

World Bicycle Relief & No Barriers Education Foundation – Joint Bicycle Initiative

Case Studies of Bicycle Recipients

Mashonaland Central Secondary Schools

Kelly, Muzarabani High School

My name is Kelly. I am 14 years old. I'm now in Form 2 at Muzarabani High School.

I live at Boore village, which is a long way away from Muzarabani High. The distance is 14 kilometers. So, every day I had to walk this distance to school. It took me 3 hours of walking and I had to get up very early in the morning. But although I got up very early, I often arrived at school after classes had started. I also always felt very tired during lessons. All this made it difficult to keep up with my studies and I worried about my grades. When walking home after school, often it was getting dark and I didn't like walking alone in the dark.

Last October, I became recipient of a bike distributed by No Barriers Education Foundation. I'm very happy to have this bike. Now it takes me not even 1 hour to



ride to school. I'm now one of the first students to arrive at school. I no longer arrive late in the morning for classes. I feel I'm improving in my studies and I hope I will have better grades this year. Now, after school, I have time to play with my girlfriends and I still get home during daylight. On weekends I sometimes use the bike to meet up with my friends and also to participate in sports.

Since I have the bike, I have more time for studying and doing homework, but also more time to play.



Cathrine D, Hwata Secondary School

I am Cathrine D, doing Form 3 at Hwata Secondary School. I'm 15 years old and I live in a small village, which is 10km away from the school.

I used to wake up at 3am, do my chores and prepare for school. I then had to walk the 10 kilometers, which took me two and a half hours. I always arrived late at school and I missed lessons. I sometimes fell asleep during classes because I was so tired and because it is always so hot here.

A few months ago, I received a bike when NoBarriers distributed them at Hwata Secondary. Now, I only need to wake up at 5am.

I still do my chores and then I cycle to school. It takes me about 30-40 minutes. I now arrive at school on time and I no longer fall asleep during classes. I hope this will help to improve my grades. Nowadays, I come home much earlier and there is still daylight to do homework.

I now feel confident that I will do much better at school. I hope that I will be able to have good enough results to go to college and to study to become a nurse.

Shimura, Muzarabani High School



I am Shimura. I'm 14 years old and doing Form 2 at Muzarabani High school.

Muzarabani area is very hot. The distance from my home to the school is 10 kilometers. Walking this distance is very tiresome, especially because of the heat. Because I had to wake up very early, I always felt tired throughout the day. Most days, I got home from school when it's already dark. I then used our only solar light to wash my uniform. But the solar never lasted long enough to let me study after I finished with washing the uniform..

Since I got a bike my situation has changed so much: I now arrive for lessons on time, I don't feel tired, I come home when there is daylight, and I now have time to help my parents with chores and I still can do my homework before it gets dark.

Melissa, Hwata Secondary School

My name is Melissa and I'm a Form 4 student at Hwata Secondary School. I live in Kapembere Village. From there it is 8km from school.

When walking it took me 2 hours to get from home to school. And then in the afternoon another two hours to get home. Walking 4 hours every day is tiresome. I always felt so tired – too tired to study, too tired to do my chores. I did not want to spend time with my friends after school, all I wanted was to get home and to rest.

I'm very happy that I received a bike late last year. It makes such a difference: I now arrive at school an hour before class starts. I use this time to study and I can already see that my grades are improving. I want to get good grades in my O-level exams, so that I can continue studying for A-level. Because I want to go to university and to become a pilot one day.

I take well care of my bike, because it is so important to me.



Stanley, Hwata Secondary School

My name is Stanley, I am 18 years old and I'm doing Form 4 at Hwata Secondary School.

I received a bike 4 months ago because I used to come to school late and missed some classes. And I always arrived home late after school. This was because of the long distance between my village and school. I live 11km from school.

I had to walk 2 hours and 30 minutes to get to school and another 2 hours and 30 minutes to get home. 5 hours each day walking. There was no time to study, no time to help my mother at home or do anything else.

Since I received the bike I get to school on time and I do not miss any days going to school. I have time to study and to do my homework. My grades will improve. I want to continue studying for A-levels and then go to university to become a lawyer.



Case study data collection:

- **Method:** case studies were collected during conversation with students; students largely volunteered “their story”; follow-up questions were used to clarify details such as distance, time taken to travel to school.
- **Date:** 2 and 3 February 2023
- **Location:** on the campuses of Muzarabani High and Hwata Secondary School.
- **Interviewer:** Sigrid Pfaffle, No Barriers Education Foundation (admin@nobarriers.org.au)
- **Language:** English & Shona; Shona was used for students who did not feel comfortable / competent conducting interviews in English
- **Translator:** Clayton Kanda
- **Photographer:** Clayton Kanda

Prepared, 10 March 2023, by:

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