



ETHIOPIA

THE VICTIM WAS HIT BY A PICKUP TRUCK WHILE ON HIS WAY TO WORK. THE DRIVER HAD BEEN TRYING TO STAY AWAKE WITH A STIMULANT DRUG USED BY DRIVERS WHO WORK LONG HOURS

His dream is to achieve accident-free and safe mobility in Ethiopia through behavioural change of drivers, an efficient system of penalty, and adequate and fitting infrastructure with barriers around curbs.

Habtamu Zerihun is a 38-year old father to three wonderful daughters, aged 4, 6 and 12 years. Prior to the accident, he used to be a construction worker, working in and around Addis Ababa.

To provide financial support for his family while his young wife studied, he worked throughout the days, including on Sundays and on religious holidays.

He was heading to work on one of those days, when the tragic crash occurred. A heavy pickup truck passed the curb and smashed into his minibus, **as the driver of the truck dozed off due to over-exhaustion. He had been using a stimulant drug to stay awake and keep working longer.** The driver of the truck fled. Habtamu Zerihun was knocked unconscious by the crash, and when he woke up, he noticed a pool of blood flowing under him, and realized that he could not move. Although there were many people trying to help him, they were unable to pry him free from the vehicle. Finally, the first emergency response team came, and they managed to free him. They took him to the hospital, where he spent the next 20 days recovering from the injuries. After that, he was discharged, as nothing further could be done for him by the doctors.

As a result of the serious injuries, he is now unable to move freely and cannot do his work on construction sites anymore. The role of bread winner now suddenly and solely hinges on his young wife, who never had the chance to



THE VICTIM

Habtamu Zerihun,
38 years old



THE HEROES

Sergeant Tedros Girma
and Doctor Yeheyes

“If this tragic accident has left Habtamu Zerihun with disabilities forbidding him to return to work, it has also had an economic and social impact for his family. The biggest pain for the father of three daughters is that they stopped going to school due to his inability to pay for their school fees, books and uniforms.”

accumulate skills and finalize her education, which could have enabled them a comfortable life. She is now forced to get by with daily labouring chores, working as a cloth washer and day-maiden.

The biggest pain to Habtamu Zerihun is the knowledge that his children lost what little hope they had for a better life, as two of his daughters stopped going to school due to his inability to pay for their school fees, books and uniforms.

Despite his current situation, Mr. Habtamu wishes to strongly **thank the police of Addis Ababa Police Commission and doctors at Alert Hospital** for saving his life and helping him out. More specifically, **he wishes to acknowledge his “guardian angels”, Sergeant Tedros Girma and Doctor Yeheyes.** According to Mr. Habtamu, the doctor has devoted all his free time and special attention to his recovery. Moreover, he helped him out not only with his professional care but also with his great personality and bedside manner, with which he aids patients during their recovery.

He wishes to alert the authorities that they need to educate drivers to take breaks and to never drive under the influence of drugs. He hopes that Ethiopia could establish programs to enable continuation and adaptation of livelihoods of the injured to a new normal, and that people could be educated about the stories of the victims to result in a lasting impression. It is his dream to achieve accident-free and safe mobility in Ethiopia through behavioural change of drivers, an efficient system of penalty, and adequate and fitting infrastructure with barriers around curbs.

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The dream of Habtamu Zerihun is to achieve accident-free and safe mobility in Ethiopia through behavioural change of drivers, an efficient system of penalty, and adequate and fitting infrastructure with barriers around curbs.

Habtamu Zerihun with his wife and two of his three daughters



The UNRSF finances the project "Scaling up safe street designs in Ethiopia", which is implemented by UN-Habitat.



The objective of this project is to provide technical support to the city officials in their ongoing efforts to upgrade over the coming budget year more than 50 km of footpaths and introduce new bicycle lanes; to build on the government's ongoing focus to better design and implement policies and make investment decisions that prioritize the needs of pedestrians and cyclists. The project further supports the harmonization of existing street design guidelines and creates an interactive platform for most up-to-date design standards for engineers and practitioners.

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UN-Habitat workshop in Ethiopia



Car Free Event video



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