

Re~Cycle bikes at work in Africa



In Liberia, Dean is a roadside retailer of petroleum products. He uses his bicycle to convey two six-gallon containers to his site. He said: "I can carry 12 gallons of fuel at a time on this bike. Can you imagine that? He hurriedly filled two containers and mounted them on the bike's bucket. He continued: "There is no other bicycle in this country that is as capable as this bike. This bike can help me to save a lot of money on transportation. I need one more bike to make profits".

There are large areas of Namibia where one in three people are infected with HIV/AIDS. Hospitals are overwhelmed by the crisis, and for many people the only option is dying at home with very few resources to help them. The situation is improving though, and Namibians are mobilising huge volunteer networks to provide medical and sanitary supplies and counselling to these people in their homes. The volunteers are mainly on foot however, and are very limited by how far they can walk in a day and how many supplies they can carry. Enter the bicycle, and these volunteer carers can triple their load carrying capacity and range.



In Africa retailers use bikes to carry such commodities as Coca Cola products, rice, and charcoal. Farmers use them to carry farm produce like plantains, cassava, and eddoes. Others rent their bikes out to people for short distances or just to take a short ride nearby. In the townships people can be seen carrying little children in the bike carriers. In another township, three people rode one bike: a child in the carrier, a passenger on the crossbar and the rider on the seat!

A small donation towards shipping can make a big difference