

Newsletter

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Dear supporters and friends,
Dear readers,

We hope all of you reached well in the New Year 2011. Now while in Europe the summer is about to start and in Uganda we are in the mid of the big rainy season, with a new government after going through a prolonged electoral process, but with all this we are delighted that you are able to read our newsletter. We would like to inform you about our current projects and activities as well as giving you a general overview on our current situation.
Enjoy reading our Newsletter!

The Directors Message

With our **Vision** of “ A society where people have access and use environmentally friendly, affordable and sustainable means of transport for improved quality of life. And our **Mission** – To promote Sustainable Transport for improved quality of life through Networking, Advocacy, bicycle accessibility, capacity building and awareness creation. This has given us guidance to make positive contribution to building a sustainable society not only for us but for the generation to come. As you read through the highlight of our work, we expect you to give us a feed back as this will improve our performance and capacity to manage the different needs of our partners. For the last two years FABIO has been the coordinating Office for ITDP-Europe, however with effect from January 2011 ITDP-Europe seized to exist, this communication therefore serves to make all our readers and partners informed. I wish you good reading, “Moving slowly but reaching far” Kayemba Patrick

1. Overview of financial year 2010 and outlook on 2011

The year 2010 marked a year of many challenges in our organization. The work plan and the budget were approved but only a few of our donors, who could managed to finance their projects. The challenges of meeting the organization operational, overheard

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and administrative costs led to some of our staff to leave the organization in search of green pasture.

Nevertheless, our partners with volunteer programme managed for the first time to send a volunteer with some funds from the german organisation “Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (DBU)”to work on climate change activities for a period of one year Sept 2010-Aug 2011. Due to this FABIO could not drop out some of the activities outlined in the work plan 2010. As a small team we

combined our human resource and time consistently with our vision and values, we continued working on our organization objectives.

The challenges FABIO faced in 2010 were reflected by the office structure having a licking roof.

Outlook on 2011

Now in the second quarter of the year 2011, we are grateful to our donors and stakeholders for their unwavering commitment to the sustainability of our organization. Key to our performance is the continuous contribution from both our donors and local communities, who have ensured that FABIO office gets a new image. This is inclusive of the funds that FABIO has received from Iganga Foundation to run part of advocacy campaign projects.

We care for the communities we work and live in. For the past two years we were unable to revisit some of our identified communities like Butagaya - Micro Credit Scheme, and Katakwi – Bicycle for Peace Project who keeps on asking for our intervention. Besides the demand for bicycle is increasing, for carrying out other activities, because now that fuel prices are high and transport is a big problem leaving a bicycle as the only option. All these things show the need for our work.

We foresee bigger and better opportunities of working with our partners from UN habitat on transport issues, and the government. We are looking at expanding some of our projects e.g. Cycle to school, bicycle hire by making it a fundraising tool. As we are looking forward to have FABIO Activity center we will open up, develop and roll out new solutions and services and continue to pay critical attention to internal and external compliance of all forms.

Finally we are continually very grateful to our donors, local community contributions, volunteers and stakeholders, for their unending support.



FABIO-Staff: f.l.t.r. Sula, Rose, Stephen, Henry, Franka, Paige and Patrick.

2. Bus Rapid Transit-BRT

The Bus Rapid Transit is a sustainable transport project planned for the three capitals Addis Ababa, Nairobi and Kampala. The aim is to construct a bus transport system which is faster, efficient, clean, reliable and sustainable with effective integration of non-motorised transport (NMT). This year, in 2011, the five-years UN-Project, funded by Global Environmental Facility (GEF), starts in Kampala. FABIO will be enhanced to facilitate public awareness and participation. We will build and to transform Uganda Taxi Operators and Drivers Association (UTODA) and other public transport operators into managers and operators of BRT. Let us move! If we don't change, change will change us. We need to cycle, we have no choice – Non- motorised transport (NMT) is no longer a by the way but real. Increasingly NMT is sticking to peoples memories all over the world.“



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After a long walk since 2009 a long awaited NMT-workshop took a centre stage organised by Kampala City Council (KCC) on the 31st of April 2011 in Kampala. It was attended by the different stakeholders in the field of transport and sustainable land use. A list of 130 participants were entertained by the charming presentation of Ms. Amanda Ngabirano a new NMT entrant. It was written all over the wall that we needed to do something to bring NMT solutions to bear. Change of attitude towards cycling is a key need now for every body otherwise change is inevitable and it is only change which can not change.

A pilot project was ear marked and conceptual designs have been completed by a team of professional interns from the Netherlands guided by Ing. Tony Bosch, a long time partner of FABIO, and a Director of “Goudapple Coffing”. Personalities like “Seya” all the former mayor KCC and the new loard mayor Hon E. Lukwago were present. Dr. Declerk the newly elected mayor for Makindye Municipality testified having used the bicycle during his campaigns as he elaborated on the goods and evils of cycling in Kampala. In former times FABIO E.D Kayemba Patrick who was normally refereed to as “bicycle man” can afford to smile and of course the struggle countinues considering that success biulds on success, there is light at the end of the ternal.

