

Tariro: Hope & Health for Zimbabwe's Orphans



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Our mission

To educate and empower girls and young women affected by HIV/AIDS and socioeconomic challenges in Zimbabwe

Our vision

Tariro sees education as a basic human right, which should be available to all children regardless of socioeconomic status. By working with girls and young women in communities affected by HIV/AIDS, Tariro seeks to meet the challenge of ensuring that even the most vulnerable Zimbabwean children have access to education. We believe in leaving no one behind.

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT 2021

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure and honor that I write to you and present Tariro's 2021 Annual Report which highlights some of the important accomplishments of the last year, as well as some of our priorities for the future.

When I wrote to you last year at this time, we all had the highest hopes that 2021 would see the end of the COVID-19 pandemic. Those hopes weren't realized unfortunately and Tariro's girls' education continued to be jeopardized by school closures, economic hardship, and the constant threats to their health and well-being.

WHAT HAS GOTTEN US ALL THROUGH 2021?

In Shona, 'nepo' means resiliency and 'tariro' means hope.

Tariro brings hope and resiliency to Zimbabwe's orphans.

We have all learned the importance of resiliency and hope. 'Tariro' and 'nepo' have allowed our girls and, in fact, the entire organization of Tariro to soldier on through great uncertainty. We are extremely grateful to our staff who are on the ground, leading the girls and us all with calm and strength. Tatenda.

We are also extremely grateful to all our funders and donors who have continued with their great faith and trust in our mission. We are proud to report that our registry of girls has seen very few, if any "drop-outs" throughout the pandemic. A small handful of girls have chosen to repeat their grades or rewrite exams, as they were feeling uncertain about their abilities to achieve their best test results due to school closures.

I want to say thank you as well to my fellow board members for their commitment and hard work. Their creativity and dedication made sure the girls had the support they needed to stay connected to their education, their families and communities. Tariro ensured that they had food staples when the stores were closed, sanitary napkins, and occasionally, just a chance to see the smiling eyes of their Tariro friends behind those face masks.

In 2021, we made the decision to expand our team on the ground to include a part-time academic advisor, Perseverance Mazhindu to help to ensure that the changing educational needs of the girls are met, even in times of great uncertainty. Persy joins our executive coordinator, Simba Kanyimo, our musical director, Daniel Sinyoro, and our social worker, Vera Goteka, in striving to achieve our mission to educate and empower girls and young women affected by HIV/AIDS and socioeconomic challenges in Zimbabwe. Our plans for 2022 are focused on continuing to provide holistic and meaningful educational and psychosocial support for our girls.

With the Omicron variant of COVID-19 on the wane, the schools are set to reopen in a couple of weeks, and we are optimistic that classes will resume, and the girls can achieve their best potential. Meanwhile, online and “blended” in-person learning is likely the way of the future. That said, Tariro deeply understands and values the experience of in-person learning as it builds all sides of the psychosocial and educational needs of the child.

Please be sure to be in touch if you have any questions about Tariro. We would love to hear from you. I hope you enjoy reading about Tariro’s and from everyone here, we wish you all the best in 2022. Here is to a healthy and successful year. Many thanks to you all.

Warmest wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barb Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barb Roberts

PRESIDENT, INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

ZIMBABWE TODAY

Today in Zimbabwe, citizens are suffering under staggering inflation, regular electricity and water shortages, a failing currency and limited sources of livelihood. COVID-19 has made the situation worse. According to a [World Bank report](#), the latest economic analysis for Zimbabwe says the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts disrupted livelihoods, expanding the number of extremely poor citizens by 1.3 million, and increasing extreme poverty overall to 49%. The report also notes that the pandemic also put pressure on strained public resources, exacerbating implementation challenges, and severely affecting service delivery in health, education, and social protection.

