

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 437

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.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 15, 2023

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

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## 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 (referred to in this Act as “USAID”) shall establish,  
7 within the Office of Gender Equality and Women’s  
8 Empowerment, a rural mobility program (referred to  
9 in this section as the “Program”) to carry out the  
10 purposes described in paragraph (2), including  
11 through grants made to eligible nongovernmental  
12 partner organizations, prioritizing those organiza-  
13 tions with demonstrated success conducting rural  
14 mobility programs in the region to so carry out such  
15 purposes.

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

18 (A) to promote rural communities’ access  
19 to 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) to provide support to sustainably in-  
24 crease access to critical services, such as edu-  
25 cation, health care, and livelihood opportunities  
26 in 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 2024;

13 (B) \$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

14 (C) \$6,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

15 (D) \$6,000,000 for fiscal year 2027; and

16 (E) \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2028 and  
17 for 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 a report to the  
22 Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the  
23 Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the  
24 Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-  
25 resentatives, and the Committee on Appropriations

1 of the House of Representatives regarding projects  
2 carried out by USAID during each of the fiscal  
3 years 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 relating to the  
4 purposes described in subsection (a)(2). The report  
5 shall—

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

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

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

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

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

17 (2) CURRENT PROJECTS.—Not later than De-  
18 cember 30, 2025, and not later than each December  
19 30 thereafter, the Administrator of USAID shall  
20 submit a report to the congressional committees list-  
21 ed in paragraph (1) regarding projects carried out  
22 by USAID during the immediately preceding fiscal  
23 year. Each such report shall include information re-

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

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