

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8423

To establish within the Office of Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment of the United States Agency for International Development a rural mobility program to promote mobility in rural communities through access to affordable, fit-for-purpose bicycles, provide support to sustainably increase access to rural areas, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 19, 2022

Mr. BLUMENAUER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To establish within the Office of Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment of the United States Agency for International Development a rural mobility program to promote mobility in rural communities through access to affordable, fit-for-purpose bicycles, provide support to sustainably increase access to rural areas, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Bicycles for Rural Afri-
5 can Transport Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. RURAL MOBILITY PROGRAM IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRI-**
2 **CA.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the
5 United States Agency for International Development
6 (USAID) shall establish within the Office of Gender
7 Equality and Women’s Empowerment of USAID a
8 rural mobility program (in this section referred to as
9 the “program”) to carry out the purposes described
10 in paragraph (2), including through grants made to
11 eligible nongovernmental partner organizations,
12 prioritizing those organizations with demonstrated
13 success conducting rural mobility programs in the
14 region to so carry out such purposes.

15 (2) PURPOSE.—The program shall focus on
16 country-driven projects within sub-Saharan Africa
17 to—

18 (A) promote rural communities’ access to
19 critical services and opportunities, including
20 education, health care, and livelihood opportuni-
21 ties, through access to affordable, fit-for-pur-
22 pose bicycles; and

23 (B) provide support to sustainably increase
24 access to critical services such as education,
25 health care, and livelihood opportunities in
26 rural areas, including through support for

1 rural-based mechanics, access to spare parts,
2 reduction of social and gender-based stigma,
3 and community project management capacity.

4 (3) PARTNERSHIPS.—To the greatest extent
5 practicable, the program shall partner with existing
6 entities overseas that have successful models for pro-
7 viding access to affordable bicycles to achieve devel-
8 opment objectives.

9 (4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To
10 carry out this section, there is authorized to be ap-
11 propriated—

12 (A) \$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2023;
13 (B) \$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2024;
14 (C) \$6,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;
15 (D) \$6,000,000 for fiscal year 2026; and
16 (E) \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2027 and
17 each fiscal year thereafter.

18 (b) REPORT.—

19 (1) PRIOR PROJECTS.—Not later than 30 days
20 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Ad-
21 ministrator of USAID shall submit to the Com-
22 mittee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Ap-
23 propriations of the House of Representatives and the
24 Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee
25 on Appropriations of the Senate a report on projects

1 carried out by USAID during each of fiscal years
2 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 relating to the pur-
3 poses described in subsection (a)(2). The report
4 shall—

5 (A) identify in which countries USAID em-
6 bedded rural bicycle mobility into strategies,
7 programs, and projects of USAID;

8 (B) describe the mechanisms by which
9 rural bicycle mobility was so embedded;

10 (C) specify the number of bicycles distrib-
11 uted each fiscal year;

12 (D) assess the outcomes for and impacts
13 on participants in such projects; and

14 (E) assess USAID's efforts to disseminate
15 lessons learned from such projects.

16 (2) CURRENT PROJECTS.—Not later than De-
17 cember 30, 2024, and each December 30 thereafter,
18 the Administrator of USAID shall submit to the
19 Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on
20 Appropriations of the House of Representatives and
21 the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Com-
22 mittee on Appropriations of the Senate a report on
23 projects carried out by USAID during the imme-
24 diately preceding fiscal year. Each such report shall

- 1 include information relating to the matters described
- 2 in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of paragraph (1).

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