



A bicycle in Africa can make a world of difference

Many Africans walk long distances every day, often carrying a heavy load. They lack money for other modes of transport. Many of these people lack the funds to buy a bicycle, but they do have a vision on how a bicycle could help them to cycle out of poverty. Better access to affordable bicycles would give them the chance to empower themselves.

Cycling out of poverty empowers entrepreneurs

Cycling out of poverty aims to offer small entrepreneurs the opportunity to emancipate themselves, more specifically:

- entrepreneurs who use a (modified) bicycle on micro finance for income generating (farmers, courier services, etc)
- entrepreneurs who start income generating businesses in bicycles (sales, repairs, etc).

Cycling out of poverty and their partner organisations in Africa support these small entrepreneurs with:

- Bicycles on micro credit
- (Designs for) modified bicycles, suitable for small businesses
- Education for bicycle mechanic
- Seed money for establishing a business
- Training of community groups on implementing bicycle micro finance projects in their group (leadership skills, credit & saving, etc)
- Training bicycle users on technical aspects of the bicycle
- Training centre / workshop

Brief history

Cycling out of poverty started as a small scale initiative in 2006. During the first years of establishment it developed rapidly and grew exponentially. Cycling out of poverty started with a focus on small entrepreneurs (mainly women), and giving them access to bicycles via micro finance via our local partner organisations in Africa. During the years the role of the local partners shifted from providing the credit directly to the entrepreneurs to capacitating and supporting community organisations to implement the scheme in their group.

Cycling out of poverty also developed a broader focus on bicycle availability and affordability. Besides providing bicycles on micro credit, there is a need by

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entrepreneurs for modified bicycles, seed money to start up a business, training in bicycle repair.

Finally, the initial North-South relation is more and more developing to a more global relationship in both knowledge and funds.

The organisation

Cycling out of poverty has a board of 6 people and is based in the Netherlands, and also has an office in East Africa (will start in 2009/2010). Main activities:

- Fundraising and awareness raising: motivating others to organise fundraising events, coordinate own fundraising events, motivate companies, institutions and donors.
- Support and coach partner organisations in Africa: development of projects, strategising on target groups and approaches
- Catalyse knowledge exchange: link global partners for instance on bicycle designs.

Cycling out of poverty works with partner organisations in Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Ghana, Togo and Burkina Faso.

Projects

- women in post-conflict area (Katakwi, Uganda, 2007-2008)
- women rural entrepreneurs (Butagaya, Uganda, 2008-2009)
- cycle to school (Katakwi, Uganda, 2008-2009)
- bicycle ambulances (Katakwi, Uganda, 2008-2009)
- women rural entrepreneurs (Doulou, Burkina Faso, 2007)
- women rural entrepreneurs (Nariou, Burkina Faso, 2008)
- women rural entrepreneurs (Asante Akim, Ghana, 2007)
- small entrepreneurs (Anankrom, Ghana, 2008)
- small entrepreneurs (Ngeruka, Rwanda, 2009)
- women rural entrepreneurs (Alibi 2, Togo, 2008-2009)
- homeopathic health workers (Luviri, Malawi, 2008)
- small entrepreneurs (Mwea, Kenya, 2008-2009)
- bicycle workshop (Kisumu, Kenya, 2009-2010)
- cycle to school (Kisumu, Kenya, 2009)
- curriculum development bicycle mechanics (Kenya, 2009)
- small entrepreneurs (Gakenke, Rwanda, 2009)
- small entrepreneurs (Kpove, Togo, 2009)