

IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS: NOBARRIERS BIENNIAL NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2024



THE NOBARRIERS TEAM DURING OUR RECENT SCHOOL VISIT IN OCTOBER 2024, JOINED BY OUR PARTNERS FROM SANITARY AID ZIMBABWE, TEACHERS OF HWATA SECONDARY AND NURSE FROM THE LOCAL CLINIC.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM NO BARRIERS EDUCATION FOUNDATION!

As the holiday season approaches, we want to take a moment to reflect on 2024 and thank you for your continued support. Your contributions have helped improve the lives of 630 students in rural Zimbabwe by ensuring access to school meals, supporting their education, and providing opportunities to build essential life skills.

We are also pleased to announce that our website, www.nobarriers.org.au, has been refreshed and is now live. It's a great way to stay updated on our work and learn how you can continue to make a difference.



FROM RIGHT TO LEFT: EUAN MILLER (ROTARY CLUB NORWOOD), ANDREW STEVENS, HER EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, SIGRID PFAFFLE (NO BARRIERS EDUCATION FOUNDATION MANAGING DIRECTOR), AND EDDIE SANDRINI AT THE GOVERNOR'S FUNCTION.

This year, we attended a function in the gardens of Government House hosted by Her Excellency, the Governor of South Australia, who serves as our patron. This event highlighted the ongoing support of our community and partners, which is vital to furthering our mission to make education accessible for all.

As we look ahead, Zimbabwe continues to face severe challenges, including the impacts of a devastating drought. The following stories provide insight into how your support helps address these challenges and create opportunities for young people in need.

Sigrid Pfaffle
Managing Director
No Barriers Education Foundation

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HWATA SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS DURING MORNING ASSEMBLY ADDRESSED BY EDDIE AND SIGRID DURING THEIR VISIT.



USD 2,000 WORTH OF MATERIALS DELIVERED TO HWATA SECONDARY BY NO BARRIERS EDUCATION FOUNDATION FOR A GARDEN FENCE AND IRRIGATION SYSTEM TO SUPPORT SCHOOL MEALS. PICTURED: PRINCIPAL HURUVA MUKUCHA (RIGHT) WITH LOCAL PARENTS BUILDING THE FENCE.

FACING THE IMPACT OF DROUGHT IN ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe is enduring one of its most severe droughts in decades, driven by the El Niño weather phenomenon. The drought has devastated agriculture, with maize and sorghum crops particularly hard-hit, leaving many rural communities struggling to feed their families. Crop failures have emptied granaries and pushed imported food prices beyond reach.

Despite these challenges, thanks to water systems installed at Hwata Secondary and Muzarabani High Schools a couple of years ago, funded through the [Rotary Club of Norwood](#), both schools were able to provide their students with sufficient water for drinking and hygiene needs throughout the school year. At Hwata, an additional well dug during the year ensured continued access to clean water.

At Muzarabani High School, however, the community garden that previously supplemented school meals with fresh

vegetables was forced to halt production due to water shortages. This loss highlighted the devastating ripple effects of the drought on both nutrition and education.

Hope is on the horizon as the first rains of the current rainy season (December to February) indicate the drought may soon break. In preparation, NoBarriers has funded the purchase of materials for Hwata Secondary to construct a new fence around its community garden. This initiative, supervised by agriculture teacher Matinyanya Maweto, aims to resume vegetable production for school meals in 2025 and offer students hands-on agricultural training.



DIRECTOR EDDIE SANDRINI ENJOYING A FUN BIKE RIDE WITH STUDENTS.

SCHOOL VISIT RECAP – OCTOBER 2024

In October, our Managing Director, accompanied by Eddie Sandrini, Director and lead of the bicycle program, conducted the annual visit to our partner schools in Zimbabwe. This visit provided valuable insights into the challenges and successes of our programs and reaffirmed the importance of our partnerships in improving education and wellbeing for students.

During the visit, [Sanitary Aid Zimbabwe](#) (SAZ) facilitated menstrual and sexual health workshops. Sixty-six senior girls participated in sewing sessions to create reusable pads, empowering them to manage their menstrual health beyond school. Local clinic nurses also led workshops on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), educating students on the risks of sexually transmitted infections and unplanned pregnancies.

After the workshops, all 630 students—both boys and girls—received toiletry kits, promoting hygiene and wellbeing.

The bicycle program was another highlight of the visit, with students and staff enjoying a bike ride together. Earlier this year, in July, 90 bicycles were distributed as part of the “Ride for Bikes 2024” campaign, supported by our partner, [World Bicycle Relief](#). This initiative has significantly reduced the daily travel time for students who previously walked over six kilometres to school, allowing them to focus more on their studies and improving attendance and punctuality.

Recognising the persistent challenges posed by the drought, school meals remain a critical component of our programs. In the first week of Term 3, maize and beans were delivered to both Hwata Secondary and Muzarabani High Schools to ensure they could continue providing daily meals. These meals are often the only reliable source of nutrition for many students, underscoring their importance during this challenging time.

EMPOWER EDUCATION CYBER WEEK CAMPAIGN: HELP US BRIDGE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE



FOR STUDENTS AT HWATA SECONDARY SCHOOL, THE LACK OF IT RESOURCES CREATES A SIGNIFICANT BARRIER TO LEARNING.

You may have already seen our emails about the **Empower Education Cyber Week Campaign**, where we shared our mission to provide critical resources for students in rural Zimbabwe and some of their inspiring stories. Today, we want to highlight one urgent need: bridging the digital divide.

