



SIX MONTH NEWSLETTER



CYCLE TO SCHOOL PROJECT

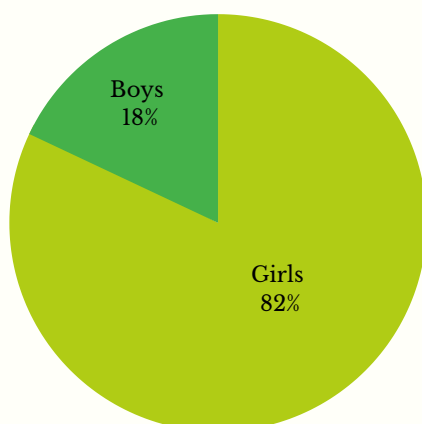
Increase retention in Schools, improve Performance, and reduce Dropouts through Bicycles

This is one of FABIO's main programs with its major objective of reducing the number of young people especially girls that drop out of school as a result of the long distances they walk every day. The program therefore aims at increasing retention in schools. For two years now, FABIO has implemented this program in Butagaya sub county in Jinja district in the schools of Matumu, Lubani, Kiira View, and Hillside where the baseline survey was conducted. In total, we have so far given out 150 Bicycles since the project's inception in this community.

"Despite the school closure due to the Covid Lockdown, we were able to use the bike. My family used it to get food from the garden and to fetch water. The water is used by my father to make bricks. This gives him an income and allows him to save money for my school fees." - Jannet, 16 years old

However, implementation has been interfered with the outbreak of the pandemic that has led to the closure of schools. It's imperative to note that FABIO has had to adapt to the changes, for example giving bicycles to students when they are home and reducing the number of students to meet. It is imperative to note that students and parents are cautioned to resourcefully/productively utilize the bikes to collect school fees so that by the time schools resume, they have some good savings to begin with. As an outcome, the project has reduced the number of young people dropping out of school, increased skills and knowledge since the beneficiaries are trained in bicycle repairs and maintenance before receiving the bicycles and increased the income per capita of the parents since the bicycle is multi purpose hence improving on the standard of living.

Bicycles Distributed under the Cycle to School Program 2021



SELF-HELP GROUPS

Cargo bikes allow beneficiaries to access the market for their products and thus increase their per capita income

This five months integrated multi-input Project was designed as an emergency response with the major purpose of introducing new programming elements which are based on the evolving context and lessons learned from the first emergency response implemented by FABIO during the first lockdown.

This project focused on forming 8 small groups of 20 people per group dubbed Self Help Groups (SHG'S) in the communities of: Lubani, Mabira, Bubugo, Nabukosi, Kilanga and Lumuli. The idea was to bring together people of similar interests with the intention of solving their common challenges using the bicycle as a common denominator but with saving as a driving factor.

However, since the Bicycles cannot carry much produces by the nature of their design, 4 Cargo Bikes were distributed to these group members especially those dealing in agricultural produces to ease access to markets. It's imperative to note that these are doing tremendous strides especially in transporting agricultural produces from the gardens to markets during this lockdown period where public transport is banned. Additionally, the savings groups have improved lives of many people for example FABIO has documented cases of certain individuals that were borrow money and complete their house, buy land, start business and paying fees for their children among other things.



BICYCLE FOR WOMEN

At first ten bicycles were intended for girls under the cycle to school program. However school were closed due to the Covid Lockdown, so it was decided to give it to their mother so that they can earn and save money. In addition, a mango tree seedling was handed over to create awareness about environmental protection. This project was financially supported by the Bergemann School from Germany.

"I sell vegetables, avocado, bananas, onions, tomatoes and silver fish sauce. I came up with this idea after realizing that my husband alone was not able to cover all the basic needs of the family and other expenses, and there were no savings. I use the bicycle now to go buy goods and fetch the water for home use on the Borehole instead of buying. With the bicycle now, I am able to save money. My goal for saving is that by 2022 I am able to buy land with my husband."

- Leah, 28 years old, 3 children



AFRICAN E-BIKE WORKSHOP

Preparation for the launch of the AfricroozE in Jinja

In the second half of the year, one hundred e-bikes will be rolling on the streets of Jinja. A small pilot project with three e-bikes was already launched in 2017 and the feedback and demand was overwhelming. FABIO worked with the European Institute For Sustainable Transport (EURIST) and bicycle manufacturer Hero to design an e-bike tailored to the needs and conditions in Uganda. These African e-bikes will be uniformly branded and called AfricroozE. These bikes will be distributed to different user groups and will be used as taxis, delivery services, ambulances, for tourists and to fetch water. Through this project, mobility becomes more affordable and, by charging the e-bike with solar energy, more sustainable.

FABIO is working to establish service centers where the e-bikes can be charged, repaired and maintained. To operate these service centers, FABIO will hire additional staff.

The project partners FABIO and EURIST met in April for a workshop in Jinja for further preparation and a problem-free process.

