

TARIRO: HOPE & HEALTH FOR ZIMBABWE'S ORPHANS



2023 Annual Report

Tariro's mission:

To educate and empower young women and girls in Zimbabwean communities affected by HIV/AIDS.

Our vision:

Tariro sees education as a basic human right, which should be available to all children regardless of socio-economic status. By working with young women and girls 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.

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

20th Anniversary Updates

In 2023, Tariro marked our twentieth anniversary as a grassroots nonprofit organization! Our enrollment records show that we have provided comprehensive educational support for nearly two hundred girls since our founding in 2003. Throughout 2023, we made excellent progress on a number of new initiatives marking our 20th anniversary and celebrating our achievements in working toward educating and empowering Zimbabwean girls!

Contact tracing study and alumnae reunion

Our first new initiative is a contact tracing study to learn more about the lives of our former students. Through intensive outreach, we have now contacted the majority of our former students and have established a WhatsApp group to communicate with them. We have completed a draft questionnaire for the survey portion of the tracing study and plan to conduct in-person interviews with alums who live in Zimbabwe, as well as remote interviews with alums based in neighboring countries. We are also planning an alumnae reunion for our former students in 2024.

Mbira teaching program

Our new mbira teaching program has also been a great success! In May, our students began weekly lessons with seven musicians in the women's mbira collective Mhare dzeNhare. Tariro students are studying both the nyunga-nyunga mbira, which is often taught in Zimbabwean schools, and the mbira dzavadzimu, a more complex instrument often played in ritual contexts. In 2024, our students are preparing to record an album of traditional mbira music together with Mhare dzeNhare.

Public performance at Alliance Française

To celebrate our music and dance group, Tariro held a free, public concert at the Alliance Française on December 9th. Our students gave a wonderful performance, which reached many of our local supporters in Zimbabwe.

Documentary film

We are also working on a short documentary film about Tariro's work, with special focus on our music and dance program. Videographer Emmanuel Gumirehete filmed Tariro students' initial workshop with the female artists in Mhare dzeNhare, as well as our Alliance Française performance. Emmanuel will also do one-on-one interviews with Tariro students, alum, trustees, and staff members prior to storyboarding and editing the actual film, with the goal of an early 2025 release date.

Warm wishes,

Dr. Jennifer W. Kyker

ROCHESTER, NY, USA

TARIRO'S WORK IN CONTEXT

Of the 6.3 million boys and girls in the country, 4.8 million live in poverty, including 1.6 million in extreme poverty.

UNICEF

Tariro's program costs are projected to rise significantly in 2024. On the positive side, we expect more of our students to enroll for A Level and university study this year, with eight students likely to attend state universities and two more students at polytechnic institutes. It's incredible to see so many of our students succeeding in school, which dramatically increases their chances of landing formal-sector jobs.

Like families across Zimbabwe, however, Tariro is also facing higher costs for paying school fees, which have risen by approximately 30% over last year. As a result, the estimated annual cost of school fees for one secondary school student is now roughly \$330, up from a previous figure of roughly \$200.

According to Education Minister, Evelyn Ndllovu, the Zimbabwean government is unable to provide universal free education due to budgetary constraints:

The challenge has been insufficient funds in the 2023 budget. We wish to give free education, but it is unfortunate we have US\$6, 3 million (for the exercise) and that is not enough.

At the same time, Zimbabwe's economic crisis has led to high unemployment rates, failing infrastructure, and a sharp increase in poverty. As a result of these combined pressures, many Zimbabwean families struggle to afford school fees. The situation is even more pronounced for Zimbabwe's many orphaned children. According to UNICEF, at least 830,000 children in Zimbabwe have lost one or both parents, making it exceedingly difficult for them to attend school.

In these daunting circumstances, Tariro's grassroots efforts are crucial in enabling some of the nation's most vulnerable girls to remain in school. With your help, we work with local primary schools to identify orphaned and vulnerable girls who are struggling to pay school fees. We commit to covering school fees and other related educational expenses for our students through the end of secondary school. Our model privileges consistent and intensive support for a relatively small number of students, giving them the best chance at success. And our efforts are paying off, with many of our students passing their "O" and "A" Level exams.

TARIRO'S MODEL: AN OVERVIEW

As Tariro celebrates its 20th anniversary since its establishment in 2003, our mission to educate and empower girls in Harare's high-density neighborhoods remains steadfast. The importance of educating girls is highlighted by the Zimbabwe Demographic Health Survey 2015, which revealed that 70% of new HIV infections occur in adolescent girls. School attendance is one of the single best ways to lower a girl's risk of contracting HIV, making Tariro's work critical in HIV prevention.

Tariro identifies girls who would otherwise be unable to attend school through referrals from local school headmasters and community leaders. By supporting these students through secondary school, Tariro enables young women and girls to overcome barriers and contribute to Zimbabwe's economic and human development, fostering positive social change.

