

2021 ZIMBABWE IMPACT REPORT



DEAR FRIENDS

Zimbabwe continued to face serious COVID-19 restrictions in 2021 with the first two months in total lockdown and on-going restrictions on inter-city travel for most of the year. Despite these challenges, we managed to distribute a total of 25,731 Buffalo Bicycles in Zimbabwe this year.

Some highlights of the year include:

- In its second year, our Mobilized Communities pilot in Hwange (working with local partner Greenline Africa) distributed a further 1,200 Bicycles to program participants in the education, health, environment/conservation, traditional authority, and livelihood sectors. We launched a second Mobilized Communities program in the Chiredzi district where we distributed 3,640 Buffalo Bicycles in four wards.
- Program participants from our Hwange Mobilized Communities program were profiled in World Bicycle Relief’s global Year End Campaign, “Communities on the Move”. This campaign highlights the life-changing effects the program has for the community.
- Deepening our work in conservation and the environment, we partnered with Anti-Poaching Tracking Specialists (ATS) in the Savé Valley Conservancy - one of the largest private wildlife sanctuaries in Africa - providing Buffalo Bicycles for 56 rangers.
- Under our social enterprise arm, UNICEF ordered 10,638 Buffalo Bicycles for their program with the Ministry of Health. These bicycles went to community health workers who focus on COVID-19 mitigation in their communities.
- We exported bicycles to Mozambique for the first time for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded Efficiencies for Clinical HIV Outcomes (ECHO) program. This experience will greatly enhance our ability to supply bicycles into neighboring countries in the future.
- We opened an additional Buffalo Bicycles shop in Marondera. This brings our shop network to a total of 12 shops.

For the year ahead we look forward to expanding both Mobilized Communities programs and to broaden our partnerships in those focus geographies. We look to grow our shop network to ensure a steady supply of spare parts and bicycles across the country, and to further optimize our operations.

We wish to thank our donors, supporters and customers for their continued support in 2021. With your support we are able to ensure that more people have access to reliable transportation, allowing them to thrive through the power of bicycles.








Gareth Desmond

Gareth Desmond
Country Director
World Bicycle Relief: Zimbabwe

OUR IMPACT IN ZIMBABWE
WHERE WE WORKED IN 2021



		2021	TOTAL TO DATE
	TOTAL BICYCLES DISTRIBUTED	24,353	161,735
	PROGRAM BICYCLES	5,040	54,237
	SOCIAL ENTERPRISE	19,313	107,498
	MECHANICS TRAINED	43	869
	SHOPS OPENED	1	11

OUR GLOBAL IMPACT TO DATE (2021)


635,478
TOTAL BICYCLES
DISTRIBUTED


260,262
WBR PROGRAM
BICYCLES


375,216
SOCIAL ENTERPRISE
BICYCLES


2,680
MECHANICS
TRAINED

MOBILIZED COMMUNITIES

CHIREDDI DISTRICT

In our baseline survey, although over half of the Mobilized Communities participants reported that they are in some form of employment, the majority of these are "working poor". Their employment is not necessarily sufficient to allow them to live above the country's national poverty threshold and their jobs would typically be precarious or poorly paid, with little or no job security. A bicycle is a tool that can help individuals access better opportunities, improve their productivity, and diversify their revenue streams.

CHIREDDI BASELINE SUMMARY

48%

HAVE NO FORM OF
EMPLOYMENT

82%

REPORT A LACK OF
TRANSPORT AFFECTS THEIR
DECISION TO TRAVEL OUTSIDE
OF THEIR VILLAGE

26%

REPORT DISTANCE AND LACK OF
TRANSPORT AS A CHALLENGE
TO ACCESSING WATER

80%

TRAVEL AT LEAST ONE HOUR
(ONE WAY) TO THE NEAREST
HEALTH FACILITY

37%

HOLD VOLUNTEER POSITIONS
IN THEIR COMMUNITY

The baseline survey was conducted in November
2021 and included 203 participants

WHAT IS 'MOBILIZED COMMUNITIES'?

An evolution of World Bicycle Relief's work since 2005, the Mobilized Communities model drives sustainable bicycle use through community-led programming to improve rural access to health, education, conservation, and livelihoods. In partnership with communities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), governments and the private sector, targeted regions benefit from an infusion of quality bicycles, programming and mechanic training.

With widespread access to reliable transportation, individuals within these communities can begin to lift themselves out of poverty by increasing productivity, income and access to education and healthcare. Women and girls, in particular, whose empowerment is essential for community wellbeing, are prioritized under the Mobilized Communities model.

WHY CHIREDDI?

