

JUNE 2022

Newsletter



First African Bicycle
Information Organisation

FABIO

OUR SIX MONTHS JOURNEY



photo of some FABIO staff

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"We envisage an empowered society where all people are healthy, active and enjoying social_economic benefits"



SELF HELP GROUPS

SHGs

Building a culture of resilience amongst beneficiaries through cycling and saving.

This multi_ input resilience project has consistently progressed since 2020 when it was initiated in the different villages of : Lumuli, Mabira, Kilanga, Lubani, Nabukosi and Bubugo amongst 8 groups in Butagaya Subcounty, Jinja District with the aim of improving a copying mechanism and resilience of the vulnerable communities in Butagaya subcounty. These groups offer an opportunity to people earning small amounts of income to collectively save with an aim of starting up and sustaining different projects. Due to the fact that borrowing is encouraged a number of problems amongst these beneficiaries are solved hence enhancing their livelihoods.

However, With the aim of strengthening these Self Help Groups, FABIO consistently holds trainings to acquaint members with knowledge and skills of managing the groups. They are also reminded of the essential factors to put into consideration for the progress of the groups.

It is over whelming upon discovery, how greatly the lives of the targeted beneficiaries have been transformed through these groups. FABIO has been impelled to expand this project by creating four new Self Help Groups targeting specific beneficiaries in Butagaya Subcounty, Jinja District in the villages of; Nawaguma A, Nawaguma B, Buwuma East and Buwuma West. These have however gone through a similar inauguration process and are now operating.

Below is Agnes and Penina, who borrowed money from the saving groups and managed to start up small scale businesses



HANDOVER OF SHG BICYCLES



Reaction of members of on of the new SHG groups on arrival of FABIO aid.

FABIO with the aid of trained staff assembled a number of bicycles which were handed over to the beneficiaries of the new Self Help Groups. An exuberant atmosphere was witnessed on arrival of the assembled bicycles and other materials which were required for the groups to commence the saving. All groups were ready with leadership and profound laws to govern and ensure success of their groups.



Offloading SHG bicycles



Buwuma East SHG receiving saving materials and bicycles from FABIO

THE AFRICAN EBIKE

changing the image of a bicycle.

FABIO in Partnership with European Institute for Sustainable Transport (EURIST) launched a new bicycle technology/ electronic bike dubbed "The Africrooze." The Ebike project is aimed at providing employment to different kinds of people especially the vulnerable communities. The "Africrooze" solves social, economic and environmental problems, to mention but few.

The project is being implemented through different social components of Ebike ambulances, Ebike taxis, couriers, water Ebikes, and delivery Ebikes. One Ebike can transport 100kg freight weight and can cover 30km distance at a full battery.

"Africrooze" was officially inaugurated by The First Deputy Prime Minister of Uganda Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga and the German Ambassador, Hon Mathias Schauer.



The Grand Ebike Launch

FABIO trained and handed over the Ebikes to beneficiaries. Service centers in Jinja and Iganga where the Ebike batteries are charged, repaired and maintained is also efficiently operating under equipped and trained staff.



photo of a woman being transported in the Ebike Ambulance

This project has progressively offered a solution to the increasing fuel costs and daily basic needs by providing employment to a number of beneficiaries



MOTIVATIONAL MOBILITY(MoMo)

Sustainable cities and human settlement.

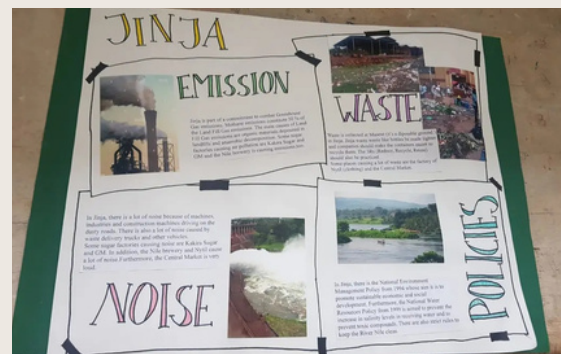
FABIO in partnership with European Institute for Sustainable institute organised the MoMo project targeting 10 Students from St Noa Mawaggali and 10 Students of Sachsenwaldschule Gymnasium Reinbeck and Woltorf in Germany aged between 15 and 16 years. This program is oriented around Sustainable development goal 11 (Sustainable cities and human settlement).

