

NORTHERN SECTOR ACTION ON AWARENESS CENTRE

# BYCICLE TRAINING CENTRE

THIRD QUARTER REPORTS

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

This quarter was the busiest within the one year implementation period of the project because of numerous activities that associated with it. The quarter also coincided with end of project assessment performance of the project as it was about the last quarter of the project. The assessment was necessitated because of continuation of the project and possible ways to sustain it and expand to rural districts. The quarter also created a space to reflect and examine loopholes in order not to repeat mistakes and move the process forward.

Revised strategies were therefore taken into consideration towards recruiting new trainees, passing out of trainees and formation of the bicycle network and also monitoring of activities.

## **2. PLANNED AND IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES**

- Graduation ceremony
- Recruitment of trainees
- Quarterly review meeting
- Facilitating a net work of bicycle mechanics
- Building community support management team
- Literacy classes
- Monitoring

## **3. DESCRIPTION AND PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES**

### **3.1 Graduation ceremony**

Several procedures were made to achieve the desired results. Before trainees were passed out, an expert on bicycle repairs was contracted to examine their levels of competence. It took the expert two weeks to examine them after which a report was submitted to confirm those who could be passed out. The reports revealed that four out of the five trainees could graduate. The one who could not graduate has some health challenges and has been retained in the center to join the next batch.

There was a meeting held between NORSAAC and parents of trainees to discuss how to set up the trainees. All parents agreed to acquire spaces for their wards while NORSAAC provide tools and support sheds for them.

Tool boxes were arranged with the necessary and needed tools inside the box which were inspected by the expert three days to the ceremony before handing them over to the graduates. Community members, partners, religious leaders, parents of trainees both incoming and outgoing, and the general public were invited to witness the occasion.

On the day of the ceremony, all stakeholders were invited to take part in the ceremony. Thus, parents of trainees, community religious and traditional leaders, partners, bicycle mechanic network, the media and the Tamale Metropolitan Assembly were all present to witness the occasion.

Inspection of the tools was done after the Director of NORSAAC and the Director of National Vocation Training Institute (NVTI) gave messages to the trainees and the public. Prayers were delivered by both the Imam and Pastor for the trainees to settle successfully after which their tools were presented to them.



*A trainee receiving his tool box from the Director of NVTI*

### ***NVTI to issue certificates to NORSAAC bicycle trainees***

The Director of the institute was glad to be part of the ceremony. He said the first time he saw the centre he was amazed and was wondering who initiated this but he did not know he would be fortunate to be part of it. The Director mentioned that it was possible for the two organizations to collaborate since both have common interest. He declared that he had some discussions with the Director of NORSAAC and that his outfit had accepted to award trainees at the bicycle center certificates and will conduct exams for them. The Director reminded the trainees and the general public that NVTI was the only government institution mandated to issue certificates for all vocational training in the country.

### ***Recruitment of trainees***

Due to the challenges faced in the recruitment of the first batch, a new strategy was adopted this time to reduce the dropping out of trainees after they have been confirmed to start training. This made it necessary for NORSAAC to meet directly with community members to discuss issues concerning the training centre and how to handle the trainees during and after training.

### ***Facilitating a network of bicycle mechanics***

Visits were made several times to the working places of individual mechanics to discuss the need for the network of bicycle mechanics. After those visits they all agreed on a venue for the first meeting to discuss how subsequent meetings would be arranged. The first meeting took place at NORSAAC office and subsequent meetings will be arranged before the end of June.



*Assembly person of the area giving an advice and making an appeal to network members to get committed.*

### *Quarterly review meeting*

The meeting was held to discuss the next activities to be carried out in the last quarter and the way forward. During the meeting members discuss on how to get bicycles for the new trainees since most of them come from far places. The decision taken was to allow their parents to help them to come for the training whiles NORSAAC tries to support the process.

Another issue that was discuss was the discussion of further partnership with TFSR which members agreed to wait for the donors visit before any decision could be taken.

### **OUTCOME OF ACTIVITIES**

- The passed out trainees have started working on their own and at least getting their daily feeding monies.
- A vibrant net work of mechanics has been established and working towards getting certificates from NVTI for their shops.
- Monitoring of the previous and current passed out trainees has been effective during the quarter and this contributed a lot to the project. They are all part of the network.
- NVTI is now collaborating with NORSAAC and will support in issuing certificates to the trainees when they are passed out and also to the members of the network.

### **EMERGING ISSUES**

- ❖ An appeal was made to NORSAAC to include other professions such as tailoring and motor mechanics. Tailoring is easy to manage since the only equipment is the sewing machine and as a gender based organization it will help inject interest in the females since they do not want the bicycle repair as a profession.
- ❖ The network should always meet to discuss issues concerning the profession. Other profession networks such as tailors association, hair dressers associations are seen to be good professions because they have committed and effective network and meet regularly to discuss their issues and address their problems.



*The Director encouraging parents to still support their wards after they have been established*

## **CHALLENGES**

- Community members' expert more than what the organization is offering to trainees.
- Lack of accommodation for the trainees from the most rural areas which are far from the training center.
- Current trainees do not have bicycles and so they find it difficult commuting to the centre and sometimes do arrive at the center late.
- There were other obstacles that made the planned time for the pass out to be postponed several times. This also affected the attendance a bit.

## **WAY FORWARD**

The organization is currently trying to mobilize funds in order to expand the project to cover other professions such as tailoring and motor mechanics.

## **CONCLUSION**

There is a great opportunity for the organization especially when the expansion of the centre really takes effect in terms of including other professions. The network of bicycle mechanics is another possibility of encouraging the youth to go into the profession.