The Chiredzi district is located in southeastern Zimbabwe, approximately 432 km south of the capital Harare. Chiredzi was chosen as the area for our second multi-year program Mobilized Communities site due to World Bicycle Relief's existing footprint in the area, with the successful implementation of our Bicycles for Educational Empowerment Program (BEEP) in several schools, and the demand for Buffalo Bicycles through our local shop. Chiredzi is a district that is well known for its sugar cane production. There is also a big focus on wildlife conservation in the area, allowing us to work across a number of sectors. The area has an established culture of bicycle usage and would benefit from an infusion of quality bicycles to help rural community members access education, essential services, and economic opportunities. In 2021, World Bicycle Relief partnered with the Chiredzi Rural District Council, Save Valley Conservancy, local schools and the community in four wards in Chiredzi District.

THE ROAD TO BETTER OPPORTUNITIES

Dorcas Chisasa lives with her husband and child in Ndali village in the Chiredzi district of Zimbabwe. She is a small-scale chicken farmer, buying chicks and rearing them for resale once they are fully-grown. She started her business in 2019 after training with the Ministry of Youth who ran a program to help people in rural areas diversify their livelihoods activities and revenue streams. Dorcas is also a member of a local women’s saving group.

“Poultry production is the main source of income for most of the youths in my area, so I have stiff competition,” says Dorcas. “For me to get more customers and more profits, I have to travel more than 25 km [one way]. I usually board a bus or hire my neighbor’s car in order to sell these chickens.”

Dorcas was paying close to US\$30 a month for transportation and for two workers to assist her. She was constantly looking at ways to minimize her costs to ensure that they did not cut into her tight profit margins. Due to the small local customer base, the restrictions that she experienced due to transport costs, and the competitive market, Dorcas would rear between 20 to 30 chicks at a time.

In 2021, Dorcas received a Buffalo Bicycle as part of World Bicycle Relief’s Mobilized Communities program in her area. The community-led program is aimed at helping livelihood groups increase their income by providing an affordable form of transportation to support their business initiatives.

“This bike has changed my life beyond measure,” says Dorcas. “Having an easy way of getting around with the Buffalo Bicycle has improved the growth of my business and my income. I use my bike to advertise and deliver my chickens to new customers in further away areas. I have increased the number of chicks from 30 to 100 chicks because I have increased the number of customers.”

Since receiving the bicycle, Dorcas has also expanded her business to include the resale of bream and mackerel fish that she sources locally and transports to markets further from her village. When she is very busy, she contracts other unemployed youths in her village to help her, and they also use bicycles to deliver the chickens and fish.

“My greatest desire is to bring change to people surrounding me. In a few years, I want to be able to employ many youths in my area. I want to invest in an incubator so that I can breed my own chicks, and I want to create a brand name for my business. Who knows: maybe one day I will be a prominent business-lady.”



MAKING IN-ROADS IN MOZAMBIQUE

In 2021, 1,337 Buffalo Bicycles were distributed to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded Efficiencies for Clinical HIV Outcomes (ECHO) program in Mozambique. The bicycles were used in the ECHO program to improve the efficiency of health workers in reaching rural clients. Along with the sale, World Bicycle Relief provided technical advisory services including programmatic and mechanic training through online conferencing and training videos. As technical advisers we help organizations build mobility into their programs and advise on how to best structure and manage community-led programs. This exercise has also built our capacity to export to neighboring countries.

HELPING PRESERVE WILDLIFE POPULATIONS IN SAVE VALLEY



To expand its work in conservation and environment, World Bicycle Relief provided 56 Buffalo Bicycles to Anti-poaching Tracking Specialists (ATS) and Special Species Protection Unit (SSPU) rangers in Zimbabwe’s Savé Valley Conservancy. Savé Valley is a critical stronghold for rhino and one of the largest private wildlife sanctuaries in Africa. ATS is an award-winning rhino protection, anti-poaching and illegal wildlife anti-tracking, wildlife conservation and security organization. The ATS rangers cover over 2,500 kms² to protect rhino, elephant, pangolin, painted dog, cheetah, lion, sable, python, ground hornbills, lappet-facet vulture, and more, with the help and support of a successful and thriving K9 (dog) unit.

“We are very grateful for the use of the Buffalo Bicycles provided by World Bicycle Relief. Here in the Savé Valley Conservancy, ATS and the rangers are able to move about between their work areas much quicker, the bikes hugely assist with fitness, K9 training and support the different elements essential to the everyday work of rhino protection,” says Bryce Clemence, Director of Anti-Poaching Tracking Specialists (ATS).

EXPANDING OUR REACH THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

In 2021, UNICEF ordered 10,638 Buffalo Bicycles for their program with the Ministry of Health and Child Care. The bicycles were distributed to community health workers to assist them with their outreach in their communities. In rural areas, community health workers have been playing a vital role in the dissemination of vital information relating to COVID-19. They also provide basic health services, education, and medication, and test against diseases such as malaria.

