



(INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES)

BICYCLE PROJECT IN GHANA BY PRO-LINK

**PROJECT REPORT
(2007)**



**SUBMITTED TO:
VERKEHRSCLUB DEUTSCHLAND LANDESVERBAND**

BY

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REPORT ON BICYCLES DISTRIBUTION

INTRODUCTION

Pro-link Organization is a non governmental organization that seeks to ensure equitable development for rural and urban poor especially women and girls established in 1993 and registered under the companies' code 1963, Act 179.

Since 2002, Pro-link Organization has been benefiting from bicycles donated by the people of Germany with support from VCD.

In August 2007, Pro-link took delivery of 1200 bicycles, 6 tricycles, 5 support stands and 2 wheel chairs including few bicycle parts to support its project activities.

The main objectives for the use of the bicycles are:

- To provide bicycles to school going children so as to increase school enrolment and reduce distance.
- To train street youth, People Living with HIV/AIDS and Orphans in bicycle repairs and maintenance.
- To provide street youth, people living with HIV/AIDS and orphans with bicycles to encourage the regularity and punctuality in school, reduce distance and cut down on cost of transport fares.
- To facilitate the work of community health workers and peer educators to reach their clients and reach interior where one cannot reach by foot.
- To cut down on cost of fueling vehicles for community work.
- Provide a cheaper means of transport for commuters and project staff working in rural communities.

The bicycles were distributed nationwide to especially to persons who have never benefited from this support from VCD. Please find below beneficiaries of the bicycles on a regional basis.

BENEFICIARY GROUPS

Northern Region through Northern Sector Action on Awareness Center (NORSAAC):

- Association for Women Empowerment (AFWE)
- Suglo N-Nye Behigu Women's Association
- Yankazia Youth Association
- United Women for Leadership and Development (UWLD)
- Rural Action Programme for Integrated Development (RAPID)
- Enterprising Women in Development
- Tumkabsong Development Union (TUDU)
- Mariam Int. School Complex
- Girls Growth and Development (GIGDEV)
- Sokam Integrated Development Association (SIDA)
- Ghana Secondary School (Ghanasco)
- Youth Bicycle Maintenance Center

Ashanti Region:

- Rising Hope Association, Obuasi
- Community Volunteers in Obuasi

Volta Region:

- Disabled people in North Tongu
- Kadjebi AIDS Support Association (KASA)
- Pro-Link's Peer Educators in Kadjebi
- Community Volunteers in Kadjebi
- Pro-Link's project communities/schools in Kadjebi

- District Police Service, Kadjebi

Central Region:

- Pro-Link/Plan Peer Educators in Mfantseman
- Pro-Link/Plan Community Health Volunteers in Mfantseman

Brong-Ahafo Region:

- Selected needy girls in the Kintampo district

1. NORTHERN REGION

Northern Sector Action on Awareness Center

Northern sector action on awareness center (NORSAAC) initiated a partnership with Pro-link since 2004. The organization expressed interest in Pro-link youth bicycle project and called for its extension to the Northern Region of Ghana.

Pro-link organization donated a third consignment of 370 bicycles including bicycle parts to NORSAAC. In view of this, the organization organized a big ceremony during which the various beneficiaries were given their share of the bicycles. Below is a table of the organizations and number of bicycles distributed to beneficiaries:



The Director and staff of NORSAAC presenting bicycles

to representatives of one of the groups

Name of Organization/Group	Number Received
Association for Women Empowerment (AFWE)	35
Suglo N-Nye Behigu Women's Association	35
Yankazia Youth Association	35
United Women for Leadership and Development(UWLD)	30
Rural Action Programme for Integrated Development (RAPID)	35
Enterprising Women in Development	35
Tumkabsong Development Union (TUDU)	35
Mariam Int. School Complex	30
Girls Growth and Development (GIGDEV)	30
Sokam Integrated Development Association (SIDA)	30
Ghana Secondary School (Ghanasco)	35
Youth Bicycle Maintenance Center	10



A lineup of some of the bicycles for the groups and organizations



Some executives of some of the groups inspecting the bicycles



Some of the beneficiaries taking their bicycles

The above mentioned beneficiary organizations; excluding the last one, are from six (6) districts and the hope is that all the ten (10) districts in the region will be covered as the years go by. Pro-link in collaboration with NORSAAC has already set up a bicycle repair and maintenance centre called **Pro-link/NORSAAC Bicycle Repair Centre in Tamale** within the Northern Region of Ghana.

