



(INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES)

BICYCLE PROJECT IN GHANA BY PRO-LINK

**PROJECT REPORT
(OCTOBER 2008)**



**SUBMITTED TO:
VERKEHRSClub DEUTSCHLAND LANDESVERBAND**

BY

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REPORT ON BICYCLE DISTRIBUTION

INTRODUCTION

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

Since 2002, Pro-link Organization has been benefiting from bicycles donated by the people of Germany with support from VERKEHRSClub DEUTSCHLAND LANDESVERBAND (VCD)

In August 2008, Pro-link took delivery of 1,050 bicycles, 2 tricycles, 2 wheel chairs, 3 push carts and some bicycle parts to support its project activities.

The main objectives for the use of the bicycles are:

- To train street youth, People Living with HIV/AIDS and orphans in bicycle repairs and maintenance.
- To provide bicycles to school-going children so as to increase school enrollment
- To provide street youth, people living with HIV/AIDS and orphans with bicycles to encourage the regularity and punctuality in school and cut down on cost of transport fares
- To cut down on cost of fuelling vehicles for community work
- To provide tricycles, wheel chairs etc. to the physically challenged especially the cripple so as to reach out for more of these people in advocacy and lobbying issues
- To facilitate the work of community health workers and peer educators to reach their clients in the remote areas where one cannot reach by foot
- To provide a cheaper means of transport for commuters and project staff working in rural communities.

The bicycles were distributed in 4 regions: Volta, Northern, Ashanti and Central regions especially to persons who have never benefited from this support from VCD.

The summary distribution list is as follows

REGION	# BICYCLES	# OTHERS(TRICYCLES, WHEEL CHAIRS, PUSH CARTS)
Volta	370	T-CYCLE: 2 P-CART: 3 W-CHAIR:2
Northern	500	-
Ashanti	120	-
Central	60	-
	TOTAL: 1,050	

BENEFICIARY GROUPS

Volta Region

- Dzenana Needy Children, Hohoe
- Ghana Society for the Physically Challenged
- Pro-link communities working with PLAN at Sogakofe
- Kpoeta Needy Children
- Pro-link communities working with PLAN at Hohoe
- Selected street youth at Ahadjo, Hohoe
- Community volunteers at Aflao
- Pro-link's peer educators at Aflao

Ashanti Region

- Pro-link's peer educators at Obuasi
- Community volunteers at Obuasi

Central Region

- Pro-link's peer educators at Mankessim

Northern Region

- Enterprising Women in Development
- Tumkabsong Development Union (TUDU)
- Mariam Int.School Complex
- Association for Women Empowerment (AFWE)
- Suglo N-Nye Behigu Women's Association
- Sokam Integrated Development Association (SIDA)
- Islamic Senior High School (TISSEC)
- 1st November Junior High School
- Yankazia Youth Association
- United Women for Leadership and Development(UWLD)
- Rural Action Programme for Integrated Development (RAPID)
- Youth Bicycle Maintenance Center

1. VOLTA REGION

To facilitate Pro-link/s activities in the communities, 550 bicycles including tricycles, wheelchairs and push carts were distributed in Hohoe, Ketu South and South Tongu districts.

The beneficiaries at Dzenana, a farming community were mostly school- going children and the rationale for the donation was to facilitate girl- child education. The only school in the community, apart from its dilapidated nature cannot accommodate all the school-going children; therefore others have to cover long distances for school. The donation of 60 bicycles was a great relief to them.

In the same district, the Ghana Society for Physically Challenged received 2 tricycles and 2 wheel chairs as a means of giving hope to them. The executives of the group were more than satisfied as they made some emotional comments such as *“Disability is not inability; the tricycles will facilitate our work in the communities”*- representative of GSPC. ‘Pro-link, the savior’ etc

Pro-link, in partnership with PLAN Ghana is implementing a child survival and adolescent reproductive health project in 10 communities each in Hohoe and South Tongu Districts (Sogakofe) of the Volta region.

