

2025 - NoBarriers' 5th year, a tough year! But we reliably helped kids in rural Zimbabwe to overcome barriers to their education - your support made it possible.

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## December Newsletter 15 December 2025



### 2025 - Our 5th Year and What a Year it Was!

Dear ,

The start of 2025 was marked by the withdrawal of USAID as a key global funding source. In Zimbabwe, this meant emergency food assistance was drastically cut while the country continued to struggle with drought.

For No Barriers Education Foundation, this meant the food supplies we deliver to our partner schools at the start of each term were more important than ever: The cooked meal served at lunchtime was for many kids the only substantial meal they had all day. So, despite very high prices, we delivered 18 tonnes of maize, 1.2 tonnes of beans and 450 litres of cooking oil – sufficient for the preparation of 125,000 meals.



We also persisted with our menstrual & sexual health program to provide all girls with proper period products and to equip - girls and boys alike - to deal with the challenges of sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Thanks to our successful *Ride for Bikes* fundraiser in April, we could deliver another 90 bikes to students who live far from school. And we supported 92 children from vulnerable families with fees so they could attend school and sit their exams. Schools' learning environment continued to improve as we supplied more textbooks and laptops and classroom furniture (desks & benches).

In October, when I visited the schools, I observed the positive impact this assistance makes to the communities at Muzarabani High and Hwata Secondary:



Pupils are energetic showing confidence, which didn't exist a few years ago and, most importantly, they actively engage in class.

Teachers are confidently using modern teaching equipment and enjoying the benefits of solar power and internet connectivity brought to their remote location.

All this was made possible thanks to your generous support. This support is changing the lives of 600 students, their parents and 35 teachers with their families. They asked me to thank you on their behalf.

So, a BIG THANK YOU, from the school communities of Muzarabani High and Hwata Secondary, and from all of us at No Barriers Education Foundation.





## School Visit, Oct 25: What Comes After Graduation?

When visiting the schools, headmasters and teachers were proud to state the progress made in students overcoming barriers to education: More students are enrolled. They attend school more regularly, and their grades have improved (O-level examination pass rate has tripled over 5 years).

However, around 80% of school leavers have not progressed to further education or found paid employment within 1-2 years after graduating. The key reasons for this are: 1) families cannot afford college fees and living away expenses; 2) School leavers lack practical skills leaving them unemployed and unable to pursue small income generating projects.

I then had many meetings with a broad range of stakeholders - Dept. of Education, training providers, teachers, school leavers, their parents, NoBarriers local team members - to research this. And it clearly emerged that vocational / practical skill training is very much needed, but not accessible for the vast majority of local youth.



To deliver on NoBarriers' mission, which includes "*creating opportunities for youth to thrive*", we decided to now also foster vocational training opportunities. We are currently looking closely at a few initiatives and hopefully, we can report more on these in 2026.



## Equipping Girls for Life After School = Sustainable Menstrual Health

In September, our partner Sanitary Aid Zimbabwe visited the schools for the 2nd time this year. Focus of this visit were sewing workshops for 54 girls in their final year at school. All girls received a sewing kit with all materials and tools needed to make over 20 pads.

With this kit plus the practical skills they learned, these girls are now well equipped to take care of their lifelong period needs.



They join 235 young women, who we assisted to acquire these skills in recent years.

Nurses from the local primary health clinics joined the visit and in separate workshops, attended by all boys and girls, reinforced responsible sexual behaviour and attitudes.



## Local Zimbabwean Authorities Welcoming NoBarriers' Support

All authorities responsible for the Muzarabani District and for any NGOs operating in the District are located in Centenary, about 1 hour drive away from the schools. Because of this distance, and authorities having to service a large rural district, they not always felt well informed of NoBarriers' work at the schools.

To address this, NoBarriers Country Director, Langton Nyasha, in partnership with both schools, organised in early September an event at Muzarabani High to showcase our work and particularly, to display the classroom furniture and bikes



delivered a couple of months earlier. The event was attended by some 20 representatives from 5 district authorities, local community members plus teachers and students from both schools. The representatives of several authorities spoke at the event, praising NoBarriers' contribution to the education of local children.

Despite the considerable effort it took, Langton and the schools to organise the event, we believe it helped authorities to better understand our work.



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## Save the Date: Ride for Bikes-2026, Sun, 19 April

📌 **What:** 50km Cycling Fundraiser

📌 **Where:** Old Noarlunga / McLaren Vale area, South Australia

📌 **Further information:** please contact Eddie (M: 0412 417666) or email [admin@nobarriers.org.au](mailto:admin@nobarriers.org.au)

Join us for a fun morning of cycling, BBQ, socialising & helping kids in Zimbabwe "to get on their bikes" 🚲 🚲 🚲

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## Meaningful Christmas Giving: The Gift of Education

Are you struggling for ideas of what to buy for family or friends this coming Christmas? Have you, your family members or friends most of the material things one needs? Are you looking for ethical, meaningful gifts?

If you said "YES" to anyone of the above, please consider making the gift of education? Just select an "educational item" from our catalogue and donate

accordingly. We'll send you a gift card (*plus a receipt for your tax-deductible donation*).

## Christmas Gift Catalogue - Donations

Thank you for your interest in our work and for all you've already made possible. If you like to do more, please use the button below.

[Donate](#)

Best wishes for a joyful holiday season. We look forward to continuing this journey with you in 2026!

Warm regards,

**Sigrid Pfaffle**

*Managing Director, No Barriers Education Foundation*

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