By the end of 2021, 1.6 billion learners worldwide had been affected by school closures and now risk losing 17 trillion USD in lifetime earnings as a result, according to [a joint report](#) by World Bank, UNESCO, and UNICEF. Since schools closed in late March 2020, the number of reported cases of Gender Based Violence (GBV) against girls has more than doubled. Only a third of survivors are receiving appropriate health and psychosocial services. Far fewer ever see justice. For most, it is the end of their education. The aftershocks of COVID-19 in Zimbabwe are significantly threatening recent gains made in Girls' Education. The education system in Zimbabwe was already stretched before the COVID-19 pandemic as a result of multiple crises, including the impact of Cyclone Idai in 2019, the economic crisis, climate-induced drought and food shortages. The COVID-19 epidemic has interrupted teaching and learning for students.

The epidemic poses great risks to the nutritional status of children from poor households, violence among children from fragile families and mental well-being among both children and teachers. Without a conducive and disease-free school environment, COVID-19 poses a risk to children's health and wellbeing. Further, there is increased risk of permanent drop-out among children with pre-existing vulnerabilities, especially children with disabilities and girls. Given that the education sector was already beset with persistent disparities in educational opportunities between children of different gender, socio-economic status, disability status, orphan-hood status, and demographic groups. Without a well-resourced response, these disparities are likely to widen.

As schools across the country closed in response to the lockdown measures, there was a shift to remote learning, however, access to remote learning was limited, especially for poor households. Remote learning in Zimbabwe is not without its challenges: poor access to networks, devices and instructors meant many students were denied access to remote learning. Where students have access to the internet, the cost of internet data is prohibitive that many cannot afford. COVID-19 changed education for learners of all ages. There were educational losses at many levels and there was increased anxiety and depression associated with the changes amongst students, their guardians, and communities. Long durations of isolation and disruption of normal lives have led to feelings of nervousness, irritability, depression, and anxiousness. The COVID-19 pandemic and the social restrictions imposed due to it, have no doubt impacted social lives significantly along with the mental health of individuals.

In 2021, Zimbabwe experienced increasing rates of school dropouts and lower pass rates, particularly amongst girls due to rising rates of early marriage and pregnancy.

TARIRO TODAY: A SNAPSHOT

“The seeds of success in every nation on Earth are best planted in women and children.”

JOYCE BAND

Students from privileged backgrounds, supported by their parents, are eager and able to learn and could find their way past closed school doors to alternative learning opportunities. Those from disadvantaged backgrounds often remained shut out when their schools shut down due to COVID-19 restrictions.

This crisis has exposed the many inadequacies and inequities in our education systems – from access to the broadband and computers needed for online education and the supportive environments that are needed to focus on learning. The lockdowns in response to COVID-19 have interrupted conventional schooling with nationwide school closures.

Tariro means and brings hope to orphaned girls in Zimbabwe

Despite the economic challenges facing Zimbabwe and the effects of COVID-19, in 2021 Tariro continued to provide a comprehensive range of services, including paying students’ school and examination fees, purchasing uniforms, school supplies, and feminine hygiene products and providing textbooks through a lending library. To ensure learning continuity for primary students during the vacations and school closures, 12 primary students (including our Grade 7 students) were brought together and taught by one contracted teacher. Tariro has continued to live to its mission of empowering and educating young women and girls in Harare’s high-density suburbs.

During 2021 Tariro developed and implemented the initial stage of a remote and blended learning strategy with plans for Phase 2 in 2022. Tariro also engaged an Academic Advisor to assist the students with their study plans.

Thanks to your generous and unwavering support, Tariro was able to fully support 55 students in 2021:

- ✓ 33 in secondary school
- ✓ 12 in primary school
- ✓ 10 in tertiary institutions.

To date, Tariro has supported more than 400 students with scholarships and 99% of these students have their Ordinary Level studies. We continue to aim to educate and empower the most vulnerable girls and young women so that they get the targeted support they need to access school, learn, thrive, and then lead the way for others. By sending a girl to school, she is far more likely to ensure that her children also receive an education. As many claim: investing in a girl’s education is investing in a nation.