Northern Region according to the nation's poverty ranking is third to Upper East and Upper West. The situation makes it highly impossible for people to access easy transportation. Like any part of Ghana, the means of transport in the region includes, motor bikes, bicycles, few cars and in some cases donkeys and horses. Very few have access to private cars and the poverty levels make it difficult for the people to patronize taxis. Unlike the Southern part (Accra) where "trotro" are available at a moderate fare for all and at everywhere, the region has no access to this facility.

Few are the lucky ones able to purchase motorbikes to enhance their transportation. A little above 50% of the people are said to be using bicycles as means of transport. Almost all students from basic to the polytechnic levels use these bicycles. The implication is that any activity which aims at empowering a group of people to indulge in bicycle activities will definitely generate some amount of income for their living.

Please find below proposed plans of operations at the centre we can put in a proposal to VCD for this project.

Nature and Mode of Operation of the Centre

A half clouded pavilion has been erected with a big store room facility at Gumani new road near CID Ghana that will serve as the training center. The pavilion will serve as the workshop that will be divided into three parts. One part will host the erection of the machines available for work, the second part will hosts the minor operation not convenient for the use of the machines and the remaining part serves as the reception and resting place. The store room attached will accommodate all equipments and bicycles and its parts during and after work. There is going to be a night security person for the safety of the centre and a sign post for identification of the centre.

Proposed Operation

- A bicycle mechanic contracted for a period to give proper training to the target group
- A field officer from NORSAAC office will be assigned to the centre to monitor and give a monthly report on its progress and financial status.
- First batch of youth to be trained in the centre will stay for two and half years and be passed out. During the passing out they shall be assisted with working tools to start
- Reports on the centre shall be submitted to Pro-Link on quarterly basis.
- The established structure should be designed to enable safe storage of working tools.
- At least 20 bicycles are given to the centre to facilitate practical learning of the youth.
- The bicycles should be used for hiring to generate income for the smooth maintenance of the centre.
- 10 youth comprising boys and girls used to start the centre.
- Uniforms will be jointly provided by PRO-LINK Ghana and NORSAAC for the first batch for daily use and subsequent once be brought from the project fund.

Targeted Outcome

- 30 youth in the NORSAAC operational areas gained skills in bicycle maintenance in three years to improve their livelihood.
- Accessibility to bicycle maintenance improved in these operational areas

- A well resourced multi-skill training center (especially in bicycle maintenance) established by the end of 2008
- Improve upon the accessibility of public bicycle hiring.
- Job opportunity for the youth enhanced through skill training.

Sustainability

For the sustainability of this project, the following have been considered:

- Making the project community based i.e. involving community members in its establishment.
- Generate income from hiring of bicycles and tokens from maintenance remittances
- Assist graduates of the centre to establish their own shops and also support the operations of the centre.
- Annual logistic supports from VCD/PRO-LINK GHANA in a form of bicycles and its parts.
- NORSAAC would mainstream the project in other activities that it is implementing
- Annual budget allocation support for the centre by NORSAAC based on availability of funds.

2. ASHANTI REGION

Through Pro-link's office in Obuasi, 100 bicycles were distributed to 'Rising Hope Association' and Community Volunteers in Obuasi.

Rising Hope Association is a support group of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) in Obuasi. This group was formed by Pro-Link and has been receiving food and other nutritional supplements from Catholic Relief Services (CRS) through the organization.

In response to their needs as far as transportation is concerned, 50 bicycles were donated to some adults and children in the group. The executive members of the group were really

happy with the gesture and appealed to the organization to help give to all other members so as to improve their poverty levels.

As a means of getting community members to own various projects that Pro-Link is undertaking in the Obuasi Municipal Area, community volunteers have been recruited and trained on TB. These volunteers visit the various communities for which some are very remote and difficult to reach even with vehicles. As a means of making their work easier to enable us achieve very good results as well as save time, 50 bicycles were also donated to selected and hardworking volunteers.



Some volunteers receiving their bicycles

3. VOLTA REGION

Through Pro-link's offices in Kadjebi and North Tongu districts, 410 bicycles; including tricycles, wheel chairs and support stands were distributed to individuals and groups in these districts.

