

# SIX MONTHS NEWS LETTER -2024

*With a bicycle, we make a difference.*



## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We appreciate your continued support, partnership and commitment. It has been instrumental in driving our mission forward and enabling us to bring sustainable and impactful change to the lives of many.

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## FABIO hosts visitors from All We Can- Our UK based partners



*Together we change lives*

FABIO was honored to host one of their donors All We Can who are funding the livelihood and education programs.

The journey travelled from 2019-2023 of the old strategic plan had registered tremendous milestones that not only excited our donors also ignited their zeal to vividly touch the impacted lives.

Our partnership with All We Can prioritizes particular aspects including sustainability and impact creation. Upon their visit, All We Can was able to ascertain the impact attained through their support by visiting the different Self Help Groups such as; Lumili Restored Hope and Bubugo. Individuals included beneficiaries:- Mukoda slima in buwenge, Nabirye fatuma in bubugo., Abakawaya betty in Lumuli and Under the Cycle to School program, they were able to visit, Namuwanga Nadia in Lubani, Isamba Eddy from Bubugo.

According to Fatuma, one of our beneficiaries, who is a fish seller, being a beneficiary of the Self Help Group program for 3 years has greatly changed her life.

***“ I joined the group in 2021 but by then, my life was quite miserable, because my husband had left me with 5 children (2 girls and 3 boys), whom I had to take care of. Now that I make more money and live a better life, he begs to return.”***



*Our All We Can partners having a moment with our beneficiaries, under the livelihood program- Lumuli Restore Hope, Self Help Group.*



*Fatuma, a beneficiary of the SHG group running her a fish stall*



*Fatuma interacting with our All We Can partners*



Fatuma said that before she joined the group, she was running a fish business with a capital of shs,50,000. The money she earned from this business was not enough to pay rent, buy food and educate her children. However, Fatuma says due to continuous saving, her capital increased from shs50,000 to shs200,000 in 2021. Then from shs 200,000 to shs500,000 in 2022 and shs800,000 in 2023.

Her life has gradually improved, her children go to better schools, she bought land and plans to build her own house.



After selling my fish, Fatuma said that she gets shs 10,000 of her earnings and saves in her Self Help Group in Bubugo every Saturday of the week.



***“We are excited to interact with All We Can all the way from UK, we call ourselves the restored hope- majorly because our hopes were restored. Our lives were miserable before but we are now able to educate our children, manage small scale initiatives and access various social services using a bicycle..”***



## FABIO imports E-bikes to support vulnerable communities.

*The Gisli project- aims to enhance access to socio-economic services.*

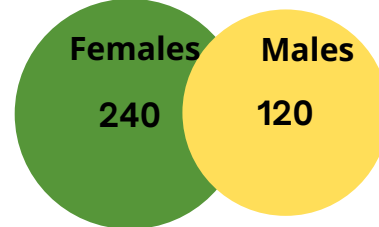
Since last year, FABIO, in partnership with the European Institute for Sustainable Transport (EURIST), has been organizing and implementing the Gisli project. This initiative aims to extend electric bicycle technology, including E-bicycle ambulances and E-water-bikes, to vulnerable communities in the Busoga region, enhancing their access to socio-economic activities. Inception meetings were conducted last year and continued this year with selected beneficiaries, including 12 Self Help Groups consisting of 360 men and women in Jinja District and 20 health centers across four districts: Iganga, Jinja, Kamuli, and Mayuge.



*During the inception meetings*



## Beneficiaries of the e-water bicycles under the Gisli project.



Upon receiving the container with the new E-bikes, FABIO initiated a training program for mechanics. We invited 30 male mechanics to participate in a two-day training session focused on the repair and maintenance of this novel technology. By the end of the training, the participants acknowledged that, although they were experts in traditional bicycles, navigating the complexities of the new E-bike technology would have been challenging without this opportunity.



