



Pedals for Progress has initiated sewing projects around the world with a great variety of partners.



Recent programs are in Rwanda, Somalia and Uganda. Programs are ongoing in Belize, Guatemala, Tanzania, and Togo.



Sewing Peace



The sewing machine program of
Pedals for Progress
A New Jersey non-profit corporation



Active P4P/SP Programs



Belize:
P4P Belize



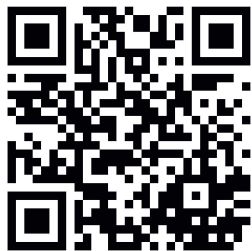
Guatemala:
FIDESMA



Tanzania:
Norbert and Friends



Togo:
DRVR Togo



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The Problem

The poorest individuals in developing countries need work. Finding work, much less a career, in developing countries can require a Herculean effort. The barriers are often impossibly high and include widespread unemployment, limited education, inability to acquire credit, and discrimination. On top of this, many developing countries simply lack the industries, infrastructure, and robust economies that can keep people working.

The Solution

A portable sewing machine, used, but in working condition is a job, period.



In 1999, P4P sent its first sewing machine and discovered that these machines are in demand in the same places where our bicycles have changed so many lives for the better. Plenty of unwanted portable sewing machines sit in the U.S., often headed for a landfill or languishing in a closet.



Overseas, seamstresses and tailors alike can acquire their most valuable tool and begin a business. Students can learn to sew — many of these machines will outfit programs in schools, teaching people a valuable skill they can use anywhere.

How can we export good used sewing machines? P4P has maintained bicycle recycling programs in foreign countries since 1991. P4P's bicycle programs are so well established that distribution channels for used sewing machines already exist with our overseas partners. Our partners use the sewing machines to offer vocational education, and small-business and community development.

PEDALS FOR PROGRESS, 501(c)(3)
P.O. BOX 312, High Bridge, NJ 08829
908.638.8893 alan@p4p.org
Donate online at www.p4p.org

In the developing world, a portable sewing machine is a vital workaday tool. Brand new, these are priced well out of reach of the working poor. By including these machines with our bike shipments, we've managed to significantly defray their shipping cost. For non-bike partners, we've developed cost-effective ways to ship smaller loads that contain sewing machines only. And the Sewing Peace brand gets us easier access to sewing groups in the U.S. who may not be interested in hearing from a bicycle non-profit like Pedals for Progress. Sewing machines provide a direct means of financial independence for the men and women struggling to support their families in these emerging economies. Let these people help themselves: supply them with a tool with which to work—that old sewing machine gathering dust!