2021 BY THE NUMBERS

Figure 1: Number of Students Supported by Education Level

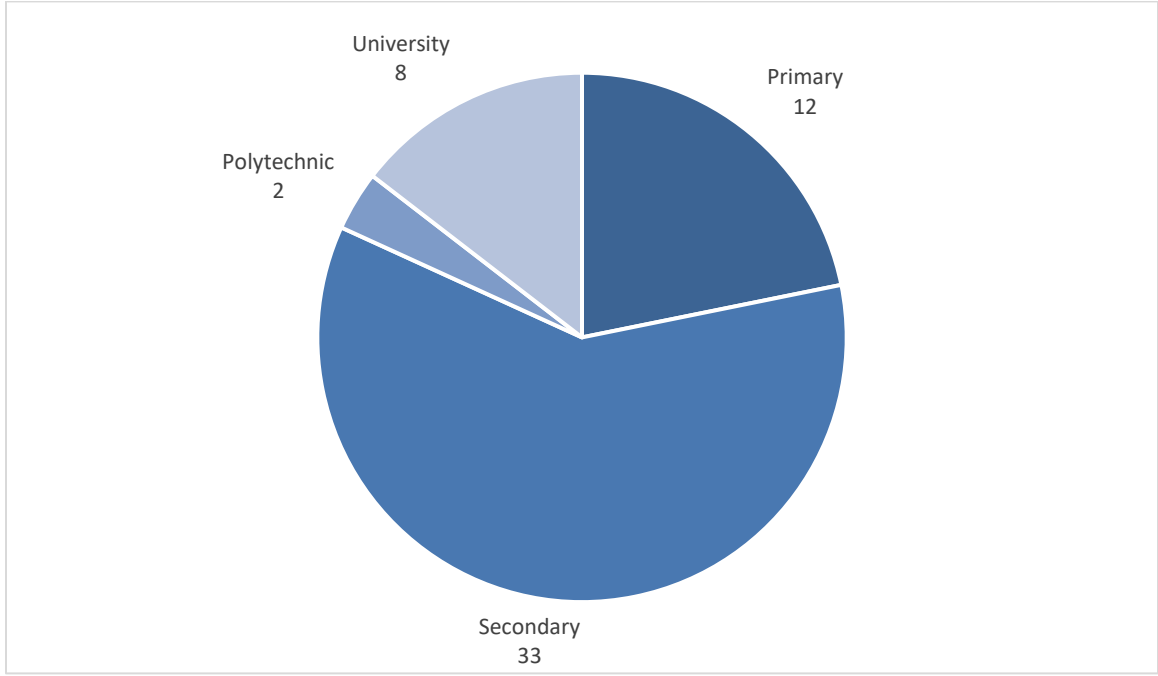
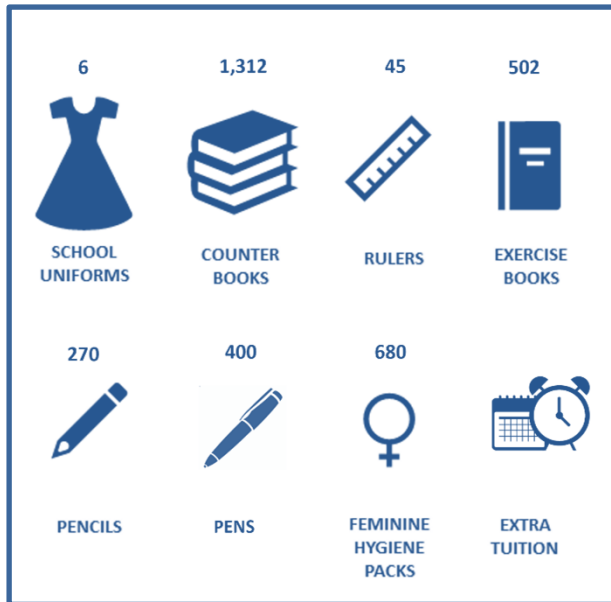
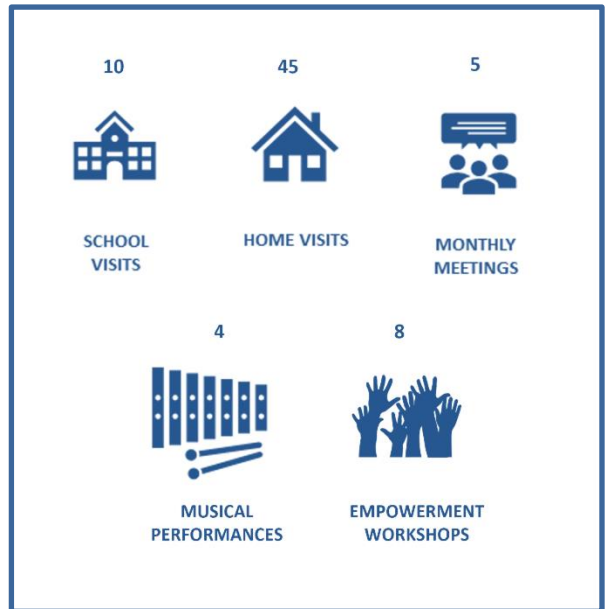


