



Newsletter Jun 22

NO BARRIERS EDUCATION FOUNDATION: We assist children and youth in rural Zimbabwe to overcome barriers to education, encourage their learning and create opportunities for them to thrive



Beverley, student at Muzarabani High reciting a poem she composed about her rights girl to education, 11 March 22, click link for [video of her performance](#)

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School Year 2022: Key Events

1. Start of school year: 22 February

Schools resumed in Zimbabwe in February, 2 weeks later than originally scheduled. The delay was caused as teachers went on strike in response to the Zimbabwean Government refusing to pay higher wages: teachers currently earn around USD 150 per month (*to compare: a tank of petrol costs around USD 80 – but then, teachers cannot afford cars!*).

2. Continuation of NoBarriers 3 core initiatives

School Meals:

NoBarriers continued with its School Meal Initiative, by making its first food supply ahead of schools starting (6 February) and re-supplied the schools during Term 2 (28 May). So far, it supplied this year-

- 13 tonnes of maize
- 1.6 tonnes of beans / soya chunks
- 300 litres of cooking oil

Community volunteers continue to prepare daily school meals served to students during their lunch break.

Menstrual Health:

In early March, we resumed our Menstrual Health Initiative by distributing sanitary kits to every girl (294) plus toiletry kits to every boy (290). Toiletry kits (for girls and boys) were then once more replenished at start of Term 2. Each distribution was accompanied by a workshop:

- Term 1: Menstrual Health
- Term 2: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

As in the previous year, we contracted Sanitary Aid Zimbabwe (SAZ) as our implementation partner for this initiative.

School Fee Support:

This initiative was “rolled-over” into the new school year: all vulnerable students, for who NoBarriers paid school fees in 2021 continue to receive the same support in 2022. Students who finished school at the end of last year were replaced with other students from similarly vulnerable family situations, most in their first year at Secondary School.



3. New initiative: Learning materials:

To assist schools to overcome a near total absence of textbooks in line with the new Zimbabwean Syllabus NoBarriers supplied both schools with some 430 textbooks for key subjects (*p4*).

4. Rotary Water & Sanitation System:

Construction on the Water & Sanitation system funded by a Global Grant initiated by the Rotary Club of Norwood commenced in February; work is still ongoing and scheduled to be completed in the 3rd quarter of 2022 (*p5*).

5. Visiting Schools in Zimbabwe:

NoBarriers Executive Director, Sigrid Pfaffle travelled to Zimbabwe in late February for 3 weeks to visit schools and their local communities, work with the local NoBarriers team and to meet with key suppliers and local authorities (*p6*).

6. Australian Embassy in Zimbabwe & VIP Visit to Schools

While in Zimbabwe the Australian Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Ambassador Moules invited NoBarriers Executive Director, Sigrid Pfaffle and Country Director, Langton Nyasha for a meeting to her residence to learn about NoBarriers work and to offer her local knowledge and assistance.

Following on from the meeting, the Deputy Head of Mission of the Australian Embassy, Ms Susan Cash visited the partner schools observing NoBarriers initiatives and ongoing work on the Rotary Water and Sanitation System (*p6*).

7. Patronage of the Governor of South Australia:

In late March, Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC has accepted our invitation to become a patron of No Barriers Education Foundation (*p3*).

8. “Reporting -back” Supporter Event:

Was held on 24 May at The Arkaba, where NoBarriers shared what has been achieved so far in helping students in rural Zimbabwe to overcome barriers to education (*p7*).

Patronage of Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC Governor of South Australia

We are happy to announce that Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC has accepted our invitation to become a patron of No Barriers Education Foundation.



Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC is a proud sixth-generation South Australian. She studied economics at the University of Adelaide and joined the Commonwealth Department of Foreign Affairs in 1985. Working in Hong Kong during the early years of China's reform and opening, Her Excellency eventually became Australia's Ambassador to China from 2011-2015.

In 2016, Her Excellency was appointed head of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, pursuing Australia's interests as world powers shifted and the COVID-19 pandemic took hold. She led the department through a period of cultural change, encouraging more women into senior ranks. She has also been International Adviser to the Prime Minister and Chief of Staff to the Foreign Minister and Defence Minister.

In June 2021 Her Excellency was made a Companion of the Order of Australia for eminent service to public administration, innovative foreign policy development and high level program delivery, and as the 36th Governor appointed in South Australia.

Her Excellency is married to Mr Rod Bunten, a former British diplomat and high school teacher. They have four adult children and a cavoodle, Alfie.

No Barriers Education is grateful to Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, for her generous support for our work, but especially for her passion to assist children and youth to overcome barriers to education and to access opportunities for growth and development.

New Initiative: Learning Materials

- In rural Zimbabwe, most schools, including our partner schools, do not have textbook consistent with the current syllabus
- With no government funding and communities unable to raise funds locally –
 - teachers conduct classes without being able to refer to current textbooks
 - students cannot study outside the classroom, which blocks their learning especially during COVID-19 lockdowns.
- NoBarriers’ delivery of 430 textbooks in May for key subjects is a first step addressing this barrier to education.

