

SNAPSHOT

A PANDEMIC YEAR

January 2020 -

March 2021



BikesfortheWorld.org

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PANDEMIC RESPONSE



February 2020



March 2020



April 2020



May 2020



June 2020



July 2020

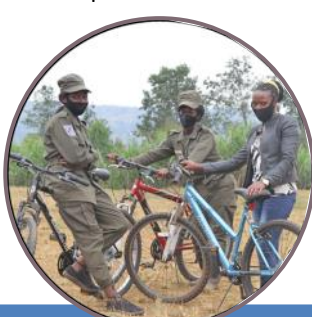
ADAPTING RESOURCES

Bikes for the World started 2020 packing our warehouse with bikes and volunteers excited about another year harnessing the power of bikes to change lives. In less than three months a public health crisis would trump any and all plans, changing the world in ways no one anticipated. Alongside our partners we worked tirelessly to keep the wheels rolling, adapting and reinventing our projects to best serve their communities.

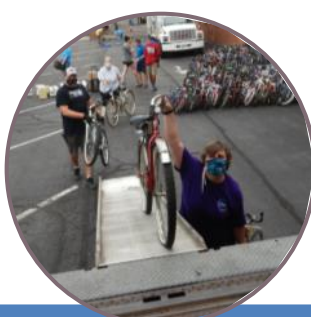
Within weeks, Bikes for the World and our partners around the world collaborated within our own local networks to find, create, and distribute resources to help keep our communities safe, healthy and engaged. By late summer collections resumed, limited volunteers were reengaged and containers of bikes were again moving and arriving with our beneficiaries who needed them now more than ever. Over the winter we shifted gears again, working with our partners to plan for a year of recovery and rebuilding after a challenging year of pauses and setbacks. By March 2021, nearly a year to the day, we welcomed our first volunteer group back to the warehouse and hope to be back in high gear later this fall.



August 2020



September 2020



October 2020



November 2020



December 2020



January 2021

PROGRAMS PIVOT



SHIFTING DIRECTION

When COVID-19 closed businesses, schools, markets and some ports, we adapted and found new and innovative ways to connect and survive. By utilizing our established relationships we continued to reach out and lift up the most affected communities internationally and here at home.

As bike projects were forced to apply the brakes, the programs we support kicked into high gear to respond immediately and redirect their efforts to support their communities through this difficult time.

Tailors in Ghana, Costa Rica, and the Philippines used donated sewing machines to make face masks which were distributed widely. Sierra Leone used bikes to deliver sanitizing supplies, solar lights, and masks. In Madagascar, bikes continued to provide transportation for healthcare volunteers who spread vital information about coronavirus.



BIKES FOR ESSENTIAL WORKERS



BIKES BECOME A LIFELINE

Bikes became a lifeline for people around the world as public transportation disruptions left essential workers stranded. Like PPE, however, bikes quickly sold out and parts and repairs were hard to obtain. Like so many of our partners, Bikes for the World also shifted gears. As our warehouse sat idle and stacked with bikes, we connected with a newly formed local group placing bikes with essential workers across DC. We responded to the transportation crisis by teaming up with BikeMatch DC to redirect some of our bikes to frontline and essential workers right here at home.

Half a world away but closer than ever, the Philippines was concurrently doing the exact same thing. In Manila, bikes destined for students sat unused while schools were closed. Bikes for the Philippines began working with local groups and communities to distribute this valuable resource giving bikes to employees reporting to frontline jobs.

Around the world, we donated more than 250 bikes to critical workers dedicated to keeping us safe during the pandemic.

REBOUNDING



RESUMING OPERATIONS

We started 2020 celebrating the arrival of containers with two new partners in South Africa (left) and Rwanda. Bikes were distributed from one, the other sat untouched for months as the COVID-19 crisis unfolded globally.

In February 2020 we loaded two containers. It would be four months before we loaded again. Even as our warehouse filled with bikes we struggled with a plan to keep volunteers and staff safe when it was impossible to maintain six feet of distance inside a shipping container. We devised protocols to bring back volunteers, load containers, accept bike donations, and offer offsite collection points again.

