



## WHEELS4LIFE FAMILY UGANDA

A REPORT ABOUT BENEFICIARY GROUPS - OCTOBER 2018

## THE WHEELS4LIFE FAMILY-UGANDA IN 2013 WITH CARMEN AND HANS

### Introduction:

Uganda is one of the many countries benefiting from the support of wheels4life. Beneficiary groups/organizations formed a family under the name: Wheels4life family Uganda. This family is under the control of Mr. Muleke Jude the ambassador for wheels4life Uganda. For better supervision, Mr. Ogwal Moses oversees five groups in the Northern Part of Uganda to ensure the funds go to the right people.

Every year, wheels4life family Uganda holds a family meeting to share experiences, find solutions to different challenges faced as they help their communities, as well as evaluate the annual activities and also point to major issues to be considered in the subsequent year.

### Meeting for the year 2018

Unlike in the previous years where the Ambassador convened meetings of all beneficiary group leaders in one place, this year the ambassador wanted to share experiences of the beneficiaries from the different parts of Uganda. For that matter, the usual meeting was dropped.

The Ambassador visited the following groups:

NO	NAME OF GROUP	LOCATION	GROUP LEADER
1	Youth Alive Kirumba Initiative (YAKI)	Masaka District	Annet Ssonko B
2	St. Joseph Vocational School	Lwengo District	Sister Namirembe Margaret
3	Nos Amis (Our Friends)	Luweero District	Isanga Anthony
4	VECH	Mukono District	Mutebi
5	People Mercy Initiative	Bukomansimbi District	Mwanje Resty
6	WIND	Luweero District	Sophie Zelda
7	Kizito Women's Foundation (KWF)	Lyantonde District	Rosemary Kizito
8	Needy Villages Initiative (NEVI)	Wakiso District	Nagawa Merinah
9	Joy for Good Life Uganda	Budaka District	Mugega Sulaiman
10	CIDAR Uganda	Jinja District	Ntambi Abu Baker
11	Rhythm Africa	Wakiso District	Nakanjakko Juliet
12	St. Ann Vocational Training School	Kalungu District	Sr. Pius
13	NIRP	Masaka District	Henry Muwhezi
14	CODNET	Masaka District	Sarah Kakande

15	EMPATHY	Luweero District	Florence
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Key:



Groups that are no longer active



Groups that are still active with reports and constant follow up of their beneficiaries



Groups whose project leaders were transferred to work in other areas and the project stopped



Groups that were funded once and have not much information about their beneficiaries

The Ambassador was able to meet with some beneficiaries who have been with bikes for three-6 years. These were from different districts and they had different experiences to share:

### The visit to VECH in Katosi – Mukono District



Extreme Right is the ambassador for Wheels4life – Uganda (Jude Muleke). This is VECH office in Katosi – Mukono District. we managed to visit a number of bicycle beneficiaries especially those who received bikes four years back. we were amazed to find their bikes in good shape. the beneficiaries we met guard their bikes jealously because it is their source of income, it is their means of transport to different destinations and it is their Life.

VECH has four volunteers who work with Mr. Mutebi the top administrator and founder of the group. the three people standing with the ambassador are very key in the running of the group's activities. these are very familiar with those people that received bikes. it makes it easy therefore, to follow all bike beneficiaries and to make sure that the bikes are well utilized.

on the way to the villages to meet with the beneficiaries, we met two young boys carrying four jerrycans of water on a bike their father received four years back! the bike was in good share despite



its look which showed that it is an old one. these two young boys use the same bike to go to school and when they return home, it is used to do housework.

the family where the bike was donated seemed to be improving in terms of economic growth; every Thursday the market day, the family is able to transport some agricultural goods like fruits, sugar canes, jackfruits, and many more which are sold off and the father can return home with some domestic needs like salt, fish, paraffin, etc... as well as with some savings to cater for other family needs.

The father in the family narrated that all his children including two grand children can go to school because he can now afford to raise money to buy all the scholastics and pay school fees for them all.

In his story, we realized that the bike is his savior. he does much with it and he has many plans to accomplish as long as his bike still supports him. He called for the need to identify more other families which live in similar conditions like his family was in, to support them with a bike because without it, they will remain miserable yet they can do a lot with a single bike.



### **The VISIT to NOS Amis beneficiary groups in Luweero District.**



The ambassador's visit to NOS AMIS gave a new understanding of what people think about Wheels4life and the support they received from them. Many beneficiaries turned up and sat under a mango tree to give their testimonies about the work of a bike in their individual life and in the life of the community.