With only three functional laptops shared among all students at Hwata Secondary School, many are unable to sit for computing-related exams, leaving them unprepared for a technology-driven world. In contrast, Muzarabani High School recently benefited from an upgrade of 30 laptops (see story below), transforming its learning environment.

A TEACHER'S PERSPECTIVE

"As a dedicated teacher at Muzarabani High School, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of education in shaping the futures of our youth. However, teaching in a rural setting comes with unique challenges: Limited resources, outdated technology, and infrastructure deficiencies often hinder our ability to provide students with the quality education they deserve.

Challenges Faced

Before the generous donation from NoBarriers in conjunction with Australian Aid, our school struggled with:

1. Outdated computer equipment, hindering students' access to digital resources and modern learning methods.
2. Limited internet connectivity, restricting research and online educational opportunities.
3. Insufficient technological support, burdening teachers with additional responsibilities.

A New Era of Learning: The Impact of 30 Upgraded Laptops

The up-grade of 30 outdated, underpowered laptops has revolutionized our teaching and learning environment. These upgraded devices have:

1. Enhanced student engagement through interactive digital lessons and multimedia resources.
2. Improved research capabilities, enabling students to access vast online knowledge bases.
3. Streamlined administrative tasks, allowing teachers to focus on instructional duties.
4. Facilitated collaboration and communication among students, teachers, and the community.

Since integrating the empowered laptops, we've observed:

- Increased student motivation and participation in class.
- Better academic performance, particularly in subjects requiring digital literacy such as computer science.
- Enhanced teacher confidence in incorporating technology into lesson plans.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to NoBarriers for their visionary support. This donation has not only upgraded our technology but also revitalized our teaching methods and student outcomes. We did not only benefit from the updates of the 30 laptops, they also support the school with the Xerox printer, Beam board, projectors and the installation of solar system to power the administration block and the computer laboratory. From the day of installation up to now, we didn't experience any power cuts.

As we continue to empower our students with modern educational tools, we envision:

1. Improved pass rates in national examinations.
2. Increased digital literacy and competitiveness in the job market.
3. A brighter future for Muzarabani's youth, equipped to drive positive change in their communities.

Teaching at Muzarabani High School has taught me resilience and creativity in the face of adversity. The generosity of NoBarriers has reignited our passion for education, demonstrating that even in rural settings, technology can bridge gaps and unlock potential."



NETTY MATAVIRE, ICT TEACHER, MUZARABANI HIGH SCHOOL 29 OCTOBER 2024.

Despite these successes, the gap at Hwata remains wide. To ensure these students have the same opportunities, NoBarriers is working to provide 10 reconditioned laptops by early 2025. Each laptop, costing USD 385, will enable students to access IT classes, sit for exams, and acquire the skills they need to thrive. However, the school requires 25 additional laptops to ensure comprehensive access for all students.

DONATE NOW

QUIZ NIGHT SUCCESS - AUGUST 2024

On Friday, 2 August 2024, NoBarriers hosted a highly successful Quiz Night at the Fullarton Park Community Centre. The event brought together 146 guests, forming 17 lively teams, to enjoy an evening of trivia, community spirit, and fundraising. Thanks to the incredible support of attendees, the evening raised a net profit of \$7,518, which will directly support our programs in Zimbabwe.

The feedback from guests was overwhelmingly positive, with many attendees praising the event's organisation and atmosphere. Given its success, we are thrilled to announce that we plan to host another Quiz Night in August 2025. Stay tuned for more details as we build on this wonderful tradition!

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our business sponsors for their generosity and support in making this event possible:



Your contributions have played a vital role in the success of this event and in helping NoBarriers continue its mission of breaking barriers to education.



PHOTOGRAPHS OF QUIZ NIGHT PARTICIPANTS, SEE OUR [FACEBOOK PAGE](#) FOR MORE.



GRADUATION OF CLASS OF 2020 - 4 YEARS OF NOBARRIERS SUPPORT

This year, we celebrate a significant milestone: the graduation of the Class of 2020. These 150 students represent a "generation" supported by NoBarriers throughout their secondary schooling.

Over the past four years, they have benefited from:

- **School Meals:** Daily, nutritious meals provided throughout their schooling, ensuring they had the energy to focus and learn.
- **School Fees Assistance:** Support to cover fees, removing a significant barrier to access and continuity in education.
- **Menstrual and Sexual Health Education:** Workshops and resources empowering students, particularly girls, to manage their health and remain engaged in their studies.

- **Bicycle Distribution:** Bicycles for students living far from school, significantly reducing commute times and improving attendance and punctuality.

These initiatives, alongside major improvements to school infrastructure and learning equipment, have equipped these students with the tools they need for a brighter future.

Congratulations to the Class of 2020!

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The holiday season is a wonderful time to get involved with NoBarriers! Here are a few ways you can support our mission:

1. **Give the Gift of Education:** Consider donating in honour of a loved one this gift-giving season. We'll send them a special acknowledgment of your generosity.
2. **Become a Monthly Donor:** By setting up a recurring donation, you provide ongoing support that helps us plan and sustain our programs throughout the year.
3. **Volunteer:** We're always looking for passionate individuals to help with communications, event planning, and community outreach.
4. **Host a Fundraiser:** Organise a gathering with friends and encourage them to support NoBarriers. We'll help with materials and create a custom donation page for your event.

Thank you once again for your invaluable support, and warmest wishes for a joyful holiday season. We look forward to continuing this journey with you in 2025!

Our endeavors would not be achievable without the generous support of our donors and partners.



Susan Pierce Charity Fund



Name: No Barriers Education Foundation
 BSB: 065-115
 Account: 1048-8995
 For all EFTs, please email notice of transfer to
 admin@nobarriers.org.au to receive a tax receipt