

**Organization:** Bikes Without Borders  
**Presenter:** Mike Brcic, Founder  
**Sponsor:** Noella Milne

<p><b>Project:</b> The second phase of a project to deliver bicycles and bike ambulances to HIV/AIDS workers in rural Malawi to expand capacity to the local healthcare network</p>
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### **Background and Aim of the Organization:**

Bikes Without Borders was started in 2006 when founder Mike Brcic saw the need for reliable transportation in developing countries, especially in rural places that were underserved (or not served at all) by other forms of transportation. The seed for the idea was planted by a 10-year-old girl he met in a remote Nicaraguan village, who walked 2 hours to school every day and 2 hours back home. Over the course of ensuing travels Mike met hundreds of people whose lives were adversely affected by their lack of transportation options.

BWB is currently working with local NGO *YONECO* in Malawi to implement the second phase of the Pedal Powered Hope project, following up on the success of the first phase of the project in 2009 (also funded by TFN). Phase II will deliver new bikes and bicycle ambulances to HIV/AIDS and maternal health community care workers to develop capacity in the local healthcare network and help save lives.

Why Malawi? Malawi is one of the poorest nations in Africa and the world. Nominal GDP is just \$299 per person. Malawi has one of the highest rates of HIV/AIDS infection in Africa, with over 850,000 cases of HIV/AIDS in a country of 13.9 million. Over 85,000 people per year die of the disease. In addition, Malawi also has one of the highest maternal death rates in the world.

Community Health Workers (CHWs) represent a new model of healthcare for Malawi and for many parts of Africa. CHWs are a grassroots network of volunteers (for the most part) who travel around the countryside filling in the gap that the woefully inadequate government-run healthcare system has left. They perform support services, such as dispensing antiretroviral medication, taking blood samples, and providing counseling on proper medication procedures. They also take on vital roles in HIV/AIDS prevention education and community support (such as orphan support and palliative care), as well as maternal health care.

Consistently, transportation is cited as the biggest challenge facing CHWs. In rural areas, there simply *is* no transportation network: people get around on foot and foot only. Often care workers will walk a day or two just to get to a clinic to get antiretroviral medications. Many remote areas, villages and families don't get care because they are simply too far away.

By investing in reliable, sustainable transportation for CHWs (i.e. the bicycle), BWB will be making a significant, direct investment in developing the capacity of the community healthcare model. A care worker with a bicycle can travel 4-5 times farther with a

bicycle (or 4-5 times as fast over the same distance) and carry up to 3 times as much cargo. A care worker with a bicycle can reach up to 20 times as many patients. Providing CHWs with bike ambulances will allow them to bring ambulance service to remote communities, where distance from clinics and hospitals can mean illness spells a death sentence.

**Project:** *Phase II, Project Malawi*

Our goal in 2012 is to purchase 60 new bicycles and 10 CareCars for Malawian community care workers. The bikes are Indian Roadster models, modified by project partner World Bicycle Relief for local use, to make them more durable and effective. The CareCar is a wheeled stretcher that, when combined with a bicycle, makes an effective ambulance. There is a secondary benefit in that the CareCars are manufactured locally by a Malawian-based organization that employs local workers; this investment will thus also put dollars into the local community and create employment.

A contribution of \$10-\$12k would make a significant, direct impact on community health in Malawi. A contribution of \$12,000 would purchase 50 new bicycles and 10 bicycle ambulances (ambulance includes bike and CareCar). The impact this would have on local healthcare would be immense.

Due to a recent donation of \$25,000 from the Goodrich Company, BWB currently has the funding in place for the distribution and staffing costs of the project. This will ensure that 100% of the funds provided by TFN will go directly toward the purchase of bicycles and CareCars. Crucial to the success of the program is ensuring that proper monitoring and evaluation protocols are established in order to track the long term impact of the program. The program budget will include funding for a Malawian-based staff worker, provided by BWB; this local staff person will work closely with YONECO to implement the project and provide long term monitoring and evaluation support.

**Budget:**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Unit Cost (CDN\$)</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Total (CDN\$)</b>
<b>Indian Roadster Bike</b>	\$130	60	\$7,800
Shipping to Zomba, Malawi			\$1,200
<b>Bicycle Ambulance</b>	\$320	10	\$3,200
Shipping to Zomba, Malawi			\$0
Distribution costs to Malawi districts, via project partners YONECO			\$4,900
Program monitoring and evaluation costs, per year (provided by YONECO)			\$19,500
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>			<b>\$36,600.00</b>

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