Findings of Student Survey

Lack of access to learning materials such as textbooks are a major barrier to students’ ability to learn: 2/3 of all students would like to study more, but do not have the textbooks to do so; 95% of surveyed teachers feel the same way (*Survey of 410 students and 17 teachers, September 21*).

Textbook Delivery

Recognising that this barrier needs to be overcome, NoBarriers commenced this school year its Learning Material Initiative:

- Principals identified key subjects for which textbooks are urgently needed: Math, Science, English and Shona (*local language and 1 of 3 national languages in Zimbabwe*).
- Schools developed a list of required books – by class and subject– based on their allocated budget.
- NoBarriers purchased the textbooks in Harare and delivered them to the schools.
- Total books delivered: 430 across both schools at a cost of \$10,000.

Next Steps

Funds permitting, NoBarriers intends to continue to supply textbooks at the start of each school year. Also, we are currently investigating options of supporting schools with assistance in developing better learning infrastructure such as improved WIFI access and printing facility so schools can produce some classroom materials.



Country Director, Langton Nyasha handing over textbooks to Principal, Tobias Chibaya, Muzarabani High School



Textbook delivery for Hwata Secondary – prior to hand-over

No Barriers Education Foundation acknowledges with gratitude the generous financial support given by the Lang Foundation and its Chair, Roger Lang. It delivers tangible assistance for the students at our partner schools



Rotary Water & Sanitation System

- Both schools have very poor water and sanitation infrastructure: insufficient and unsafe water, decaying toilets.
- The Rotary Club of Norwood was awarded a Rotary International Global Grant for Water & Sanitation Systems for NoBarriers' two partner schools:
 - Water systems: the drilling of boreholes, installation of stands for water tanks, pumps and the laying of pipes for reticulation across the school campus
 - Toilets: construction of toilets for students and teaching staff (only at Hwata Secondary).
- Total value of Water & Sanitation project: USD 65,000
- Work commenced in late February 22 and is scheduled to be completed in the 3rd quarter of 2022

Toilets - Progress



Existing student toilets at Hwata Secondary School – described as “death traps, waiting for an accident to happen”



New toilet block (for students) under construction: foundations and septic pit(3m deep) for 14 toilets; both toilet blocks (students and staff) are expected to be completed during July/August 2022.

Water System - Progress



Drilling of boreholes commenced in February; water was struck at both schools promising good water supply for years to come



Water stands for 2x 5,000l tanks at each school: constructed and tanks hoisted on top of stands to gravity feed reticulation pipes; Local authorities are still to conduct a final inspection before the system can be “handed-over” to the schools.

Expected Benefits

- Supply of safe water
- Improved ability to adhere to Covid 19-prevention practices
- School meal preparation is made easier
- Improved menstrual health: girls will be able to access water while in the toilets
- Water for irrigation: schools can grow beans and vegetables in school garden to supplement meals
- Practical training of students in agriculture becomes possible
- Teachers' wellbeing & motivation is likely to improve because of better facilities while living on school campus.

A big THANK YOU to the Rotary Club of Norwood and the Rotary E-Club of D9210 in Harare for helping to create a healthy and safe learning environment for students at Hwata Secondary and Muzarabani High School

Visiting Schools in Zimbabwe

- Executive Director, Sigrid Pfaffle visited Zimbabwe and NoBarriers partner schools for 3 weeks in late February / March, her first visit since setting up the Foundation
- Main focus of the visit: school community consultation regarding student needs and how NoBarriers initiatives address these needs

Other goals of the visit:

- NoBarriers team: planning activities for 2022, ensuring all team members are well aware of NoBarriers Codes of Conduct and policies.
- Observe delivery of NoBarriers initiatives at the schools
- Water & sanitation system: check out progress to report back to Rotary Club of Norwood
- Meeting with potential partner organisations
- Meeting with Australian Ambassador to Zimbabwe: Sigrid and Country Director, Langton met with Ambassador Bronte Moules and her Deputy Head of Mission on 7 March -
 - to brief the Embassy about NoBarriers' work, and
 - to learn from the embassy's knowledge of local business environment and opportunities for cooperation.
- Susan Cash, Deputy Head of Mission of the Australian Embassy visited the partner schools on 11 March. Together with Sigrid, she witnessed NoBarriers initiatives being delivered. She also inspected ongoing construction work on the Rotary Water & Sanitation System.

Consultation with School Communities



Sigrid meeting with School Development Committee (SDC) of Muzarabani High, 4 March: Sigrid (centre back), next to Principal Tobias Chibaya and his Deputy, Joel Mujeje; Alec Muhungu, Chair of SDC (in front, green cap).

Deputy Head of Mission visiting Partner Schools



Ms Susan Cash discussing Menstrual Health with SAZ team members (SAZ is NoBarriers' Menstrual Health implementation partner). She was impressed by the active participation of male students in the workshops.