As life began to restart around the world, our 2019 shipment to Rwanda would finally be unloaded, making those the first bikes distributed since the pandemic began. As ports remained closed, this shipment would offer immediate impact for our newest partner.

For our established partners, replenishing their supply of bikes and parts became our priority as we began to bounce back and ports reopened.



BIKE SHOPS SPARED



RIDING OUT THE PANDEMIC

Bike shops and mechanics saw a surge in clients at a time when so many other businesses were crippled. It's one of the few sectors that increased revenue among our partners.

A halt to tourism affected the hospitality industry, rental companies, restaurants, and the entertainment sector. Many of our beneficiaries were hit hard by the closures and lockdowns that threatened their livelihoods and disrupted daily life.

As more people turned to safer, more reliable transportation options, bike sales soared. With disruptions to the supply chain, new bikes and parts became scarce. Bike mechanics were called to action for repairs and our partners with bikes on hand quickly sold out.

Each partner who requested bikes in 2020 received at least one container from us during the pandemic. This resupply included 500 or more bikes and tons of spare parts which were in high demand everywhere.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



WORKING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT EACH OTHER

The closure of our warehouse in the spring left many bikes at transfer stations recycled instead of reused. By June we were able to resume shipping to our partners, freeing up space in our warehouse once again. With a core group of volunteers we fell into a cadence that brought back a touch of normal during an unsettling time. Restarting this continuity of operations brought a sense of calm and allowed us to focus on supporting our partners once again.

Long term relationships with recycling centers, bike shops, faith communities, and civic organizations helped us maintain our flow of bikes throughout the year. Waste transfer stations accounted for 40% of bikes donated in 2020, nearly double the normal rate. Over the summer we resumed our collection events to help bring convenient drop off points back into the communities which also allowed us to reengage a larger pool of volunteers safely.

EDUCATION HYBRIDS



PHILIPPINES

Bikes for the Philippines provides bikes to encourage at risk students to stay in school and graduate. When COVID closed schools and rural students lacked remote access to learning, the risk of falling behind or dropping out altogether intensified.

Teachers fought back by shifting gears, literally. It's the teachers who began to commute, visiting their students at home to deliver books and lessons. They also offered individual in person learning despite schools remaining closed for another year. We are now providing bikes to teachers- putting a new spin on hybrid learning.

SIERRA LEONE

A school lunch program supported by Village Bicycle Project in Lunsar pushed forward in August to ensure students experiencing hunger received proper nutrition. After a semester of school closures, parents rushed to enroll their kids in the summer program not just for the food, but for the additional instruction.

Teachers came together to help cook food and feed their students while offering lessons to keep kids from falling even further behind in their studies. In families where many parents have little or no schooling, these extra sessions were critical to keep children engaged and moving forward in their trek to graduation.



ROAD TO RECOVERY



FROM McLEAN TO MADAGASCAR

Our only school sponsored collection in 2020 took place at **McLean School** in October and the bikes they donated were shipped out the same week. After two months at sea and a two month delay the bikes finally arrived in Madagascar. In the interim, the bikes only grew in importance as a critical means of transportation and a boost to the economy on the road to recovery.

Port closures, container shortages, and congestion have upended the shipping industry causing delays stretching weeks, even months. Scheduling has become more complicated, waiting periods extended, and costs have increased. This ongoing situation is expected to last throughout 2021 and we will continue to work to minimize the impact this has on our partners' programs.

At the close of 2020 we donated **6,717** bikes and **14** containers.

THE YEAR OF THE BIKE



KEEP THE MOMENTUM GOING

The bicycle is a powerful tool that has brought independence to our beneficiaries through reliable transportation, increased access to education and health services, and income generating opportunities. Innovation and expansion of these programs while collaborating with our community based partners is critical to developing resilience against rolling back progress during the ongoing pandemic fallout. As COVID-19 continues to redefine and shape our world, we remain committed to supporting our partners around the world. With your help we can make a difference, provide vital transportation, and help communities rebuild and recover. We must continue to move forward and embrace the healing force of the bicycle.