The role of Community Based Distributors (CBD) and Community Health Advocates (CHA) is crucial for the success of the project implementation. This calls for regular monitoring visits and field report writing. Therefore, 120 bicycles were distributed to these community workers to facilitate transportation to the target communities.

The social implication of streetism is attracting the attention of people- centered NGOs. Therefore, Pro-link Organization thought it wise to donate the 3 pushcarts to 3 identified Street Youth in Hohoe.

They are to use the carts to convey some items like scrap metals, firewood, luggage etc for money. These beneficiaries are to use the carts after school, weekends and public holidays. In view of the importance of education, these Street Youth are to be monitored by Pro-link staff and other stakeholders.

As a means of getting community members to participate and own the various projects that Pro-link is undertaking in the Ketu South district, Aflao to be precise, community volunteers have been recruited and trained on HIV/AIDS.

These volunteers visit the various remote communities which are difficult to reach even with vehicles. As a means of making their work easier to enable them to achieve very good results as well as save time, 60 bicycles were also donated to selected and hard working volunteers.

To encourage peer educators among the out of school youth in these communities around Aflao, 60 bicycles were given to selected peer educators.



Bicycles for distribution in the Volta Region for street youth and community volunteers

Some people living with HIV/AIDS and orphans have been identified in the Kpoeta community. As a means of giving hope to these orphans and vulnerable children who are in school, 70 bicycles were given to them to encourage regularity and punctuality in school. The distribution took place in the presence of family heads because the mode of distribution was according to households. This mode of distribution was adopted so that as many children as possible could have access to the bicycles or do so in turns.

Please, find below the breakdown of bicycles distribution in Volta Region

BENEFICIARY	# BICYCLES RECEIVED	# OTHERS RECEIVED (TRICYCLES, WHEELCHAIRS, PUSHCARTS)
Dzenana Needy Children	60	
Pro-link's communities working with PLAN at Hohoe	60	-
Ghana Society for the Physically Challenged	-	T-cycle:2 W- chair:2
Selected Street Youth at Ahadjo	-	P-cart:3
Pro-link's peer educators at Aflao	60	-
Kpoeta Needy Children	70	-
Community Volunteers at Aflao	60	-
Pro-link's communities working with	60	-

PLAN at Sogakofe		
	TOTAL:370	



Some of the needy children trying their bicycles

*“I feel very happy about the bicycle. I will share it with other siblings. I will use it to go on errands for charcoal, soap etc “–
Emmanuel Ketsi-a needy child, Volta region*



Bicycles being arranged before distribution



The executive director and staff of Prolink after donation of tricycles to a representative of GSPC.



Push carts for street youth

2. ASHANTI REGION

Pro-link's peer educators and community volunteers continue to play their key roles in project implementation namely distribution of Information, education and communication (IE&C) materials, information gathering, organizing outreach programs, etc The donation of 120 bicycles to these volunteers and community workers will enable them reach their target beneficiaries in the remote areas.

The breakdown in the Ashanti region is as follows:

BENEFICIARY	# BICYCLES RECEIVED
Pro-link's peer educators at Obuasi	60
Community volunteers at Obuasi	60
	TOTAL: 120



Bicycles for Distributed to Peer educators and community volunteers in Obuasi



Bicycles to be presented to peer educators in Pomposo

3. CENTRAL REGION



Outstanding volunteers receiving bicycles from Pro-link

Pro-link's office in Mankessim distributed 60 bicycles to hardworking peer educators to facilitate their movement to the communities.

