

## Firelight Newsflash! 22 May 2007

Dear Firelight friends and grantee-partners,

Warm greetings from the Firelight team. We hope this issue of the Newsflash finds you well, with your efforts moving along smoothly or very fascinating challenges offering you opportunities to learn and improve your work. We note that TRANSPORTATION issues are among the most commonly mentioned challenges faced by Firelight grantee-partners. In this issue of the Newsflash, we highlight two organizations -- Riders for Health and Transport Aid Japan -- that assist grassroots' organizations with reliable transport. We hope that you find this information useful.

On behalf of the entire Firelight team, several of whom are out visiting Firelight grantee-partners in Zambia and Malawi, I extend best wishes for your continued success and wellbeing.

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### **Riders for Health**

Visit: <http://www.riders.org>

### **Shared objectives**

Working with our **partners** we aim to ensure that completely reliable transport is available for the complete delivery of health services throughout Africa by 2015.

Transport management is not a headline-making or an eye-catching initiative, but it is the long-term, essential answer to Africa's problems. Africa's people *can* be free of the oppression of disease; Africa *can* have a chance to move forward.

### **Values**

Our work is guided and shaped by the following values and beliefs:

- The work of saving and enhancing lives in Africa must principally be carried out by Africans.
- The work must be systematic, replicable and sustainable.
- It will involve changing attitude and outlooks as well as technical behaviour.
- In every aspect of transport development, the needs of both genders must be considered and their needs promoted.
- The work must be vigorous but culturally sensitive.
- Riders for Health's work will enable people, from colleagues to beneficiaries, to fulfil their true potential.

### **The problem...**

Why is Africa in such trouble? One fundamental reason - consistently overlooked - is the fact that on that vast continent there is little or no reliable transportation. And the vehicles that do exist are often unreliable in the extreme.

The issue hit hardest by this chronic and desperate situation is the delivery of health care. Men, women and children are dying of easily preventable diseases, simply because they cannot be reached.

### **Riders' solution...**

Riders for Health is an international non-profit organisation born out of the world of motorcycle racing. Riders knows that transportation affects everything and acts accordingly in Africa with a practical, dynamic approach which is achieving real, sustainable development.

Riders currently has three national programmes (in the Gambia, Zimbabwe and Nigeria) where it has put in place reliable preventive maintenance systems for two and four wheeled vehicles used in health care delivery. We also have two smaller programmes working with other NGOs in Kenya and Tanzania.

This innovative work is managed by wholly-African teams, and means that health care in these areas is never undermined by vehicles failing, no matter how harsh the conditions. Riders is helping nearly 11 million people across Africa to have the basic health care we take for granted in the developed world, giving them the chance to fight disease and look forward to a healthier future.

### **The bare fact is that Africa has no infrastructure in place for the automatic preventive maintenance of cars, trucks or motorcycles.**

Riders for Health has spent the last fifteen years working with in-country teams developing efficient and cost-effective techniques for the management of four-wheel vehicles and motorcycles in harsh or hostile conditions.

- **Transport Resource Management (TRM)** - To ensure that a vehicle becomes an investment in health rather than an expensive liability rusting in the corner, Riders has developed a vehicle management system and support infrastructure appropriate for today's conditions in Africa.
- **Training at the International Academy of Vehicle Management (IAVM)** - Because Transport Resource Management relies on high standards of performance in areas of mechanical maintenance, system management and riding/driving, Riders has developed advanced training courses to transfer its expert knowledge within this domain to those involved in development.
- **Community transport** - As well as working with institutions, Riders works with communities to improve their access to healthcare and also their capacity to generate income.
- **Consultancy** - Riders for Health consultancy teams travel to wherever in the world there is a need for expertise in transport for development, and advise on best practices for building sustainable transport solutions in difficult conditions.

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**Transport Aid Japan (Wheels for Africa)** provides low-cost vehicles to African charities, aid organisations and NGOs.

Electronic applications available at <http://www.transportaid.com/> for the following countries:

- Tanzania
- Zambia
- Malawi
- Zimbabwe
- Uganda
- Botswana

Donated Vehicle types include:

- Small, Medium, and Large Cars
- Small, Medium and Large Trucks
- Vans
- Coaches