A LONG-LASTING ASSET



Tsitsi (11) is a student from Chiredzi district. Her parents are subsistence farmers, doing what they can to support their family. Life is difficult for Tsitsi’s family, and the village where they live is very remote with very little access to transport. No bus services run in the area and there are very few scotch (donkey) carts in the community. Tsitsi’s school is 6km from home, and the only option she has to get to school is to walk for an hour and a half (one way) each day.

“I would normally wake up as early as 4am to prepare for school because it is a far walk,” says Tsitsi. “Our area is very hot and walking this long distance with the high temperatures meant I would reach school sweating and extremely tired. It was hard to concentrate during my lessons.”

“During the rainy season or winter I was not motivated to go to school and would fake sickness or abscond. Despite me waking up so early it was always impossible for me to catch up with the school bell for my first lesson. At times I was tempted to rather go back home than get to school late.”

In 2021, Tsitsi was selected as a participant in World Bicycle Relief’s Mobilized Communities program at her school. This program looks to help school students who live far away from their school, prioritizing female students, reach school more easily.

Before the bicycle, Tsitsi would often get home after the sun had already set. She found it challenging to do other activities like homework or studying and her household chores as she was too tired. Since receiving a bicycle, Tsitsi says that she can safely get to school in approximately 30 minutes and this helps her avoid spending as much time on the road in the heat of the day.

Tsitsi’s class teacher, Mr. Tawanda Mafuwa, said that with the bicycle she had greatly improved her daily attendance from the previous term, and her participation in class was improving tremendously. *“Tsitsi comes from a poor family but she is one of our bright students. In the past she had shown less commitment due to her challenges with distance. But we do not doubt her potential. We are also very grateful for this program at our school as it helps our children,” says Mr. Mafuwa.*

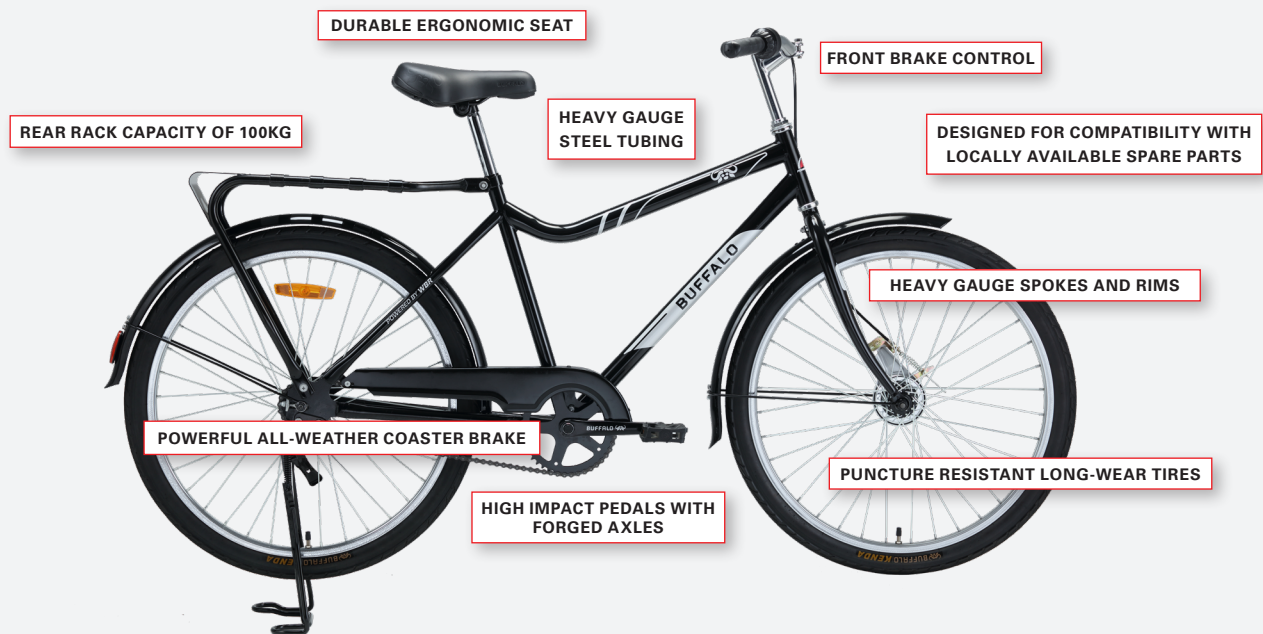
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Designed to be stronger, simpler, and more sustainable than other bikes



Buffalo Bicycles Ltd. is a for-profit subsidiary of World Bicycle Relief that sells bicycles to consumers and institutions across Africa and Colombia. Profits help fund our programs, providing bicycles for those who cannot afford to buy them, including rural students, farmers and volunteer health workers.

The Buffalo Bicycle, the result of over ten years of product development, is a new category of high-quality yet affordable bicycles created specifically to withstand rugged terrain and harsh climate conditions, based on the needs and preferences of the women, men, and children who ride it.



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