4. NORTHERN REGION

The 500 bicycles allocated to the Northern region were distributed by Pro-link’s partner: Northern Sector Action On Awareness Center (NORSAAC). The beneficiaries were mostly school- going children and women groups to encourage regularity and punctuality in school, reducing walking fatigue, saving time and energy for other productive work. The distribution is as follows:



Bicycles for distribution in the Northern Region

BENEFICIARY GROUPS/ORGANIZATIONS	# BICYCLES RECEIVED
Enterprising Women in Development	50
Tumkabsong Development Union(TUDU)	40
Mariam Int. School Complex	40
Association for Women Empowerment(AFWE)	50
Sulo N-Nye Behigu Women’s Association	40
Sokam Integrated Development Association(SIDA)	40
Islamic Senior High School (TISSEC)	50
1 st November Junior High School	40
Yankazia Youth Association	30
United Women for Leadership and Development(UWLD)	35
Rural Action Program for Integrated Development(RAPID)	35
Youth Bicycle Maintenance Center	50
Total	500



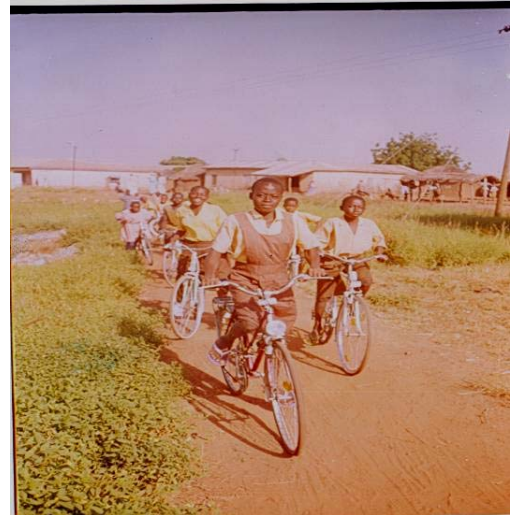
“These bicycles given to the women will solve their transportation problems. There will be an improvement in their living standards. This will further improve their participation in decision making process “-Zakaria S. Iddrisa, Director for TUDU.



“Our main objective is to assist the marginalized and vulnerable girls who go to school far away in Tamale. The bicycles will improve girl –child education in the rural communities”-Amadu Osman, Director of SIDA



“Our association has been given 50 bicycles for some girls and for some few boys. We target talented but needy students who will become useful citizens and future leaders so that they can support partners towards development of their communities and the nation as a whole”- Mrs Abukari Hindu, Director of AFWE



Some students beneficiaries in the Northern Region



CONCLUSION

The various beneficiaries will forever remember the good people of Germany especially VCD for the kind gesture demonstrated through the bicycles donation hence improving their poverty levels as well as making work easier for them. Once again, on behalf of all 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.

REPORT ON BOOKS DISTRIBUTION

Introduction

Books are very important in schools' development programmes. They serve as a source of useful information to students. For example Data, General knowledge, etc. We therefore see the book donation by VERKEHRS CLUB DEUTSCHLAND VERBAND (VCD) as appropriate in enhancing the reading habits of students in the communities.

Main Objectives for the Distribution of the Books

- To increase the stock of assorted books in community schools and libraries
- To improve reading and correct spelling habit of school children
- To ensure as well as improve the accessibility to books in the communities
- To improve the patronage of community school libraries and the library at the Pro-link Resource Centre.

The boxes of books received covered key subject areas like Social science, management, geography, hygiene, history, etc. These books were repackaged into thirteen boxes and distributed to the various beneficiaries.

Distribution List

Beneficiaries	Quantity of Books
St. Mary's Secondary School, Lolobi	3 boxes
Likpe High School, Likpe	3 boxes
Sonrise Preparatory School, Hohoe	2 boxes
Gbi High School, Hohoe	2 boxes
E.P. Junior High School, Hohoe	2 boxes
Pro-link Resource Centre, Hohoe	1 Box
Total	13 boxes



Head Master of Likpe High School receiving the books being presented by the Project manager in Hohoe on behalf of the students



Head master of Gbi High school receiving the books from a field officer in Hohoe.

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Some Student beneficiaries showing the books they have received from Pro-link after the presentation

Comments by Beneficiaries

1. *"We will read these books to broaden our knowledge", one of the school pupils from E.P.JHS.*
2. *"Our library is one of the best in the district", a staff from Pro-link Hohoe*
3. *"The information in some of the books will improve our quiz competitions", a student from Likpe High School*

Conclusion

On behalf of all the beneficiaries, Pro-link extends its gratitude to all those who helped VCD to donate the books.