PROPOSAL FOR BICYCLES FOR SUSTAINABLE INTERVENTIONS AMONG THE YOUTH IN RURAL COMMUNITIES IN GHANA



SUBMITTED BY:

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PRO-LINK ORGANIZATION MAY 2005

INTRODUCTION

Pro-Link is a non-governmental organization incorporated in 1993 under the companies' code. Pro-Link's mission is to advocate for and empower disadvantaged people to improve their health, educational and socio-economic status.

In the past three (3) years, Pro-Link has received bicycles from Mr. Ewald Bauman with assistance from GTZ to promote HIV/AIDS education, ecotourism, and of late girl-child education in the rural areas of the Northern Region of Ghana.

This new proposal aims at expanding the project to cover more beneficiaries.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- ❖ To provide bicycles to school going children so as to increase school enrolment and reduce distance.
- ❖ To train street youth, People Living with HIV/AIDS and Orphans in bicycle repairs and maintenance.
- ❖ To provide street youth, people living with HIV/AIDS and orphans with education on reproductive health and HIV/AIDS.
- ❖ To facilitate community health workers to reach their clients and reach interior where one cannot reach by foot.
- * To cut down on cost of fueling vehicles.
- ❖ Provide a cheaper means of transport for commuters.

TARGET POPULATION

The bicycles will be sent to Obuasi in the Ashanti Region, Kadjebi in the Volta Region, Mankessim in the Central Region and Danfa in the Greater Accra Region of Ghana where we have our offices located. The bicycles will be used by peer educators, street youth, school drop outs, illiterates, and people living with HIV/AIDS and orphans and vulnerable children in these communities under the street youth project. Also to benefit from this project, are school-going-children in the rural communities, most especially young girls in Northern Ghana.

THE NEW PROJECT

Experience from the previous project has introduced new ideas in the service provision sector for the less privileged and rural folks.

The bicycles would be used to promote girl-child education and HIV/AIDS prevention in rural areas, and also to reduce the transport problem of the peer educators in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Eco-tourism project

As part of pro-link's plans of improving eco-tourism in Tafi-Adome and Wli water falls (the largest water falls in West Africa) area of the Volta Region, more bicycles will be sent to this area for hiring to tourists. The proceeds from this project will be used to support community development projects. 100 bicycles would be used for this project component.

❖ Promotion of Girl-Child Education in Northern Ghana

This new project would witness an increase in donations to partner organizations in the northern region of Ghana. The northern region of Ghana is very under developed with very bad road networks. Organizations in this area face many problems with transportation. With the provision of the bicycles, carrying out their educational programmes in the communities will be made easy. The bicycles, through this organization will be donated to needy children who will have to walk long distance to get to school.

The project will provide bicycles to poor and needy school children in some rural communities in Ghana. This will help improve the falling standard of education in the rural areas especially among young girls.

***** Expansion of Street Youth Project

Introduction of the street youth project at all pro-link office locations. By introducing this project in all our offices, the vision of the organization to advocate and empower disadvantaged people by improving their educational, health and socio-economic status will be achieved. This will also help in reaching out to more street children and school dropout with the message on HIV/AIDS.

Students of the Pro-Link/Danfa Vocational Training Institute would also benefit from this new project. In all, 200 bicycles would be distributed under this project component.

Promotion of HIV/AIDS Education

The bicycles would assist in the promotion of HIV/AIDS education, as 500 bicycles would be distributed to Pro-Link peer educators in all Pro-Link project sites.

Pro-Link is currently working in eight project areas in Ghana:

- 1. Pokuase, Ga District
- 2. Buduburam Refugee Camp,
- 3. Mankessim, Nfanstiman District

- 4. Hohoe, Hohoe District
- 5. Aflao, Ketu District
- 6. Kadjebi, Kadjebi District
- 7. Obuasi, Adansi West District
- 8. Danfa

SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROJECT

To ensure sustainability of the project, the local advisory board and pro-link staff would continue to manage and monitor the programme in trust of the community. As stated earlier on, the centre would generate funds by carrying out repairs and maintenance of bicycle for a fee. The bicycles will also be hired to community members and tourist as a means of transport and a source of raising funds for the project. The generated funds would be utilised for the operational costs and maintenance of the training Centre.

PROJECT MONITORING

The Executive Director and the Head of Programmes, in collaboration with our various Project Managers, would perform internal monitoring on project activities.