We give credit to I-CE who invented the low cost mobility initiations -locomotive project 2003-6, that enhanced FABIOs capacity to lobby and advocate for NMT beyond Jinja and Iganga.

3. Share the Road

The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) commissioned a Share the road study project with the aim of drawing attention to the missed opportunities and to identify proposals of a broad based partnership to develop the kind of investment policies that would



significantly raise the profile and deliver of Non Motorized Transport (NMT) infrastructure. The share the road report was launched

on the 29 November 2010 at the UNEP Head quarters Nairobi. The launch brought together transport planers, NMT advocates within East Africa and donors. Patrick Kayemba FABIO (Executive Director) and Ibanda Henry (Programs Manager) were blessed to attend the launch with support from UN Habitant and African Bicycle Network (ABN). Patrick was one of the panelists with presentations on making policy decisions on investments in NMT Road infrastructure. This gathering was also used as an opportunity for ABN members within East Africa to share on current activities and future plans. The share the road report emphasized the recognition of massive benefits of clean environment, safer roads and better mobility from increased investment in NMT infrastructure.

4. R4Woman Training Workshop

The Ride for a Woman (R4W) Training Workshop was held on the 19th January in the Buhoma Community Primary School at Bwindi National park. The organization R4W invited our own FABIO Technician Wankya Stephen as the training instructor.

Over 200 women were trained in bicycle maintenance and in the repair of transport bicycles and mountain-bikes. The main objective was to show them how to handle small problems like a broken tyre or malfunctioning brakes among other things. This successful workshop made it possible for the attending women to go home with a lot of knowledge



and motivation to use and also repair bicycles. In the following days the participants had the opportunity



to improve their riding skills in bicycle lessons.

FABIO is very happy about the relationship with Ride for a Woman and that we could help them to carry out this training workshop!

5. Cycle to school Project

Cycling out of Poverty (COoP) and FABIO initiated a bicycle micro credit project for 150 students in Iganga, Uganda. The Project makes it possible for students to buy a bicycle as they pay for it in instalments. Besides the students are trained different skills e.g. in making an action plan, basic bicycle maintenance and saving & credit.

The overall goal of this project is to bridge the distance gaps for needy Secondary School students and teachers in the selected schools in Iganga District, for social transformation and development.



The project started in Feb 2010 in the two

selected schools of Country Side Senior Secondary School in Namungalwe Sub County and Iganga Comprehensive Senior Secondary School in Nakalama Sub County. These were selected from and among the modulate poor sub counties.

As a first succes, 28 bicycles have been purchased, assembled, transported and distributed to the respective beneficiaries so far.

Our latest activity was to organise an essay writing contest, to promote academic performances of students. The beneficiary schools and the winners were rewarded with gifts. One bicycle went to the each of the overall winners from both schools and the runners up were rewarded with school bags for carrying books.

The prize giving ceremony for the winners took place in their respective homes in January 2011 and was led by Sula Galiwango, the Field officer of FABIO. The prizes were handed over by Mr. Gerard, a Board member COOPs, accompanied by his wife.

In April 2011, the runners up were visited at school by Marieke, COOPs staff and Alex, a photographer. We also visited them at their respective homes where photos were taken while the students prepared themselves for school and later rode there with their bicycles.

On 18th April 2011 Marieke of Coop and FABIO staff had a meeting to review the progress of the project. Achievements, challenges, suggestion and resolutions were discussed. The major resolutions among others

are that COoP and FABIO are going to continue with Cycle2school by consolidating the project in the same school and expand with another school.

6. Climate Change Awareness Campaign

As we already mentioned in our last newsletter from December 2010 our new Climate Change Awareness Campaign continues:

Especially nowadays people in Uganda really feel the impact of Climate Change. The seasons are changing and these days they have to wait for rainfall, because rainy season is not there in time. In former times the big rainy season started around February/March. Now it recently started in the end of April, but still we are receiving only very little rainfall. Farmers can't start their agricultural activities in the time they are used to and the prices for food are increasing each and every day! To some people this already became a big problem and it will become much worse!

FABIO took this as another reason to concentrate more on the Climate Change Awareness Campaign. Our focus lies on the new generation. We want to educate and sensitize the youth to give Uganda a future. Besides we want to use them as

educators for their parents at home and other people in their community! People in Uganda need to know the reasons for what they experience every day, to find solutions and adaptation strategies!

Therefore we came up with two workshops, one for Secondary and one for Primary Schools. We invited one pupil and one teacher, from each schools within Jinja District to participate in a full day workshop concerning Environmental Education. The timetable included interactive presentations about Climate Change, group work and discussions concerning environmental issues, presentation of adaptation



strategies like a solar cooker and an excursion to the only recycling factory in Jinja including a presentation about proper waste management.



We experienced two groups of very interested and motivated teachers and pupils, that really gained something from the workshop. To ensure that they are going back to their school and become more active concerning environmental education and

Climate Change awareness, we provided them with certain information material like brochures and posters and a folder including different learning materials and possible activities for environmental education, that FABIO developed therefore! With a lot of knowledge, materials and our slogan "It starts by you!" the students and teachers went back to their schools!