Figure 2: Additional Academic & Psychosocial Support



ACADEMIC SUPPORT



PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

2021 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Income	USD
Grants	29.806,51
Individual Donations	12.338,05
In-Kind Donations (Zimbabwe)	250,00
Fall Fundraising Campaign	2.520,00
Total Income	44.924,56
Expenses	USD
School & Exam Fees	6.700,60
School Supplies	1.761,00
Psychosocial Support	1.088,00
Salaries & Allowances	18.710,00
Administration Costs	5.143,25
Other Costs	2.595,00
Total Expenses	36.797,85
Surplus	8.126,71

Figure 3: Tariro 2021 Income Sources as Percentages

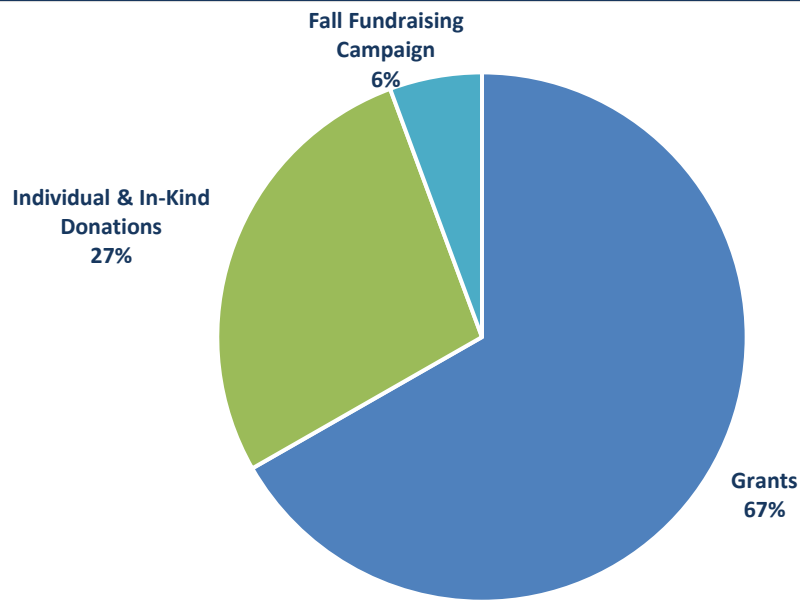
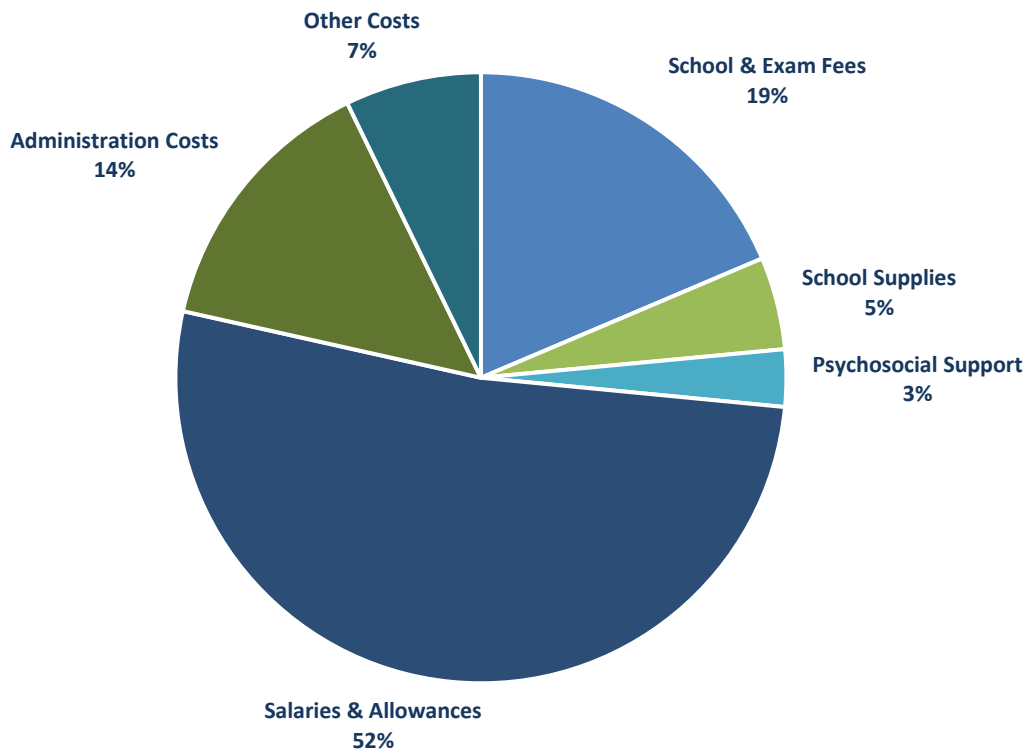