In the Kadjebi district, the donation reached the Kadjebi AIDS Support Association (KASA); which is a community based organization of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV). The organization received 20 bicycles as a response to their request for support as far as transportation is concerned. These were given to both adults and children even

though the number was not enough. These members were also grateful and appealed to the organization to help give to all other members so as to improve their poverty levels. They also stressed that the donation will help especially those in school so as to improve their punctuality and regularity in school.



Some of the children who benefited from bicycles

In the same district, Pro-Link works in 20 project community/schools with in and out of school youth. Each of these community/schools received 15 bicycles to encourage the youth who are already in school be regular and punctual. The selection of the beneficiaries was done with the help of the various school heads.

To encourage peer educators and community volunteers among the out of school youth in these communities, 10 bicycles were given to selected peer educators and another 20 were also given to selected community volunteers in the district.



The Project Manager in Kadjebi presenting bicycles to some of the beneficiary project community/schools

Beneficiaries	Numbers received
Pro-Link's 20 Project Communities/Schools	300
Kadjebi AIDS Support Association	20
Peer Educators	10
Community Volunteers	20

As a means of giving hope to some hardworking disabled people in the North Tongu district, 10 tricycles, 2 wheel chairs and 5 support stands were given to these people. In addition, 60 bicycles were also given to selected beneficiaries who are in one way or another aiding Pro-Link in implementing various projects in the Adidome district.



Beneficiaries who received wheel chairs



A beneficiary who received a support stand



Some beneficiaries who received bicycles

Items	Numbers received
Tricycles	6
Wheel Chairs	2
Support Stands	5
Bicycles	60

4. CENTRAL REGION

The role of community health workers /volunteers cannot be over-emphasized in project implementation. They are key to the success the projects as well as in sustaining projects. For this reason, Pro-link’s office in Mankessim has provided 115 bicycles which have been distributed to outstanding volunteers, peer group leaders and community watchdog leaders. This is to facilitate their work as they go round in the communities monitoring the use of insecticide bed nets by pregnant and new mothers, identifying cases of pneumonia, malaria and referring cases to health centers to avoid deaths of children and new mothers.



A volunteer in one of the communities receiving her bicycle



CHC from Akwansa Kokodo receiving his bicycle

During the distribution exercise, selected Community Based Distributors (CBD) were given 50, Community Health Committee (CHC) members were given 50, members of the mother support group were given 10 while selected Police Officers who oversee all our community watchdog committees were given 5.



*Staff making presentation to Ghana Police
(community watchdog committee leaders)*

A community watchdog committee overseer

Beneficiaries	Numbers received
Community Based Distributors (CBD)	50
Community Health Committee (CHC)	50
Mother Support Group	10
Community watchdog overseers	5



*A member of the Daddy's club
receiving his bicycle*



*A member of the mother's club
receiving his bicycle*

5. BRONG-AHAFO REGION

Kintampo district is one of the depriving districts in Ghana. Most girls in this district are discouraged of schooling because the distances to these schools are very far. As their culture demands, they need to attend to a lot of household chores before leaving for school, thereby getting to school very late and tired. These girls cannot also afford transport fares due to poverty and even those who can afford sometimes, do not get the means since the roads are bad. In view of this, Mission of Hope Society Foundation (MIHOSO) an NGO based in the Kintampo in the Brong-Ahafo region appealed to Pro-Link organization to assist some of these girls with our bicycles whenever we receive them from our donors. In response to their request, Pro-Link donated 200 bicycles to selected girls through MIHOSO. A big ceremony was held in view of this with special dignitaries such as the Kintampo South Member of Parliament, Queen mother and the Girl Child Coordinator were all present. These beneficiaries were more than glad to receive the bicycle donations. The dignitaries further appealed to Pro-Link to continue their support whenever they receive more since there are over thousand and one (1001) of these needy girls in the district.



Some of the beneficiaries receiving their bicycles in Kintampo



The Girl Child Coordinator receiving the bicycles from the Director of MIHOSO



A display of the bicycles before distribution at a handing over ceremony in Kintampo

CONCLUSION

In all, beneficiaries will never cease thanking all who in one way or another donated and made it possible for these bicycles to reach them, hence, improving their poverty level as well as making work easier for them. Once again, on behalf of all the beneficiaries of the bicycles and Pro-link Organization, we wish to say a big **thank you** to VCD and other philanthropists who contributed to this support.