Mobilizing Students to Access Education

Education is essential for ending the cycle of disease and poverty. However in many rural areas across the globe children are denied access to a basic education due to the barrier of distance.

Our Bicycles for Educational Empowerment Program provides bicycles to students, teachers and school volunteers to improve access to education and reduce travel time with a goal to improve educational outcomes.

Focus on Girl Students

Decreased attendance and enrollment is particularly acute for girl students, who are often forced to choose between pursuing their education and meeting household obligations. Lack of educational opportunities for girls are driving factors in early marriage, pregnancy, and poverty for women.

Alternatively, increasing girls’ access to education has shown to reduce maternal and child mortality, lower birth rates, delay marriage and improve economic opportunities for women, households and communities.

BEEP Framework

Community Led
Bicycle recipients are selected based on distance traveled and vulnerability criteria established by community members who oversee the program.

Study-to-Own
Students sign a contract whereby the bicycle becomes their personal property after two years. Students agree to attend classes regularly and are encouraged to use the bicycle for improving household livelihood, provided this does not interfere with school attendance.

Appropriate Technology
The Buffalo bicycles used in BEEP are simple, durable bicycles able to withstand the rigors of rural environments.

Sustainable Model
Field Mechanic training keeps our programs rolling and leads to increased economic opportunities for mechanics, their families and communities.

WHY BICYCLES?
Half a million South African children walk for more than an hour to school, which means every day they may be walking more than 12km to school and back. With a Buffalo Bicycle, a child’s commute time is reduced by up to 75%.

"Investing in education is a key factor in eradicating global poverty.” – World Bank
Proven Results

Student Performance
Monitoring and evaluation of our BEEP program in Zambia showed a 28% increase in attendance rates and 59% improvement in academic performance among students receiving bicycles.

Benefits of Owning a Bicycle
A focus group on impact of the bicycle at household level revealed the following ways in which the bicycles contribute to a household’s wellbeing:
- Ferrying garden produce to market
- Transporting patients to health facilities
- Accessing water and mills
- Visiting distant relations

Household Economy
In addition to easing the mobility of school-going children, the bicycle empowers the household with a tool for development, leading to increased economic opportunity within the communities we serve.

Primary Outcomes
- Increased attendance of vulnerable children in community and government schools.
- Improved performance of vulnerable children in community and government schools.
- Improved retention of girls in junior secondary school.

Secondary Outcomes
- Improved teacher attendance and access to professional development activities.
- Improved livelihoods of bicycle beneficiaries and their families.
- Improved safety and security of students traveling to and from school.

In the short term, bicycles relieve children’s exhaustion from commuting to school and help them attend regularly.
In the long term, bicycles help children complete their education, preparing them for better jobs, reducing likelihood of extreme poverty.

Barrier of Distance
In Kenya, distance is one of the major reasons why children drop out of secondary education.

Where We’ve Implemented BEEP

Partner With Us
You can help us make an impact through BEEP in a variety of ways.
From funding a program in one school to helping us scale up in our priority countries*, your investment in BEEP can help mobilize students and families to overcome the barriers of distance and poverty in the developing world.

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