

2008 BICYCLE DISTRIBUTION REPORT

NORTHERN SECTOR ACTION ON AWARENESS CENTER (NORSAAC)

TO

PROLINK-GHANA-ACCRA

DATE; 6TH SEPTEMBER, 2008

1. INTRODUCTION

The distribution of bicycles to the people of Northern region to assist transportation difficulties and contribute in mitigating poverty challenging issues in the area has been described as helpful and timely. The most common mobility system in the area is the use of bicycles. Over sixty percent (60%) of the people in the area use bicycles. Young are able to get bicycles on their own make themselves subjects for discussions. The 2004 introduction of prolink bicycle project to the Northern part of Ghana has made a great impact with about 1,450 benefiting from the project.

2. PROCESS OF DISTRIBUTION

The distribution was done with support from trainees from the Pro – Link NORSAAC Skill Training Centre who were tasked to group the bicycles according to the number of beneficiary organisations and the number that each was supposed to receive. Seven of the organisations were represented by their heads and staff to take delivery of their bicycles while five were represented by only one delegates. The distribution was lead by NORSAAC's vice Board Chairman Alhaji T A Mahama; he was supported by another Board member Madam Ashetu Abdul Mumin.

3. BENEFICIARIES GROUPS/ORGANISATIONS

After a careful scrutiny of the requested letters the following organisations were approved. One of the factors that informed the selection of these groups was submission of reports to NORSAAC during the previous years.

1. Enterprising Women in Development	-	20
2. Tumkabsong Development Union (TUDU)	-	30
3. Mariam Int. School Complex	-	20
4. Association for Women Empowerment (AFWE)	-	30
5. Suglo N-Nye Behigu Women's Association	-	30
6. Sokam Integrated Development Association (SIDA)	-	25
7. Islamic Senior High School (TISSEC)	-	25
8. 1 st November Junior High School	-	20

9. Yankazia Youth Association	-	20
10. United Women for Leadership and Development (UWLD)	-	25
11. Rural Action Programme for Integrated Development (RAPID)	-	25
12. Youth Bicycle Maintenance Center	-	40

40 bicycles were sold to cater for transportation and maintenance cost.

4. BENEFICIARIES TESTIMONIES

The following are testimonies captured from some heads of beneficiary organisations during the distribution. They were also tasked to capture some testimonies from the direct beneficiaries and their parents when reporting.

Zakaria S. Iddrisu, Director for TUDU

“Tudu’s target for this bicycle project is women groups engaged in Agricultural ventures and have their farms located as far as between 35 – 42 kilometers away due to soil infertility. We also target school children who are intelligent and brilliant but stand the risk of performing badly due to long distances they foot between their homes and schools.

These bicycles when given to them will solve their transportation problems which will along side enhance their farm yields to generate more income. An improvement in their living standards will follow this. This will further improve their participation in decision making processes both in their homes and at the community levels

Amadu Osman, Coordinator for SIDA

“These bicycles will be distributed to school girls from SIDA, six operating communities. All the communities have only primary schools and students upon completion have to travel to Tamale to further their education to JHS and SHS. Thus, our main objective is to assist the marginalized and vulnerable girls who attain this level and go to school far away in Tamale. This would help improve the state of girl-child education in the rural communities.”

Hajia Ajara Telly (Mrs.), Director for EWD

“These bicycles when given to the children will encourage them to continue schooling, It will make them aspire higher, It will encourage some parents to send their wards to school and most importantly Uninterested children for education will develop the zeal to go to school. Last year Parents made commitments that they were going to support their wards continue schooling and curtail the exodus to the cities by their children particularly the girl child.”

Madam Matilda, tutor of 1st November JHS

As you know the location of our school makes it a one dominated by children from Tamale Rural such as Sognayili, Malshegu and some communities from the eastern part of Tolon Kumbungu such as Cheshegu and Kpalga. So we intend organizing an exam or quiz for girls from these far away communities and award those who will perform well with the bicycles. This because the children are many and we have received only 20 bicycles.

Mrs. Abubakari Hindu, Director for AFWE

“Our association has been given 30 bicycles for some girls and some few boys. We target talented but needy students for them to eventually become useful citizens and future leaders so that they can support partners towards development of their communities and the nation as a whole”

5. IMPACT OF BICYCLES DISTRICTION ON TARGET GROUP

(a) For the Women Group

- More time will be reserved by the women for other fruitful activities since the drudgery of walking for hours in long distances to their farms and marketing centers would be solved.
- Beneficiary women would now have adequate time preparing their children for school since lesser time would be spent to visit their areas of occupation.
- They can also use them to transport their children to school everyday.
- It will also serve as a moral booster for other groups of women because selection of beneficiaries was based on hardworking groups.

(b) For the school children,

- They can now attend school punctually.
- Walking fatigue would now make way for reserved energies for studies

- Selection of beneficiary students was based on hard work and intelligence and more students will emulate these students in order to be considered for the next consignment.
- Girls who benefited from the project now go to school very early since they no longer walk to school
- There will be an improved performance of girls since they would reach school early without much tiredness.

To girl trainees from GIGDEV, they registered the following impacts from the previous donations

- There has been regular and punctual attendance by the beneficiary girls to all the training centers.
- The beneficiary girls have developed more interest in learning their various skills at GIGDEV training centers.
- Some beneficiary girls give lift to their colleagues who were not lucky to have benefited the bicycles to training centers and back to their communities.
- Some girls from the beneficiary communities have enrolled in GIGDEV, which will help reduce the number of Kayaye in the communities.

6. WAY FORWARD

NORSAAC is going to liaise with beneficiary organisations to put up an effective monitoring mechanism to ensure that direct beneficiaries use the bicycles for the right intended purposes. It will also ensure parental concern on the proper use and maintenance of the bicycles and avoid the use of bicycles by relatives and other family members at the expense of the school children due to the importance of bicycles in the northern sector.

7. CONCLUSION

The donation was done successfully with all beneficiary organisations appreciating the number given them even though they applied for more than that. They also promised to deliver the bicycles to the right beneficiaries in their various communities. However, they suggested and pleaded with NORSAAC to increase the quantities of organisations who will report very well to meet its criteria as awards for good work and for others to do it right the next.