

# FABIO NEWSLETTER

## Special Project Edition



## The Africrooze E-Bike

*A revolutionary First in Africa, FABIO presents its newest innovation*

### The Story of how the Africrooze came about

The story of the Africrooze begins several years ago. In 2017 FABIO, together with its German partner EURIST, decided to take the first steps into the future of the bicycle as it was known for a long time in Africa. We were inspired by the emergence of large numbers of Electrical Bicycles (E-Bikes) around the world. As an organization that has long been dedicated to using

bicycles as a sustainable tool for social transformation FABIO quickly recognized the potential of this new type of bicycle. It did not take long for the next steps to follow: It was the same year that the development of 3 prototype E-Bikes was realized. What FABIO had already envisioned, proved to be true: Different areas of application turned out to be very compatible with the use



of E-Bikes and they seemed very promising at improving livelihoods in a sustainable manner, as well as superior to normal bicycles in those areas of application. In the course of our test phase, we also discovered the need for stronger adaption of the E-Bikes to the conditions found in African countries.



*From the first E-Bike prototype...*

FABIO and EURIST therefore decided to embark on a journey to design a unique E-Bike suited for all kinds of purposes in African countries. Key challenges were to make the bike durable enough to resist tough road conditions and also build it to be able to carry heavy loads. Another main aspect was the design, that should increase the appeal of the E-Bike, as normal bicycles are still sometimes considered a vehicle for the poor. In order to support our team, Indian bicycle manufacturer HERO joined in.

Over the following years the AfricroozE was designed in a tight cooperation between a German subsidiary of HERO, FABIO and EURIST. Different models were constructed, thoroughly tested and evaluated by FABIO in Uganda. At the same time, EURIST was able to raise funds for the project from the German governmental bank KfW. We and our partners had many challenges to face, however we are proud to say that they were all successfully overcome. In 2022 we were finally able to manufacture 100 of our beloved AfricroozEs in one of HERO's factories in India and get them shipped to Uganda. Here the assembly took place, in strong anticipation of soon being able to put the bikes to use.



*....to the assembly of the AfricroozE in Uganda...*

This first fleet of E-Bikes will mainly be used in a project funded by the KfW, where beneficiaries will be selected and get the E-Bike for less than production cost in installments if they use it commercially or even for free in other cases. So far, three use cases have been defined: First and foremost many of the bikes will be used as boda-bodas, for which beneficiaries were selected. Second, selected communities will receive AfricroozEs with ambulance trailers to improve healthcare in rural areas. Third, some communities will receive water bikes, which are equipped with special water carriers. Those are intended to take some of the burden from communities which are forced to carry water for long distances and thus improve their livelihoods. Furthermore, we were especially delighted to be approached by other interested organizations and individuals from all over Uganda, that will also receive E-Bikes to use them in similar ways. All in all we were already happily able to sense the demand and the excitement before the bikes had even arrived in Uganda.



*...to the final result!*



## The Rollout

On 11<sup>th</sup> March, the day had finally come, when we were able to organize our Rollout event to officially inaugurate the fleet of 100 AfricroozE E-Bikes. Ahead of the event we observed a strong sense of excitement about the day. As a result, the Rollout took place on the premises of Jinja's mayor Kasolo Alton in a beautiful garden setting.



*The premise and our AfricroozEs in expectation of many interested visitors*

We were glad to receive a large number of prominent visitors, showing their interest in and support of the project. Among others, to our delight Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga, Uganda's Deputy Prime Minister made the way to speak as a guest of honor. Similarly, Matthias Schauer, the German Ambassador in Uganda and staunch supporter of our project, travelled from Kampala to attend the event, alongside him the former German Transport Minister, Kurt Bodewig, even flew in from Germany. Moreover, we also received: The Monitoring Committee of Jinja, the Chief Administrative Officer Baligeya Angelland, the District Community Development Officer Kyangwa Iwan, the Chief District Officer Jane Babirye, the LC5 of Jinja and Iganga.

Furthermore, a large number of interested guests found their way to our venue for the Rollout. We are happy the news had apparently spread so fast. Last but not least, we were similarly delighted to host our beneficiaries that would receive the E-Bikes soon after the Rollout. Here, they got the chance of getting a first-hand impression of the bikes which they would soon take in their care. At the same time, we had the opportunity to also present the final AfricroozE design

to a large number of media attendants that further showcased the widespread interest associated with the project.

In the course of the event many great speeches were held and we were happy about the very positive response to the project, which those speeches revealed. Little breaks gave the opportunity of performances from local traditional dancers, as for example the dance group Adogomola. accompanied by entertaining music. As a highlight, Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga held a very encouraging speech with respect to the project and our visions of sustainability and social transformation and then proceeded to cutting the ribbon in order to officially inaugurate the bicycles.



*The cutting of the ribbon*

Finally, our guests as well as the beneficiaries got the chance of taking a first ride with the bikes around Jinja. We were happy that the experience was great for all participants.

A sunny and exciting day ended with small group conversations and a lot of interest from the media regarding the project and the opinions of our guests on it.



*First E-Bike trip around Jinja with the German Ambassador*



## The Aftermath

Having enjoyed our Rollout celebrations, the time for us as FABIO came to get back to work and put the AfricroozEs on the ground. Points of distribution were determined to be Jinja city for bicycle bodas, Budondo rural communities for water bikes and ambulances and also Iganga again for bicycle bodas. In addition, in Jinja and Iganga it was planned to establish service centers. These are intended to serve the bodas for repairs. Furthermore they make the project even more sustainable, as the bodas can charge their batteries there, using solar power and thus are 100% emission-free users.

**"Getting this new bicycle is good and shall improve our life compared to the bicycle we have been using." - Egesa Isimah, Bicycle Boda**

Soon after the Rollout, we were able to organize trainings and handovers in Jinja and Budondo for the beneficiaries, offering another opportunity to engage with them and build up a strong relationship between them and FABIO. Further steps in the project will now be the Rollout and handover in Inganga and deliveries to customers who have ordered E-Bikes. After that, FABIO and EURIST will proceed with evaluating the expected gains of the AfricroozEs for their users to asses further steps and potentially prepare an upscaling of the project. A long term goal will also be to make the project more self-sustainable.

**"I think this bike is going to improve my life. Me who has become an old man will be young" – Elidadi Mujasi, Bicycle Boda**



*Egesa Isimah with his new AfricroozE*