*During the trainings of mechanics*



## FABIO hands over 92 electric bicycles to beneficiaries in 5 Districts of Busoga sub-region.



We care by sharing

After equipping the mechanics with the necessary knowledge to operate the new technology, FABIO proceeded to distribute the tool to various beneficiaries. A total of 72 water E-bikes and 20 bicycle ambulances were handed over. The primary goal of this distribution was to improve beneficiaries' access to health services and a range of economic activities.

Beneficiary	Number of bikes
Jinja	72 water e-bikes
Kamuli	5 bicycle ambulances
Iganga	5 bicycle ambulance
Mayuge	5 bicycle ambulances
Luuka	5 bicycle ambulances

### Handover of Water E-bikes.

72 bikes were handed over to 12 Self Help Groups of 30 members; Lumuli D, Restored Hope, Nabukosi, Akola, Nawaguma B, Kiranga, teenage mothers, Bubugo, Buwuma East. Each of these groups consisted of 30 members all receiving 6 bicycles.



### Handover of bicycle ambulances.



### The RDC of Kamuli Distric handing over the E-bikes to the VHTs.

Twenty E-bicycle ambulances were handed over to 20 health centers across four districts: Iganga (Magogo H/C II), Jinja, Kamuli, and Mayuge. These ambulances are to be managed by Village Health Teams at the respective Health Center IIs.



Photo of an E-water bike.



## Graduation ceremony of teenage mothers



***Teenage mothers during their graduation ceremony.***

Last year, FABIO launched a new initiative aimed at improving the socio-economic lives of young people. Thirty-six youths, including 34 females and 2 males, were enrolled in a three-month tailoring course, after which they were eligible for graduation.

Upon completing the course and acquiring the necessary skills to thrive in the competent world, a graduation ceremony was held to celebrate their achievement. Recognizing that tailoring alone might not fully sustain their livelihoods, FABIO integrated a self-help group model focused on savings, loan associations. To support the group's progress, FABIO conducted additional training in savings and group dynamics, and provided start-up kits, including bicycles and savings boxes, among other resources.

Fundamentally, the trainings created a strong ground for our beneficiaries to attract opportunities in the competitive world, as one of our students was able to get a job as a trainer in one of the organisations in the area.



***“When I gave birth, I lost hope in everything because I could not go back to school. I imagined how life would be and honestly I was scared. I can't imagine that I'm now graduate. FABIO was the answer I sought for from God. With my acquired skills, I really hope to make a difference in my family.*”**



## SCENE engagements

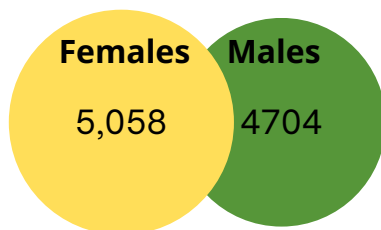


*Participation by all is key in good governance.*

FABIO in partnership with Uganda National NGO Forum conducted a Strengthening Citizens' Engagement in Elections (SCENE) program with the aim of increasing citizens' participation in elections and enhance responsiveness and accountability of leaders.

Various activities including Topowa and Ekyoto conversations, barazas and regional stakeholder engagements were held amongst community members and leaders in Iganga, Jinja and Kamuli Districts, reaching out to over 9,724,000 community members and leaders.

**Numbers reached during SCENE engagements.**



*During the baraza meeting in Bulubandi village*



*During the topowa and ekyoto meeting in Nawaguma B*

Through our discussions and engagements, community members have become more empowered to demand accountability from their leaders. This shift in mindset has fostered a culture of transparency and responsibility, as evidenced by leaders who are now more willing to provide accountability for their positions.

A notable example of this impact is in Bulubandi village, Nakigo subcounty, Iganga District. Following a baraza meeting where community members voiced their concerns, the local council (LC5) responded by rehabilitating one of the roads in the village.



## FABIO's makes exquisite innovations out of bicycle parts



*Unlocking the value of a bicycle.*

FABIO's Bicycle Department is on a constant lookout for innovations and recycling products to improve the organizations performance, sustainability and capacity.