Ms Susan Cash and Sigrid Pfaffle – having a close look at the content of the sanitary kits

NoBarriers Team in Zimbabwe



Planning workshop with local team in Harare, 8 March 2022



NoBarriers team after a long, but rewarding day working with partner schools: Country Director Langton, 1st from right, Margaret Phiri, NoBarriers Coordinator, 2nd left, SAZ team members

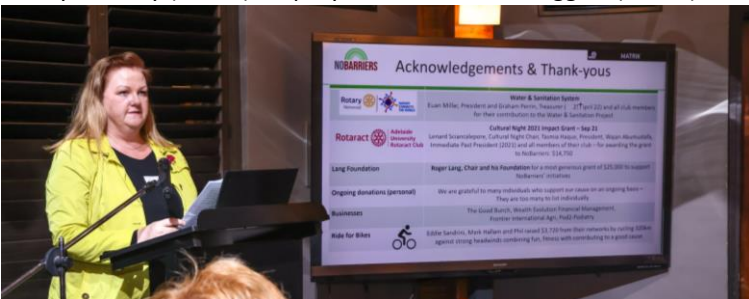
“Reporting-back” Supporters Event

- On 24 May, NoBarriers held its annual supporter event at The Arkaba. Purpose of the event:
 - Reporting back to supporters on our work over the past 12 months: achievements and challenges
 - Celebrating and thanking supporters for their assistance, be it by donating their skills, time or funds to enable NoBarriers’ work
- Some 50 supporters attended enjoying themselves while mingling
- MC and NoBarriers Director, Kym Lawry opened the evening with a poem recital by a Muzarabani High student (link to [video of her performance](#)) and a brief talk about the transformational powers of education.
- Executive Director, Sigrid Pfaffle continued by reporting back on each initiative and their impact, as measured through surveys and other monitoring activities
- Deputy Chair, Alexandra Piggott concluded the presentation drawing attention to NoBarriers challenges:
 - High workload for a small Not-for-Profit run nearly entirely by volunteers
 - Time consuming dealings with Zimbabwean authorities
 - Challenges to raise funds to cover NoBarriers operating expense and much needed infrastructure improvements.
- Alexandra Piggott concluded her presentation by acknowledging the support NoBarriers received throughout the year and thanking everybody involved

Event Presentations



MC Kym Lawry (above), Deputy Chair, Alexandra Piggott (below)



NoBarriers Supporters



RC Norwood members: from left Guo Wei, Janet Hoopman, Roger Lang and Club President Euan Miller, Launce Kent (non Rotary)



Linda Schimmield, (3rd from left), NoBarriers volunteer with friends



Eddie Sandrini (right) who cycled in our “Ride for Bikes” campaign with one of his sponsors



Kelly Batsiokis and Tinashe Majuru, both NoBarriers volunteers, who also assisted with event organisation

Plans for Rest of School Year 2022

It will be “business as usual” for NoBarriers core initiatives:

- **School Meals:** new food delivery at start of Term 3
- **Menstrual Health:** toiletry kit replacement and Reusable Pad Sewing Workshop during Term3
- **School Fee Support:** payment of remaining term and examination fees for supported students.

We also plan to start our Bicycle Initiative - funds permitting.

Bicycles for commute to and from school

At our partner schools many children walk each day very long distances to school: 120 children walk 6 or more kilometres one way. For 50 of them, the distance is even longer: 10+km and the only way to get there is on foot. They have to leave home very early to get to school on time. Throughout the day they are fatigued and when they finally get home late in the day, there is no time left to study.

We want to give these students bikes, because bikes change everything:

- Bikes reduce travel time by 75%
- Bikes improve school attendance by 28%
- With bikes students' academic performance improves by 59%
- For girls, bikes reduce the risk of sexual assault to/from school.

We plan to provide 120 bikes (30 of these will be donated by Buffalo Bike / World Bicycle Relief, the social enterprise we partner with).

The cost to 90 bikes, including cost of managing the initiative over 5 years (bicycle maintenance / mechanical training, parts, monitoring etc.) is \$27,000 - or \$300 per bike.

We appeal to you to help us raise the required funds.



Sturdy bikes, designed for conditions in rural Africa – in warehouse of Buffalo Bike / World Bicycle Relief in Harare

School Bicycle EOFY 2022 Appeal

Please donate towards our School Bicycle EOFY 2022 Appeal: the money you give not only buys bikes, which overcome distance. **The bikes you help us to buy, will change lives.**

The money you give is also tax deductible.

Make a life-changing donation now

Thank you for your support.

Or use Electronic Fund Transfer:

- Account Name: No Barriers Education Foundation
- BSB: 065-115
- Account: 1048 8995

Please send email informing of the transfer



Students performing a Thank-you song – thanking supporters of NoBarriers.

To watch NoBarriers at work, please click links below:

- [School Meals](#)
- [Menstrual Health Workshop](#)
- [Reusable Pad Sewing workshop](#)
- [School Fee Support](#)

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