Figure 4: Tariro 2021 Expenses as Percentages



2021 HIGHLIGHTS

Tariro Welcomes a New Staff Member

We welcome Persy Mazhindu to the Tariro team!

In 2021, Tariro had Perseverance Mazhindu join the team as a part-time Academic Advisor. Her primary duty is to support our girls by developing individualized learning plans, encouraging self-directed study, and connecting with teachers to provide extra lessons/ support required.



Perseverance Mazhindu, our Academic Advisor

Primary School Students

During the course of 2021, we were able to increase our outreach in primary schools, supporting a total of twelve students. Two students wrote their Grade 7 final examinations. To ensure learning continuity for primary students during the vacations and school closures, twelve primary students (including our Grade 7 students) were brought together and taught by a contracted teacher, while adhering to strict COVID-19 protocols. This initiative was supported by the US-based Kutsinhira Cultural Arts Center's Zimbabwe Community Development Project and we are very grateful for their support.

Funds permitting, we hope to continue our outreach to more girls in primary school in 2022.

High School Students

This year we had four students who sat for their Advanced Level Examinations – Rufaro M., Jamila R., Rutendo P., and Lonelisher C. We also had seven girls who sat for their Ordinary Level Examinations for the first time while two were rewriting their examinations and these are Vimbai M and Kudzai K. These young women had their grades affected by the school lockdowns during the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the challenges posed by the disruptions to the learning system, we are positive the girls will do well in their examinations.

Twenty other students are in various levels at various schools in Harare’s high-density suburbs. Two girls were given another chance to go back to school after not doing well in their examinations in 2019. The two are due to write their examinations in 2022.

Statement on academic progress

Despite the disruption to the education delivery system, our girls have given it their best. Recent results produced by our A-level students are very pleasing and inspiring. Even those in lower grades are doing remarkably well, as shown by end of term results.

PERSEVERANCE MAZHINDU
Tariro’s Academic Advisor

Tertiary Students

While our primary objective is to ensure that the girls we support at least complete secondary education. Tariro has found it imperative that we support girls who excel through to tertiary education. Despite the challenging social and economic situation that has affected Zimbabwe for many years, Tariro has continued to significantly expand its outreach. We have over the years supported hundreds of marginalized girls in the high-density areas of Harare and continue to provide scholarships for many vulnerable girls. With most of the supported students doing well in high school, Tariro has gone a step further to support its beneficiaries who excel in high school to enroll in tertiary institutions dotted around the country.

