



Bikes Not Bombs

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Photo by Miguel Gothers-Reyes

A view of the Ugandan countryside
from inside the sea freight container
that Boston volunteers filled with bicycles.

Stories from the field inside this letter!

Photo by Miguel Gothers-Reyes



In 2012 Bikes Not Bombs...

Collected over 5,000 bikes,
mostly through the 48 bike drives we held
in communities all over Greater Boston, each of
them entirely volunteer organized and run.

Ran 5 sessions of Earn-A-Bike, 1 session of Girls in Action,
and one session of STRIVE Earn-A-Bike (a partnership with
Boston Public Schools for students with disabilities).

Launched Chain Reaction, Boston's first-ever youth-run,
after-school mobile bike shop.

Shipped over 3,700 bicycles to our partners overseas.
We sent shipments to: Maya Pedal in Guatemala, Ability Bikes
in Ghana, Village Bicycle Project in Sierra Leone, CESTA
in El Salvador and to Village Bicycle Project in Ghana.

Provided summer jobs to more than 40 graduates of our youth
programs; 18 youth are currently employed in year-round positions.

Worked with 400 children at Camp Harborview, introducing
campers to essential bike safety, basic bike maintenance,
and increasing their stamina and abilities as cyclists.

Registered a record 438 riders for our annual Bike-A-Thon
in June. Between the four routes, Bike-A-Thon riders
collectively rode 13,123 miles, the equivalent to
halfway around the world!

Sent a professional bicycle mechanic to Amuru
in Northern Uganda for 8 months to provide
training in bicycle maintenance and repair to
320 volunteer Village Health Workers
and hired a Ugandan field worker
to coordinate the project
implementation into 2013.

Read more about
this project inside...

Dear Friend,

What a difference a year makes. It was around this time last year that we sent you a letter asking for a financial contribution to help us launch a project in Uganda. The idea was to equip volunteer Village Health Workers with bicycles, which would get them to their patients more efficiently. The outpouring of support was overwhelming, and it allowed us to turn this idea into a reality. As we approach the end of another year, and again ask you to donate to Bikes Not Bombs, it is with great pride that we share with you some of the amazing progress we have made in Uganda, in just the last year.

We hope you will consider making a donation to Bikes Not Bombs to help us support people who drive development in their communities, with bicycles.

When Akot Rose, a Village Health Worker in Amuru first heard that bikes were coming, she was just about the only person who believed it would happen. “Many of the Village Health Workers said this bicycle will come all the way from America? – they are deceiving us,” she explains. “I was among the few that had hope.” Rose’s instincts were right; a shipping container of 430 bicycles arrived in Amuru on April 25, 2012. “Everybody is happy now,”

Rose says, “because the bicycles are helping Village Health Workers a lot to reach patients’ homes quickly. The bicycles will have an impact on the health of the community.”

Rose is 43-years-old, the mother of six children, and came of age during a two-decade long civil war, which created major public health issues for the local population, including malnutrition, malaria, and tuberculosis, as well as very high rates of infant and maternal mortality. As a Village Health Worker, nominated by her community, Rose learned to monitor health, distribute medication, and educate residents of Amuru about sanitation, nutrition and disease prevention.

Rose finds her work incredibly rewarding. “I remember one day, a mother came to me with a very sick baby in serious condition. I cleaned the baby with a wet piece of cloth to cool down the temperature and then gave it malaria medicine,” Rose says. “The woman has never forgotten me because I saved the life of her child.” However, traveling to her patients on foot was a challenge.

The bicycles have significantly improved the transportation of the Village Health Workers, shortening travel time and increasing the number of patients they can see in one day. Through the mechanics training run by BNB’s field worker Omar Bhimji, the bicycles also



Bikes from BNB arrive in Uganda!



Children in Amuru

Akot Rose
Village Health Worker



Rose finding a hole in a tube

opened doors that people like Rose had never considered before. “In the beginning, I had great fear of becoming a mechanic because I thought it was only for men,” Rose confesses. That assumption quickly faded. “When working [on bikes] I feel very confident in myself,” she says, “my heart tells me to do very good work.”

People often ask us why we still keep the name Bikes Not Bombs even though we do so many different types of work. On some level, the bombs we disarm through our work are symbolic. Limited access to public transportation, toxic environmental conditions, street violence, roadblocks to education and employment; young people in Boston and our international partners face these realities every day. We believe that bikes can transform their lives.

But another reason why we keep the name Bikes Not Bombs is because sometimes we mean it. Sometimes we have the opportunity to work with a community, like Amuru, that has been undermined by war, violence, and fear, and we can give them the tools and skills to change their own lives with bikes. Rose understands this possibility as well as anyone. “One of the roles we can play is to integrate peace building issues with health issues,” she explains, “there are many people that do not know what peace is, they have never experienced it.”

Over the last 28 years, Bikes Not Bombs has worked with more than 3,200 young people and shipped over 50,000 bikes. We are not only grateful to you and every donor who has helped us along the way, we’re also accountable to you. We hope that you are inspired by Rose’s story and the progress we have made in the last year, and also confident that we are doing the most with every contribution. We hope that your belief in our

work will inspire you to give again this year, so we can continue to disarm bombs of all kinds. Please consider supporting this work by making a gift of \$25, \$50, \$100 – or whatever you can afford. Thank you for your generosity!

With Peace & Gratitude,

Jodi Sugerman-Brozan
Executive Director

Donate online at
www.bikesnotbombs.org/give



Having fun in Amuru on a bike from BNB



Rose (right) & other health workers admire a bike from BNB



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