

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

One Million Bicycles and Counting: World Bicycle Relief Marks a Global Mobility Milestone

CHICAGO (Feb. 17, 2026) — World Bicycle Relief has created 1 million bicycles for distribution across rural regions in Africa, Asia and Latin America, citing measurable gains in school retention, income and healthcare access tied to mobility.

Founded in 2005, World Bicycle Relief is a nonprofit social enterprise that delivers purpose designed Buffalo Bicycles to improve access to healthcare, education and economic opportunity. The organization reports mobilizing 1 million riders and impacting an estimated 5 million people, including families and community members who benefit from shared access.

The milestone coincides with International Women's Day. World Bicycle Relief directs at least 70 percent of its bicycles to women and girls, reflecting evidence that reliable transportation improves school retention, expands access to healthcare and increases earning potential across households and communities.

To help accelerate what comes next, Backroads, a global active travel company, is marking the occasion with a matching campaign from February 24 through March 8, doubling donations made during this celebration and helping mobilize the next generation of riders.

"One million bicycles on the road is clear evidence that reliable mobility changes lives at scale," said Dave Neiswander, CEO of World Bicycle Relief. "This milestone confirms both the strength of our model and the scale of the need. Now, we are focused on accelerating that impact even further."

World Bicycle Relief reports the following outcomes tied to bicycle access:

- On average, each bicycle benefits a household of five people, extending impact beyond the primary rider.
- Girls who receive Buffalo Bicycles are 19 percent less likely to drop out of school, reduce commute times by one third and are 22 percent less likely to experience harassment on their way to school.
- Households that receive bicycles report a 43 percent higher average monthly income, while women riders report earnings that are 50 percent higher than before receiving a bicycle.
- Healthcare workers equipped with bicycles serve 63 percent more households compared with peers without bicycles. In addition, individuals who receive bicycles are 36 percentage points more likely to access healthcare when needed.

World Bicycle Relief's Buffalo Bicycle is specially designed for rural conditions, built to carry heavy loads over rough terrain and withstand daily use. Bicycles are distributed by local communities that emphasize maintenance, accountability and long-term use.

World Bicycle Relief has distributed bicycles across 28 countries and currently operates in seven countries worldwide.

For more information, visit worldbicyclerelief.org/1-million.

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About World Bicycle Relief

World Bicycle Relief is a global nonprofit social enterprise that addresses distance as a critical barrier to education, healthcare and economic opportunity in rural regions of the world.

Partnering with communities in underserved regions, the organization provides access to reliable, purpose-designed Buffalo Bicycles and sustainable mobility solutions that enable individuals to reach essential services.