Our young women continue to make us proud. This year Morlene graduated from the University of Zimbabwe with a Bachelor of Science in Business Studies majoring in Marketing and has secured a job with CBZ Holdings, one of the largest banks in Zimbabwe. Morlene had her first support from Tariro when she was in Form 1. For ten years (six years of high school and four years of tertiary education). Tariro ensured Morlene’s tuition and accommodation fees were paid on time, had enough school supplies, sanitary pads, and paid for her tuition and accommodations at the University of Zimbabwe.



Morlene on her graduation day

Winston, who is one of three boys we have supported over the years, successfully completed his studies at Midlands State University and is due to graduate this year with a Bachelor of Science Honors degree in Local Governance Management. Winston is son to the late Senzi who was our librarian.

Two of our girls who were enrolled at Harare Polytechnic College have completed their studies and are due to graduate this year. Nicole will graduate with a National Diploma in Electrical Engineering while Gillian will graduate with a National Diploma in Chemical Engineering. We are proud of our young women as they continue to shine for us and we are grateful to our donors for the support.

This year, two of our girls, Prisca and Natasha, enrolled at the University of Zimbabwe. Natasha is studying for a Bachelor of Social Science degree in Industrial Psychology while Prisca is studying for a Bachelor of Science in Medical Analytics and Informatics. Both are four-year degrees.

Our other students currently enrolled at the tertiary level are Tilda and Brenda who are at the Chinhoyi University of Technology. Vimbai is at Midlands State University doing her final year and Bertha is in her final year at the University of Zimbabwe. Vimbai and Bertha are due to graduate in 2022.

We have five potential university students, hoping to be enrolled in tertiary institutions in 2022.

Provision of Psychosocial Support

Over a billion children across the world have been impacted by school closures since the pandemic began, disrupting learning and increasing social vulnerabilities. Without schools functioning in person, children have less protection and experience more human rights violations such as abuse, sexual exploitations, domestic violence, teenage pregnancies and child marriages. Approximately, 1 out of 3 girls in Zimbabwe have dropped out of school due to child marriages and teen pregnancies. Our girls were not spared from this predicament, in 2022, we plan to increase our psychosocial support outreach despite ongoing school closures and the pandemic.

We believe psychosocial support builds internal and external resources for children and their families to cope with adversity. It supports families to provide for children's physical, economic, educational, health, and social needs. Psychosocial support also helps build resiliency in children. All children need psychosocial support for their psychological and emotional wellbeing and physical and mental development.

Statement on the impact of Covid-19 on girls' wellbeing

COVID-19 brought untold suffering to the general populace in the high-density suburbs of Zimbabwe. The majority of women and girls in high-density suburbs are very poor to such an extent that affording three meals a day is unheard of. Informal trading proved to be their way of life and a means to an end. Their life is hinged on selling produce like tomatoes, onions, airtime, firewood, sweets, second-hand clothes, etc. COVID-19 lockdown halted this line of business and left dozens of women blindfolded and clueless in terms of their need to provide for their families. To women and girls, this virus proved to be a double tragedy in their lives as they faced rampant food shortages, halted livelihood activities, a general rise of gender-based violence as well as high crime rates where they were the immediate victims. Witnessing their parents/guardians failing to provide food affects the girl's mental health and as a result, affects their academic performance. With schools being closed, this resulted in school-going children being out of school and witnessing this double tragedy. This caused grave mental health problems among girls and women. In this regard, there was a high possibility of a lot of girls falling pregnant between the years 2020 and 2021 as a way to deal with these life stressors. Our girls were not spared as two of Tariro's girls got pregnant in the year 2021, and we are trying to support these girls as best we can.

VERA GOTEKA
Tariro's Social Worker

A *WhatsApp* group for guidance and counseling sessions was formed in 2021 and was coordinated by our Social Worker and Academic Advisor. The platform has provided a room for the girls to express themselves fully and get assistance.

Besides guidance and counseling sessions, home visits also played a pivotal role in delivering psychosocial support to our girls. Our staff carried out several home visits and we stuck to COVID-19 regulations – social distancing, masking up and sanitization. Home visits are an integral part of Tariro as

they foster good engagement with our girls and guardians. They also offer a broad, yet intimate, view of our girls lives and help in understanding the child in her environment.

Limited visits were made to the schools in 2021 as schools restricted visitors to the schools.



