- 2. Leading school activities:** The Road Safety Club is now an integral part of school events. Whether it's an assembly, a parent meeting, or a special occasion, the pupils take the lead, singing their road safety song and sharing essential messages.
- 3. Local awareness efforts:** In addition to their English-language materials, the pupils have created a road safety song in their local language, ensuring that even parents who may not speak English can understand and implement the safety tips.

Together, they are showing us that safety starts with the youngest among us, and that, indeed, they are GREAT.

A Story of Empowerment

As members of the Road Safety Club, these young children aren't just learning about traffic rules—they are becoming ambassadors of change in their community.

They are helping to ensure that the message of road safety reaches everyone, from their schoolmates to their families and beyond.

Their journey is a testament to the power of education, collaboration, and the impact that a group of determined children can make when given the opportunity to speak up. And thanks to the support of UN-Habitat, the Government of Uganda, the Ministry of Works and Transport, and Responsive Drivers Uganda, these pupils are taking an active role in shaping a safer, more informed future for all.

Road Safety club pupils Mama Cave primary