Through this project, a group of 10 beneficiaries from St Noa Mawaggali SS in Jinja Uganda were able to travel to Germany for a period of 16 days as planned in the project. The major objective was to ensure that these beneficiaries acquire knowledge and exposure and also understand the livability and mobility conditions in the different cities and communities in order that they can recognize the need for a change, develop visions for communities and cities in the future and also develop and implement activities in the field of mobility in Jinja city.



MOMO students in Germany(Reinbeck)

The students carried out excursions in places like; Munster city, Hamburg/ Hafften city, Schanzenviertel, visited Miniature wunderland, the tunnel at Hamburg Harbour, constructed models among other things. The experience attained by the students changed their mindsets and instantly propelled them to envisage a better city which is livable with sustainable means of transport, greenery, garbage management, and developed road infrastructure that caters for all citizens of different needs.



“ My name is Namatovu Maria, Before the project, I didn't mind about the kind of city I am living in. "MoMo" brought me bigger dreams and thoughts. The study trip got me to learn many things like; The use of train transport, less use of motorised transport, proper disposal. I desire to see Jinja city with different lanes for bikes, private cars and more.

CYCLE TO SCHOOL

Increase retention in schools, improve performance, and reduce dropouts through Bicycles



Photo of cycle to school beneficiaries

FABIO has implemented its cycle to school project in Butagaya District and in four schools: Matumu, Lubani, Kiira View and Hillside, where bicycles have been given out to the different beneficiaries especially to vulnerable families with the objective of increasing student's attendance and retention with major focus on a girl child, to increase female school retention and completion. The bicycle has also been continuously used multi purposedly in the beneficiary's homes.

However, reminiscing onto the COVID-19 situation that propelled the government to close schools for almost 2 years, a drastic impact was noted amongst the school going children as well as parents whose incomes reduced due to the placed government's containment measures which then affected their ability to raise fees to cater for their children's education.

FABIO embarked on carrying out a baseline survey on the extent to which COVID-19 containment measures have impacted on school going children within Jinja and Kamuli districts. FABIO also hopes to expand this project to Kamuli district

The findings therefore reveal a decrease in students' retention in the different schools due to lost interests of the students after the long lockdown, reduction in the income levels of parents,, pregnancy cases among others.

Safe guarding

Research reveals a great number of child abuse cases during the COVID-19 containment period with sexual abuse covering the highest percentage contributing 20.1% of the 98% child abuse cases. Many young girls are being disturbed by men because of the changes that they inevitably encountered during their long stay at home. Despite reopening of schools, these cases have continued to present themselves which puts the students at a risk. FABIO initiated the safeguarding project where community, leaders, students leaders, school administrators and alike were sensitized and alerted on the need to safe guard the students in order that they can feel safe in and out of the school

“...Men in the trading center used to say that i have grown up and iam fit for marriage. They could wait for me in the trading centre everydat. Said one of the girls during the safe guarding training in in Kiira View Secondary School.

AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS.

FABIO has continued to sensitize the public through different vessels: Radio stations, gramophones on a number of topics with the aim of enhancing a positive mindset towards education, cycling culture, building a culture of social responsibility and accountability among the local populace and leaders.

FABIO initially conducted Radio talk shows on the improved image of a bicycle, after introducing a new bicycle technology" The Africrooze," Safeguarding measures for the school going children, against child abuse and its underlying types: sexual abuse , Physical abuse, Domestic violence, psychological, neglect among others. These have affected many students some of whom have decided to drop out of school and others are equally having a hard time in school hence eventual drop out.



CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES (PWDS)

FABIO in partnership with Uganda National NGO forum, with support of USAID has constantly conducted capacity enhancements of councillors in three districts of Jinja, Iganga and Kamuli in Busoga subregion. These trainings are purposed towards equipping the newly elected councillors with knowledge especially on council business.

However, FABIO earlier this year was approached by a representative of councillors with disability at the lower level, requesting for a similar training in order to enhance their capacity for their effective representation of the electorates. This propelled FABIO to organise a training to equip the district councillors with knowledge to be able to ensure their ability to effectively represent citizens wishes and aspirations.

“I contested because I wanted to represent my people but I did not know exactly what I was meant to do. Reaching council is when I realised that I did not know my roles and there was no one to offer help.”