Vera, our social worker, paying a home visit

Traditional Music and Dance Ensemble

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our music and dance group had only a few public performances. For their first show, the girls performed at the national Independence Day celebrations held at Girls High School, which was hosted by the head of state. For the second performance, the girls performed at a culture night at one of the schools as part of Africa Day celebrations. Finally, the girls took part in an online festival held by Let Them Trust, as part of a cultural exchange program.



The Music and Dance Ensemble performing at Star Leadership Academy, Chishawasha

This year the girls also had an opportunity to learn how to play mbira. Special gratitude goes to our co-founder Jennnifer Kyker for purchasing the mbira. The girls had a mbira learning session with renowned mbira player and maker, Chingodza Musekiwa, who took them through the paces.

Statement on the importance of Tariro's music & dance ensemble

Dance is important for the girls as we will be teaching them our traditional dances so that they know their own culture.

We also teach them traditional dance and music so that we give them life skills, which can help them become professional musicians and dancers. Here in Zimbabwe, you are able to get a job in the National Army, the Republic Police, the Airforce, to name a few. This year, we introduced mbira music in our activities as a lot of people have succeeded in life by playing mbira and traditional dances.

DANIEL SINYORO

Tariro's Music & Dance Ensemble Director

We hope the ensemble will resume live performances in 2022 and funds permitting, we hope to purchase a new set of marimba for the group.



The Music and Dance Ensemble performing at Chembira Primary School

Special Activities in 2021

Kites for Peace Workshop

Our girls joined the world in celebrating the International Day of Peace on the 21st of September, 2021. As part of the celebrations, we held a Kite for Peace workshop where our girls' made kites and had discussions on what peace means to them. The workshop was part of a Zimbabwe Cares Network initiative. The Kites for Peace movement's focus is on inspiring joy, peace and hope through the simple, forgotten act of kite flying with loved ones. They believe that recreational activities, such as kite flying, help individuals find their inner peace which makes for more peaceful communities, peaceful nations and a peaceful world. In flying the kites, the girls pledged to respect all life, reject violence, promote goodwill, uplift others, and preserve the planet. This workshop empowered our girls to make their own kites out of things they have around them. It also taught them innovation and promoted waste recycling.



Our girls flying their handmade Kites for Peace

Awareness Campaign: Knowledge on Constitutional and Women's Human Rights

In 2021 we embarked on an awareness campaign that sought to capacitate the girl child and young women with the requisite knowledge on the constitution and to build their capacity to demand their constitutional rights. These sessions were facilitated by Rumbidzayi Lucy Chivasa, a renowned

Zimbabwean advocate for human rights. Our sincere and heartfelt gratitude to Moreblessing Mushowe for sourcing support from the Cornell University in the United States to fund the initiative.



Rue Lucy Chivasa facilitating an awareness campaign on Constitutional Rights

Fundraising Initiatives

In 2021, nearly a third of funds raised to fund our initiatives were funds donated by individual donors dotted around the world; however most live within the United States. Some are people who are lovers of Zimbabwean music and culture but all care deeply for the welfare of the girls of Tariro. We sincerely appreciate and are grateful to each of our individual donors who continue to stand with us in our quest to educate and empower the girl child.

Emmons-Bradlee Family Foundation Grant

The Emmons-Bradlee Family Foundation has long continued to be a great supporter to Tariro, and in 2021 we were very fortunate to receive a 23,000 USD charitable grant from the US-based foundation. This generous donation was invaluable and allowed Tariro to continue to support our girls even in the very challenging environment. We are grateful to the foundation for supporting our cause to fund vulnerable girls' education in Zimbabwe.

Ark Foundation Grant

ARK Foundation donated 2,100 USD and the foundation has been one of our consistent donors. ARK Foundation believes that every child has access to inclusive, quality education, so that they become better citizens and leaders in the future.

Kutsinhira Grant

Thanks to the generosity of Kutsinhira Cultural Arts Center, based in Eugene, Oregon, we were able to contract a teacher to work with our primary school students during school closures to ensure they were able to continue learning.

