



BIKES NOT BOMBS

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Call for Partnership – East Africa

Bikes Not Bombs is a non-profit organization based in Boston, USA, working for social, economic and environmental justice locally and internationally. **Bikes Not Bombs' mission is to use the bicycle as a vehicle for social change.** Since our founding in 1984, Bikes Not Bombs has shipped over 65,000 bikes to our international partners.

Bikes Not Bombs currently partners with organizations in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Africa. Each of our partners use bicycles for unique social impacts, but at the center of every partnership are three themes: **economic development, environmental sustainability, and community empowerment.**

At Bikes Not Bombs, we see partnership as a close organizational relationship of sharing resources, ideas, and most importantly, a shared commitment to creating a more just and sustainable world. **In our partnerships we offer support with shipments of used bicycles, and technical assistance in the form of capacity building.** We provide training in small business development, bicycle mechanics, strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation, communications, and any other training that our partners need to achieve their mission.

Bikes Not Bombs is seeking new partnerships with organizations in East Africa that share our mission to use bicycles as vehicles for social change. Types of organizations we are interested in partnering with include but are not limited to grassroots organizations, collectives, non-profits, social enterprises, and networks. **Our most important requirement is that we only work with locally based and run organizations.** We do not work with organizations that have foreign based offices, or are run by non-local peoples.

We provide containers of used bicycles which partner organizations can use to generate revenue and/or use for programs. **We are looking to partner with organizations working on gender empowerment, youth development and/or climate change work.**

Bikes Not Bombs is now accepting letters of inquiry from organizations that may be interested in working with us. After reviewing our Frequently Asked Questions, we request that you please include the following in your letter:

- An overview of your organization (history, location, number of members, source of income)
- Information including contact name, phone number, email address (and website if applicable)
- How your group actively works toward social change, justice, and gender empowerment in your community
- An idea of the program for which you are requesting BNB partnership

Please email letters of inquiry to international@bikesnotbombs.org. We are accepting letters on a rolling basis, but encourage you to reach out as soon as possible. Once we review letters, we will select a few groups to work with to create a project proposal together. We will then visit potential partners in early/mid 2017 to assess proposals.

Frequently Asked Questions:

How many bikes can we expect and how will the container be financed?

Bikes Not Bombs ships containers with approximately 500-600 bikes, which are a mixture of adult mountain bikes and children's bikes, as well as an extensive selection of used spare parts. We cannot ship less than a full container, and we cannot send shipments of only spare parts or tools. The re-sale value of one container of bicycles ranges from \$9,000 to \$20,000 USD depending on the country.

Bikes Not Bombs donates the contents of the container and the partner pays for shipping (\$4,000- \$7,000 USD depending on the region) and importation (\$2,000 – \$10,000 USD depending on the country). In special cases, Bikes Not Bombs may decide to subsidize shipping costs for the initial shipment.

Does BNB require that all bikes get donated, or do they allow the bikes to get sold?

Bikes Not Bombs does not require that bikes be donated. The financial sustainability of our partners is important to Bikes Not Bombs, which often means that partners sell most or all of the bicycles in a shipment in order to generate the financial resources necessary to pay for shipping and importation. We ask that partners use a portion of the bicycles, or the profit from selling the bicycles, for social impacts in their communities.

What does BNB mean by "anti-oppression" and "social, economic and environmental justice"?

Anti-oppression refers to actively challenging and uprooting systems of discrimination and inequality that lead to social, economic and environmental injustice. ***In our partnerships, we work to foster a "power with" relationship rather than a "power over" relationship, and we expect the same of our international partners in their member and community relationships.***

Social, economic and environmental justice refers to the full and equal access for all people to social, economic and environmental resources, which include universal human rights, community self-determination, economic and food sovereignty, and climate justice.

Are BNB partnerships long-term or do they need to be renewed each year?

Our partnerships are long-term investments in social change work, and as such, BNB reviews partnerships according to agreed-upon time periods to ensure accountability to the partnership goals.

What kind of reporting does BNB require from partners?

We work with each partner to develop reporting that suits our partners needs. We work with partners to develop monitoring and evaluation systems that help build the capacity of our partners, help to track the impact of the partner organization, and help our partners to understand how they are working towards their goals in their communities.