After developing coffee tables in the first quarter of this year, the department has been working on clocks and jewelry made out of and with old bike parts like chain elements or the cassette.



**FABIO Wall clock**

## Bicycle rentals

FABIO bicycle center has continued to offer various services to the local and international populace. It has been an exciting and a memorable experience for our beneficiaries who have acquired guided tours around the exquisite recreation places in Jinja. In addition, our technical department has continued to offer daily bicycle services to the polpulance.



## Monitoring of the livelihood program



Our programs are driven by impact

FABIO conducted monitoring sessions amongst their beneficiaries under the livelihood program. During the monitoring sessions, FABIO established that their beneficiaries were progressively thriving in their various self help groups. Many of them are now able to sustain themselves and their families because of the great boost of their businesses and distinct projects since they were using the bicycle to access gardens, markets among others.

80% of the beneficiaries said that although the bicycle was greatly enlarging their resource envelope, the saving group was offering a valuable service since they got the opportunity to acquire loans to boost their businesses and provide solutions in times of emergencies.

Some of the beneficiaries were able to share their milestones, all attributed to the saving groups, the underlying trainings and the bicycles, which have enhanced individual and group sustainability.

### TEZIKYE AND FLORENCE'S LIFE TRANSFORMS FROM MISERABLE TO SELF EMPLOYED HAPPY PARENTS.

Tezikya Willy is a 44 year old gentleman, a resident of Nabukosi A in Butagaya sub county, Jinja District and a member of Nabukosi SHG. Willy is a married man whose wife Nabirye Florence is also a member of the Self Help Group.

***"Before joining Nabukosi Self Help Group, I wasn't in any saving group and so every time that I got an emergency I would find it hard to borrow money from anyone since individuals would make you go through long processes.***

*Willy said that before joining the Self Help Group, life was quite alarming for him since being the head of the family meant that he had to meet household needs.*

However, he acknowledged that his wife Nabwire Florence was supportive in this period because she used to make pancakes that she always sold and the money got would be used to support the family. Willy added that since he had a background of a mechanic, he had found work at a certain mechanic shop, where he labored to get some money. ***"I used to work at someone's shop but my boss was notorious that I always lost my mind. If he wasn't on good terms with anyone, he would close the shop and on such occasions, I wouldn't expect any penny yet my remuneration was remitted on a daily basis.***

***The first cycle of the saving earned me shs640,000 and my wife shs 400,000. However, having been insighted on the possible developmental initiatives that we can start up, we decided to combine money to buy a second hand motorcycle at shs 1000,000.***



Although we had a bicycle from FABIO, that we were using for various purposes like fetching water, transporting firewood from the well, accessing health services among other things, we felt it necessary to buy a motorcycle and increase our earnings. However, after using the motorcycle for about 6 months, we got an emergency that required us to support our daughter who wanted to go and work in Dubai. This required us to sell the motorcycle.

At the end of the second cycle, in 2023, I was able to save 1.5 million and my wife saved shs 500,000. We combined the money and opened up a garage where I can offer bicycle mechanical services. This meant that I was leaving my notorious boss and settling in my own business. I therefore slowly dived into the business and started saving shs 20,000. At this point my wife's pancake business had also been boosted because her capital had increased from shs7000 when she started to shs 200,000 as of now, enabling her to save shs 10,000 every week.