The aim of this workshop was to exchange information about the current status and the further procedure. In addition, other local experts were invited to support the workshop with their expertise. In summary, it was possible to develop a schedule and determine who is responsible for each area, as well as to create a list of action items where further action is needed. Due to the constructive discussions, the workshop was very successful, so that everyone is now continuing the project with new input and motivation.



MOTIVATION MOBILITY

The Role of Mobility in Achieving Livable Cities in Germany and in Uganda

In addition, EURIST and FABIO were able to plan another project. Under the name Motivation Mobility (MoMo), the two organizations are organizing a student exchange between German and Ugandan students. The focus of this project is to deal with the sustainability goals of the United Nations. More specifically, the focus will be on goal number eleven - sustainable cities and communities. Within the project duration of two years, the aim is to develop an understanding of the relationship between mobility and quality of life in communities and cities. Through various activities and interactions, both online and during exchange visits, students will gain an awareness of each other's social and mobility cultures and work together to develop ideas and perspectives on future mobility trends in their cities.



EURIST and FABIO are working on this together with students aged sixteen from Sachsenwaldschule Gymnasium Reinbek and from St. Noa Mawaggali Secondary Schools in Jinja. The project is currently in preparation and is expected to start with the students in the second half of the year.

EURIST and FABIO, as mobility experts, are looking forward to getting in touch with young people and learning about their ideas and expectations for sustainable urban development.

AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

To sensitize people on different topics with the purpose of improving mindset/ attitude of the local populace/ our beneficiaries, FABIO has continuously conducted various radio talk shows. However, considering the alarming situation of Covid 19 that brought about loss of lives and teenage pregnancies as a result of the closure of schools, FABIO this year has focused its awareness programs encouraging the communities to adhere to all the Standard operating procedures and encouraging parents to take care of their children especially the girl child during the period they are not going to school. Additionally, to ensure that all targeted beneficiaries in the various communities are reached, FABIO also adopted the use of community gramophones that can reach even the lowest person that could not be having a radio. This has enabled FABIO to control on the number of the beneficiaries that succumb to death during this period and we are very glad that our beneficiaries have kept safe through adhering to all the SOP's laid by the Ministry of Health.



BICYCLE FOR IRRIGATION

Easier irrigation of Fields

Considering that 80% of FABIO's beneficiaries are small scale farmers whose output is mostly affected by the rude mentally farming mechanisms like relying on the natural rain water for irrigation, we have purposed to embark on introducing the Bicycle for Irrigation, a technology that will help our beneficiaries during the dry seasons. To produce the best product, FABIO has invested in research on the best, suitable and durable technology that can easily be operated by all categories of people without any complications. Its imperative to note that a research has already been embarked on by the technical staff and other consultants and the findings will be documented in a proper manual for reference. At this level the real product will be designed by the FABIO technical team and distributed to the identified beneficiaries.

CAR FREE DAY

Create awareness and encourage people to reduce their use of motorized transportation

Car Free Days are celebrated every year on the 22nd of September in urban areas worldwide. This initiative is aimed at raising awareness and encouraging people to reduce the use of vehicles and use non-motorized transport such as walking, cycling. The days also provide an opportunity to promote road safety for pedestrians and cyclists, a healthy lifestyle, reduce traffic congestion, and also increase awareness about the need to conserve the environment to reduce emissions. Drivers are not allowed to use certain roads during CFD and instead people can play sports or hold other activities such as presentations, debates, demonstrations, conversation rounds and discussions. This year FABIO will partner various stakeholders including NGOs, the political leadership, traffic police, media, students and local residents to conduct the Jinja Car Free Day. The event will be hosted along Gabula Road on the 25th of September. During the CDF, the road will be closed off from vehicles. The urban space will be used to host activities such as sports, cycling, skating, coloring and painting and other activities. In Jinja Uganda, the Car Free Day is not only used as an opportunity for physical activities, but also to hold social gatherings and events.

STRENGTHENING CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT IN ELECTIONS

Fireplace Meetings to discuss and reflect political topics

Over the last two years, FABIO in partnership with the Uganda National NGO Forum and has been piloting the TOPOWA Forums and EKYOTO Fireplace meeting models to provide a mechanism for citizens to meet regularly (quarterly basis) to reflect on salient political issues. The project started with implementation of meetings in 6 villages around Jinja, however, for purposes of increasing the scope of coverage, this year the project scaled up to 12 new villages of Kamuli, Iganga and Jinja. Through the various engagements, a number of topics like voter bribery, representation, post-election audit have been discussed by the targeted communities and these have built capacities of people to a level that some participants were able to contest in the previous elections and won without spending a lot, a case that is attributed to mindset change in regard to voter bribery



ELECTION OBSERVATION

FABIO observed all the districts of Busoga region through the deployment of trained observers with support from DGF and NDI with focus on the general election management and election violence respectively. Two final reports were produced and distributed to the relevancy stake holders for improvement especially with focus on the recommendations drawn.

