

Re~Cycle

£6,396.67

To take unwanted bikes abandoned in the UK, ship them to Africa & teach the local people skills to fix & maintain them. Bicycles are a powerful tool for poverty alleviation, through increased efficiency & empowerment.

TFN's grant enabled Re-Cycle to put the London end of Re-Cycle in a firm footing. They have shipped their first container of 450 machines to Cameroon in partnership with Eagle Heights Animal Sanctuary, and a large supply of tools to enable local maintenance programmes to be set up. Their shipment to South Africa, Limpopo, of Post Office bikes was broadcast by GMTV twice, and covered in most of the major papers. (Over 40 Re-Cycle stories have been printed or broadcast nationally and regionally in the last year.) A bicycle appeal was broadcast by ITN London regional news which brought in 600 hundred bicycles. The training programme with young offenders has got underway in Tower Hamlets and they have just shipped their first load of bicycles and they are now offering bicycles for refurbishment to all of the London young offender programmes. A new Re-Cycle booklet has been produced and widely circulated setting out what they do. Their volunteer programme continues to grow to the extent that they have now secured from May the salary for a year for a full-time London organiser to co-ordinate their work leading up to their involvement in the Tour de France when it visits Lambeth this year. They used TFN's grant in the following ways: volunteer support (lunches etc), tools and safety equipment; support for shipping – they have a major problem of rising shipping prices, - new marketing material – warehouse maintenance (health and safety problems). Re~Cycle has retained £2,000 to provide more bike stands at Wandsworth Prison to increase the number of trainees they train – delayed because they are moving the workshop. Re-cycle concluded stating that they didn't move as fast as they had hoped – that it took too long to raise the full-time salary and their outside partners had often too many other problems to allow them to move at speed.