CBZ Holdings Grant

For the sixth year running CBZ Holdings, one of the leading financial services conglomerates in Zimbabwe which owns subsidiaries in banking, insurance, investments, wealth management, mortgages and retail finance, donated RTGS 22,0318 (2,000 USD), which went towards paying semester fees for seven tertiary students.

2022 PLANS

Statement on Tariro's role in bringing hope to girls and young women

Most of the girls we support would have faced the harshest of adversities – being orphaned, potential school dropouts, being sent home for non-fees payment – but in them you see the resolve to keep going. With Tariro on board, the girls strive to do better. We at Tariro believe in the power of education as a lifesaving and life-sustaining human right. Through our education assistance programme, every day we see firsthand the impact our programme makes in the lives of the girls. We believe an investment in girls' education pays the best interest.

SIMBA KANYIMO
Tariro's Executive Coordinator

Our initial mission when Tariro was founded almost two decades ago was to support girls at secondary education level to complete their studies and to have access to psychosocial support and the opportunity to participate in music and dance activities. In recognition of the importance of the solid foundation for scholastic success provided by early years' education on the one hand, and the increased positive life prospects provided by tertiary education, we have since expanded our scope by beginning support for learners at the primary level, and, as far as possible, continuing through their university and polytechnic studies. For this reason, in 2022, we are planning to assist more young girls in primary school, as well look for partnerships that will enable us to support our students transitioning to tertiary education.

COVID-19 continues to wreak havoc on education systems around the world, and Zimbabwe has not been spared. Unfortunately, it has become clear that the disruptions to formal education caused by the pandemic will be long lasting, with far-reaching consequences for Zimbabwe's children and young people. At Tariro, we are dedicated to minimizing the negative impact of this pandemic and to finding innovations that fulfill the potential of every learner, no matter their circumstances. As evidenced in this report, we have been working tirelessly since the start of the pandemic to ensure that no girl is left behind and drops out of school, despite school closures and other challenges.

In 2022, we will continue this work, and go the extra mile to help our students, when necessary, whether it is through facilitating in-person tutorial support for our primary students and extra lessons for our secondary students if schools close again and providing psychosocial support and guidance counselling to help all our learners navigate an increasingly complex world. This year, with your support, in addition to our regular program activities, we hope to further build our collection of physical and digital learning resources and to expand the psychosocial and cultural supports we provide, including through organizing a number of workshops and other events.

*"If we are going to see real development in the world
then our best investment is WOMEN!"*

ARCHBISHOP DESMOND TUTU

How can you help?

Please support Tariro

- ✓ You can send a check to:

Tariro: Hope and Health for Zimbabwe's Orphans, PO Box 50273, Eugene, OR, 97405, USA

- ✓ You can make a secure donation via [PayPal](#)

Tatenda! Siyabonga! Thank you!

Your donation is the difference between a life of poverty and hardship and a future filled with hope for an orphaned girl in Zimbabwe. Without your support, most of our girls would have dropped out of school.

Your gift means everything and truly makes a huge difference!

We hope you will stay engaged and updated on our endeavors throughout the year via our [website](#), [Facebook page](#), and [YouTube channel](#).

The Tariro Board of Directors is actively involved in Tariro's success

We are a diverse, international group with a love for Zimbabwe. We are sincerely grateful for your support!

Barb Roberts, President, Canada
Lauri Benblatt, Secretary, USA
Tendai Ngirandi*, Treasurer, France
Jo Ailwood, Australia (retired midyear)
Stephanie Bengtsson*, France
Karen Nyawera*, USA
Miranda Waltz-Peters, USA
Tessa Woods, USA

**Denotes members who are from Zimbabwe*

Please contact us if you have fundraising ideas in your own community or if you have any questions about Tariro. Email us at tariro.board@gmail.com.



We of course owe a debt of gratitude to Simba, Vera, Daniel, and Persy, and would also like to acknowledge Tariro's founder, Jennifer Kyker, for her sage counsel, our Zimbabwean advisors, Tafadzwa Muzhandu and Tatenda Chizanga, for their guidance, and our trusted volunteer, Marilyn Mohr for her wonderful support over the years.