For us as FABIO it was a very successful workshop and we want to commend the Environmental Conservation Effort (ECE, www.ece.or.ug), that helped us to carry out these activities, for their wonderful partnership and support considering their experience in this area!

To have a good follow-up of the workshop and to ensure that schools have become active we visited the different schools to help them carry out planned activities. Recently made a tree nursery training workshop in Mother Kevin Secondary School and a Tree-Planting-Day in St. Mathia Mulumba Training centre.

In the future we want to carry out more of these workshops, both in a different schools to support them carrying out activities and also workshops where we invite different schools, to share information and experience and to support a good network!

The bicycle is a key issue in reducing GHGE this was a key message written all over the wall.

7. VeloCity 2011

This year the Velocity Savilla - "The cycle of life" took place from the 23rd to 25th of April in Seville, Spain. It was again organised by the European Cycling Foundation (ECF) and representatives of 47 countries from all over the world came together to participate, share and discuss the past, present and the future of cycling globally.

FABIO's Executive Director Patrick Kayemba has had the chance to attend a number of velocity conferences in the last five years. This time Mr. Kayemba was privileged to talk in the plenary, sharing about the different perspective of a bicycle in Africa



and how challenging it is in addressing questions of accessibility, safety and affordability.

During the conference Shimano and the African Bicycle Network ABN initiated a great discussion about the African bicycle Agenda. Now for the first time there is light seen at the end of the tunnel for an African Bike-Market. During a consultation meeting on the 24th it was possible to point out the importance of continuing the development of the practical intervention, a follow up meeting is planned later this year in South-Africa.

The Velocity moderator Guillermo (Gil) Penasola did a wonderful job with such an innovative moderation style. The key aspect of the discussion lay in an improvement of the social and professional parts of the existing network. Cycling is becoming increasingly inevitable to all societies and especially Africa has no choice but to adapt to the new trend of events. Although this time the African participants were not more than seven, all African issues were brought to light at velocity.

The next Velocity will take place from the 26th to the 29th of June in Vancouver, Canada.

After the Velocity Mr. Kayemba went to visit our European partners in Germany and the Netherlands. A very important meeting was held with Iganga partnership, an initiative of the church which was established in 2009 as a partnership between the communities of Waltorf and Iganga. To support FABIOs work, giving people an access to bicycle, the Waltorf community is planning to send us a 40ft container full of good used bicycles in December 2011.

Because of difficulties by limited resources in 2010, it was necessary to finalise our 2011 work-plan and budget discussions with Marsal the chairperson of Ignaga Foundation. Besides this presentations about the achievements in the past years and our way forward were made for the Goudapple Coffing staff in Deventer, and the Hage, a sustainable transport firm behind Iganga Foundation, our partner. Credit go to the Tony Bosch family, that of Marsal and Jurgen for doing every this during the Patrick's stay in Netherlands and Germany.

8. Public Dialogue

On Monday 11th April 2011, leaders of the main opposition parties started a walk to work campaign in protest of the skyrocketing prices of essential commodities in Uganda. In the campaign they are urging the government to come up with critical policies to tame the prevailing inflation rate being experienced within the last two months which has led to high costs of living with in the country. As they

begun there protest they were confronted by security organs in a bid to stop their activities as they are presumed unconstitutional. What started as a peaceful demonstration has so far costed over ten lives including young children. As the protests continued the government has also increased its intensity on the demonstrators and the end results is unknown.



On 5th May 2011 FABIO was approached by DENIVA to help organize a Public Dialogue on the current social, economic and political challenges in Uganda. The dialogue was held at Ntida View Hotel Iganga and was attended by over 100 participants (civil society leaders, political parties, cultural, religious, local authorities, the media eastern Uganda). The objective was to analyze the current social economic and political situation in the country, efforts and challenges by the different actors and also develop concrete recommendations and actions in regard to the prevailing conditions in the country. Among the recommendations from the dialogue was the need for both the government, civil society and the opposition to hold talks and get a solution to the crisis without violence. FABIO continues to influence the operating environment for the better.

9. Bike-ride against Climate Change

Our aim is to raise more awareness on FABIOs work in terms of bicycles and Climate Change. A team of FABIO is going to cycle a distance of 800.7km around Lake Kyoga, using local bicycles. On the way we are going to talk to different schools and communities about Climate Change issues and also carry out tree planting activities or setting up tree nurseries. The team starts in the mid of June from Jinja town and is going to spend about two to three weeks on the road. To carry out this activity we need your support!

For more information contact our current volunteer Franka Kleist via franka137@gmx.de .

Interventions and Plans for the next half year

- Establish the Kampala Pedal Cyclist Federation
- Start on the GEF activity implementation
- Enhance the visibility of FABIO in sustainable transport campaigns in Kampala
- Plan for a “car free zone” day

Thank you for reading our newsletter!

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