

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4962

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, to provide support to sustainably increase access to rural areas, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 27, 2022

Mr. DURBIN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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, to 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 (referred to in this section as “USAID”) shall estab-
7 lish, within the Office of Gender Equality and Wom-
8 en’s Empowerment, a rural mobility program (re-
9 ferred to in this section as the “Program”) to carry
10 out the purposes described in paragraph (2), includ-
11 ing through grants made to eligible nongovernmental
12 partner organizations. In making such grants, the
13 Administrator shall give priority to organizations
14 with demonstrated success conducting rural mobility
15 programs in the region for such purposes.

16 (2) PURPOSE.—The Program shall focus on
17 country-driven projects within sub-Saharan Africa
18 that—

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

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

1 rural areas, including through support for
2 rural-based mechanics, access to spare parts,
3 reduction of social and gender-based stigma,
4 and community project management capacity.

5 (3) PARTNERSHIPS.—To the greatest extent
6 practicable, the Program shall partner with existing
7 entities outside the United States that have success-
8 ful models for providing access to affordable bicycles
9 to achieve development objectives.

10 (4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
11 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
12 this section—

13 (A) \$3,000,000 for each of the fiscal years
14 2023 and 2024;

15 (B) \$6,000,000 for each of the fiscal years
16 2025 and 2026; and

17 (C) \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2027 and
18 for each fiscal year thereafter.

19 (b) REPORT.—

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

1 representatives, and the Committee on Appropriations
2 of the House of Representatives that, with respect to
3 each of the fiscal years 2019 through 2022—

4 (A) describes the projects carried out by
5 USAID that relate to any of the purposes de-
6 scribed in subsection (a)(2);

7 (B) identifies the countries in which
8 USAID embedded rural bicycle mobility into
9 strategies, programs, and projects of USAID
10 and describes the mechanisms by which rural
11 bicycle mobility was so embedded;

12 (C) specifies the number of bicycles distrib-
13 uted through projects carried out by USAID;
14 and

15 (D) assesses the outcomes for, and impacts
16 on, participants in such projects and the efforts
17 of USAID to disseminate lessons learned from
18 such projects.

19 (2) CURRENT PROJECTS.—Not later than De-
20 cember 30, 2024, and each December 30 thereafter,
21 the Administrator of USAID shall submit a report
22 to the congressional committees referred to in para-
23 graph (1) that—

1 (A) describes the projects carried out by
2 USAID during the most recently concluded fis-
3 cal year; and

4 (B) includes information relating to the
5 matters described in subparagraphs (B)
6 through (D) of paragraph (1).

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