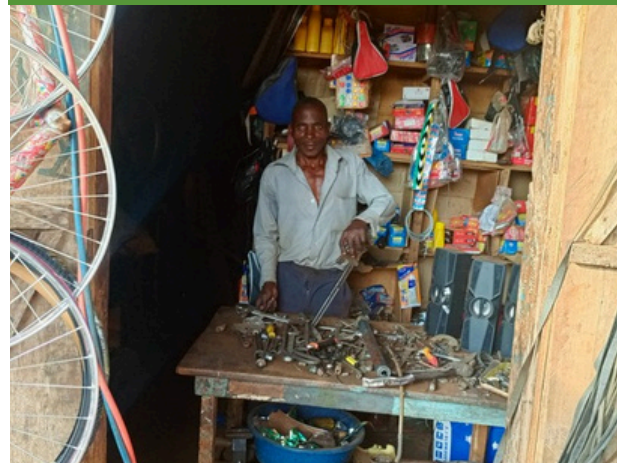
***“Being a member of the savings group has brought me more customers than before and I attribute this to the group that has exposed me to more people in the area.” expressed Florence***

***Together with my wife, we brainstormed on how to increase our savings. I therefore borrowed shs 500,000 and purchased a motorcycle from an individual in the village on a loan, which will require my wife and I to credit the lenders' account with shs 70, 000 every week for a period of 2 years.***

***However, its 3 months down the road now and we hope to successfully clear the entire loan.***

***I Am delighted to acknowledge that our children are able to go to good schools now, my wife and I pay school fees for them on time and also jointly cater for other necessities.***

***We are also happy to express that our marriage is stronger than before. We no longer have time for fighting but rather brainstorm on the next development initiative that we can undertake.***



**Tezikya in his mechanic shop**

Tezikya emphasized that although he would have achieved this milestone alone, he acknowledges that his wife played a significant role in ensuring that they get where they are now. ***“Two heads are indeed better than one”*** Tezikya quoted.

Tezikya and Nabirye expressed that their next initiative is to purchase a huge plot of land where they can plant sugarcanes on a large scale, specifically for sale in order to further increase their household income.



## **AGNES'S DEVELOPS A LIFE CHANGING DREAM THE MOMENT SHE JOINS THE SELF HELP GROUP.**

Talivaawo Agnes is a 43 year old and a member of Matuumu Self Help Group.

**"I joined the group in 2023 when it started. Before joining this group, I wasn't in any group. This was my very first one but before I joined, borrowing money was very hard because of the requisite requirements.**

**I therefore would only get money from my husband who was also tired of my continuous begging. In the midst of my frustration, I thought deeply for solution.**

**Fortunately, a friend told me that there is group that is being formed at matuumu primary school and being a resident of matuumu and a parent to a child at Matuumu Secondary School, I was a legible beneficiary.**

**When I joined the Self Help Group, I didn't think that I would manage to save since I didn't have any source of income. My husband was my funder. He literally provided everything. I therefore started saving and all I would raise was shs 2000 every week. In the due course of being a member of the group, I got an idea of benefiting from one of the programs introduced in our area, which was tailoring. All I was to do was to buy material which I would use to sow. At first, I wondered how I would get money to do this, but later, I realized that although I have been saving very little money, I would still borrow within my scope of saving, which I did. I borrowed shs 30000 to buy material and upon commencing my classes, it didn't take me much time to get on board.**

**Within no time, I was able to make clothes, bags, shoes and other items.**

**At the end of our first cycle, I was astonished to get shs 140,000, because I had saved about shs 40,000. This gave me a reason to appreciate being part of this group. With the money I got, I was able to buy new material and negotiated with someone who had a shop to let me make my clothes using her sowing machine in exchange of some money. I have so far been able to make items like bags, Kiganda cultural wear commonly known as "gomesis", Purses, dresses among others which I sell and get money to save and also contribute a slight portion to my children's' school dues.**

**Apparently, I'm thrilled to say that I save shs 4000 every week. I'm also able to use the bicycle to access the market to purchase sowing materials.**



Agnes hopes to buy her own sowing machine and start making her own items for sale.

***"I'm sure that once I start doing this, my life and that of my family will not remain the same."***



## **Address.**

**📍 Plot 205B Gabula Road, P.O Box 1620, Jinja**  
**✉ Email: info@fabio.or.ug Website: WWW.fabio.or.ug**  
**📘 facebook: <https://facebook.com/FABIOuganda>**  
**☎ Tel: +256 (0) 754577003, +256 (0) 772046446**