Majority of the beneficiaries are small farmers and their major crop are Water Melons, mangos, and pineapples. There were both male and female beneficiaries but all had similar stories about the role of a bike in their day-to-day life.

“Our land is flat”, said a beneficiary. “This makes it easy to use a bike to carry watermelons to Luweero central market. This bike is now getting old but as I talk, I have the guts to say, I have had the best out of its use. I can now say, I can buy a new bike because the bike I received has made money for me and for my family. I can save some money every week after getting all the household needs and the savings I make are kept at the bank. This points to a bright future for my family because after two years from now, I will be able to buy land to increase the water melon production which in the end will add to our family income. We always treasure Mr. Isanga

Anthony who gave us this bike. We are not related to him but just received a communication to assemble at the community center. To our surprise, we were among the lucky ones who received a bike. Mr. Isanga told us about Wheels4life in the US who donated these bikes to us. We were always longing to see them or even their representative.” said a beneficiary.

Every beneficiary present including people attached to their families, were saying positive about the bikes they received. It was evident right from a mere looking at their homes. Each household that received a bike had something tangible one could see which was a result of having a bike. For example, the family of Joseph Mulindwa has three goats and some few local chickens which help to supplement his agricultural sector.

This is Joseph at the meeting point near his home. He has three goats and these goats are in goodhealth. He hopes to get more goats in a few months – thanks to his bike.

### **Experience of CBIRD’s beneficiaries**



These three men are CBIRD’s beneficiaries of 2013. These people received a bike for purposes of easing their transport to school since they are teachers. Because they are within the same area, they decided to generate income with their bikes to supplement the little they earn from the teaching profession. They managed to lease a piece of land where they grew bananas, Paw paws and other crops. They use the bikes to carry fertilizers in to their garden and also use them to carry the agricultural produce to the markets in Masaka town. From their creativeness, they have managed to

buy two new bikes (see one on left and the other on extreme right). They are always in time to arrive at school where they conduct lessons from 8:00 am to 5pm and then rush to their gardens for at least an hour or two. Their bikes have greatly changed not only their life but also the life of their entire families and people in the area.



### **The visit to Ndibwami Intergrated Rescue Project (NIRP) headed by Henry Muhwezi (Left)**



One of the beneficiaries of NIRP was Mr. Ssemakulan Dan a community voluntary Community Health Team Counselor. He received his bike 2015. Dan shared his experience with a bike:

“With a bike I can go places! I can give my counseling services more community members than before. In a week for example, I can reach 10-13 homes all of which are

a distance apart. My bike is a community bike because it does not benefit me alone. I can no longer complain about distance. a bike is maintainable and spare parts are available locally”. Dan however, added that in the homes he visits, there is need for bikes because some families have patients who cannot access medical services because of distance. He therefore asked Henry to reach to Wheels4life for more support.

### **The Visit to Joy for Good Life Uganda in the Easter part of Uganda**



Jude (Right) the ambassador for wheels4life Uganda , in his mission to visit all groups to hear beneficiaries experiences with the bikes they received, visited another group: Joy for Good Life Uganda, lead by Mugega Sulaiman (Left in white shirt).

This group is located in Budaka district and it is characterized by its flat

topography which allows easy use of a bike. in this area, majority of the population are rice farmers. Families have rice garden in distances of 4-13km from their households. In the picture above, one of the beneficiaries (in the middle) was explaining to the ambassador how the bike has changed life in his family. Early morning, he carries his children to school which is located 3km away from home. On the same route to school, he proceeds to his garden which is 7km away.



He also explained that the best Rice market is in Mbale town 15km away. So he can ride his bike and carry rice to Mbale to sell it at a better price.

I also met other beneficiaries (see picture right). Each one was telling their success stories with a bike. They all unanimously agreed that a bike can greatly change a person's life. One of them explained that apart from using the bike to carry his rice to Mbale, he uses the same bike transport people's good to different markets and they pay him. He added that he can save at least US \$ 13 a month. He pays for his rented house, easily pays for domestic water and electricity as well as provide for other domestic needs.



Some of the beneficiaries explained that they can no longer engage in criminal acts because the bikes keep them busy throughout the day.

Although many people have benefited from the support of Wheels4life, in all project areas I visited the need is still there. Project leaders that are active and committed to supporting their people need a hand from wheels4life.

We thank Wheel4life for the continued support to all Ugandan groups and we promise to do better each year

By

Jude Muleke

Wheels4life ambassador – Uganda.