

BERNICE DAPAAH-GHANA BAMBOO BIKES INITIATIVE

HOW THE PROJECT MEETS THE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CATEGORY

The project takes advantage of the abundant bamboo found in Ghana to build safe, cheaper, reliable and multi-purpose bicycles suitable for the high terrain to address stress in rural transportation and builds the capacity of local population who lack the skills and knowledge necessary to create wealth from abundant bamboo found around them to appreciate its value and engage the community as partners and not merely employing them as bamboo bike builders but also engage farmers in bamboo plantation to grow bamboo to feed the factory and sell the surplus to be use for bamboo charcoal, handicrafts and electric poles.

SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE PROJECT

The Ghana Bamboo Bikes Initiative addresses the quadruple problems of climate change, poverty, rural-urban migration and high unemployment amongst the youth by creating sustainable livelihood job skills for the youth as bamboo bike builders to build high quality multipurpose bikes that are suitable for the high terrain and purposeful for the local needs using native bamboo.

Most bikes imported to Ghana are brought by Eastern traders who dump bicycles cheaply in price and quality. Designs have not improved in decades and are appropriate only for personal transport on good road conditions.

They do not provide customer service, nor do they create jobs or teach skills. They care not about cost to the consumer, but rather their margin and so they permit the retailers to inflate the prices widely.

Our bamboo bikes on the other hand can be used for personal or cargo transportation, as well as for commercial purposes, it can carry a much heavier load due to better design and greater strength. Have a better replacement rate of approximately once every five years, the replacement material is locally grown, and the knowledge and tools needed for repairs are locally available.

The bamboo bikes are used for a vast number of applications including transporting people, moving farm products in village fields, carrying large amounts of goods to market, and distributing medicines. Their use as a means of moving farm products to market is extensive and a significant rate limiter on development. They can overcome a primary barrier to getting farm and other goods to market and encourage commerce.

The project has created direct employment opportunities for 10 poor farmers and 20 bamboo bike assemblers at a higher wage than most other Ghanaians. These 30 people are representing a household with an average of about 5 with the knock on effect of about 200 people benefiting directly.

In addition, we have transfer the technology of bamboo bike making to 25 other rural women and the physically challenged in two other communities given them the opportunity to sell their frames to our supply chain thus providing casual and supplementary employment to people who otherwise would be out of a job or below the poverty threshold.

The end users of the bicycles, rural Ghanaians employed mostly within the agricultural sector, have increase their productivity and efficiency. Rural inhabitants are able to transport more goods over longer distances and in a shorter time. The decrease in travel time also allow for more time to be spent working the fields and selling products.

Because bamboo bicycles are light and can handle rough terrain while carrying large loads, they are used in emergency and non-emergency situations for the transport of medical professionals and patients. By increasing bicycle use, and the affordability and availability of bicycles in rural areas, school enrolment and attendance rates of rural children have increase.

It has won the following international awards.

- GIZ Impact Business Award 2011
- UNEP Seed Initiative Award 2010
- ImagineNations Business Plan Competition Award 2011

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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS



BAMBOO MOUNTAIN BIKE



MULTI PURPOSE CARGO BAMBOO BIKES

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A GLOBAL FELLOW FROM THE SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY ENJOYING HER BIKE RIDE



BAMBOO CITY BIKE

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THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT AN EXHIBITION OF BAMBOO BIKES AT BRITISH COUNCIL ACCRA, GHANA

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BAMBOO BIKE TRAINEE BUILDERS HAPPILY AT WORK

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WORKERS PUTTING FRAMES TOGETHER

COMMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS IN THE MEDIA

<http://www.seedinit.org/en/news/item/229-2010-seed-winner-%E2%80%98bamboo-bike-ghana%E2%80%99-is-one-of-the-5-winners-of-the-impact-business-award.html>

<http://www.csuc.edu.gh/csuc/articles/news/csuc-student-wins-german-government-award>

<http://business.myjoyonline.com/pages/news/201110/74624.php?storyid=74624>

<http://www.seedinit.org/en/awards/winners-database/2010-awards/ghana-bamboo-bikes-initiative.html>

<http://www.facebook.com/gizprofile/posts/369729036377381>