Tariro specifically focuses on enrolling students during their last years of primary school, and commits to supporting them throughout secondary school. Our comprehensive range of services ensures that each sponsored student receives the necessary support to thrive academically and personally. In addition to paying school fees, we cover our students' O and A Level exam fees, provide uniforms and supplies, distribute free menstrual supplies to improve school attendance, and offer access to textbooks through our lending library.

Zimbabwe's economic challenges have significantly weakened its educational system, resulting in shortages of resources such as textbooks and school supplies. Reports indicate that teachers have expressed dissatisfaction with their current salaries, affecting their motivation and overall performance in the classroom. These challenges have contributed to an exceedingly low national pass rate on Ordinary Level exams. In 2022, the most recent year for which data is available, the national O Level pass rate was only 29%.

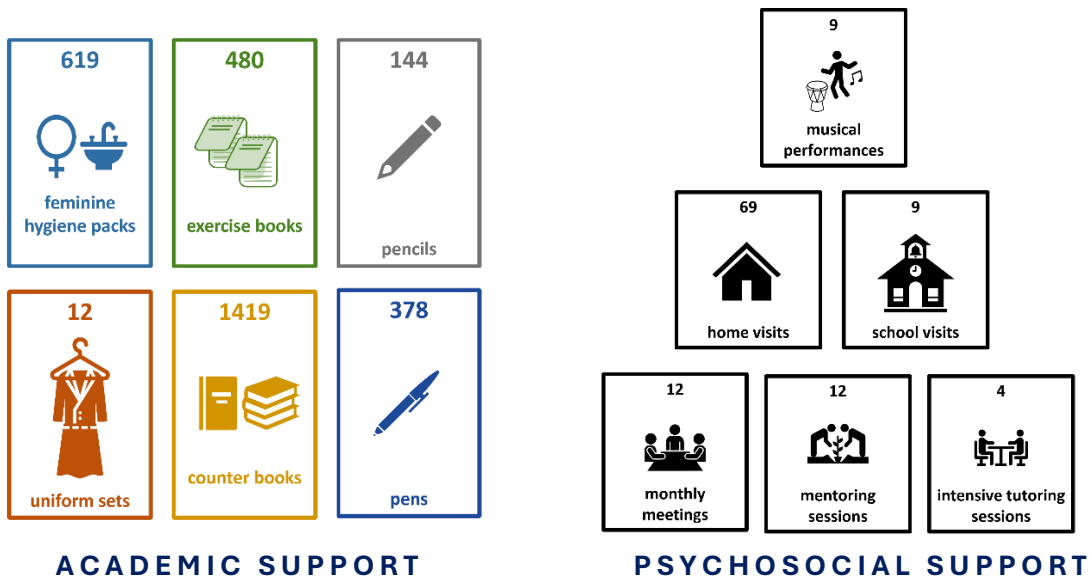
In response to the challenges of the Zimbabwean education system, Tariro provides tutoring and academic services and facilitates extra-curricular activities whenever possible. We closely monitor our students' progress through home and school visits designed to identify any potential barriers to their success. Through these visits, we are able to establish strong relationships with both the students and their families, ensuring a holistic and personalized approach to education. This approach allows Tariro to better understand the unique challenges faced by each child and provide targeted support to help them thrive academically and personally. As a result, Tariro students are passing their exams at a rate well above the national average. In 2023, seven of the eleven Tariro students who wrote O Level exams passed five or more O Level subjects, representing a 63% pass rate, over twice the national average.

2023: TARIRO IN NUMBERS

Figure 1: Students Supported

Enrollment level	Number of students
Primary school	25
Secondary school	21
University	5
Polytechnical institutions	2
Vocational/technical programs	2
MasterCard Foundation Scholarship in Kenya	1
TOTAL	56

Figure 2: Additional Academic & Psychosocial Support



2023 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Income	USD
Grants	35,442.00
Donations	20,685.14
Total Income	56,127.14
Reserves	16,086.15
Total Income + Reserves	72,213.29
Expenses	
School Fees	15,659.00
Exam Fees	1,856.00
School Supplies	3,386.00
Psychosocial Support	4,020.00
Salaries & Allowances	19,590.00
Administration Costs	5,251.94
20th Anniversary Activities	6,738.00
Other Costs	2,374.00
Total Expenses	58,874.94
Surplus	13,338.35

TARIRO'S STUDENTS

Primary Students



Newly enrolled primary students in their school uniforms

Tariro supported 25 primary school students in 2023, 15 of whom were new enrollments. Our enrollment efforts were concentrated on five primary schools: Rusvingo, Chitungu, Chembira, Kundayi, and Shiryedenga. All of these schools are located in Highfield and Glen Norah, which are adjoining low-income, high-density suburbs in Zimbabwe's capital city of Harare. Nine of our primary students sat for their Grade 7 Examinations in 2023, and all of these students have secured places to attend secondary school in 2024.

Tariro’s deliberate focus on enrolling new students during their primary school years allows us to reach girls at a crucial stage in their educational journey, and to establish long-lasting relationships with our beneficiaries. In the process, we aim to make a lasting impact on our students’ educational trajectories, empower them to overcome barriers to staying in school, and encourage them to achieve their full potential. Through our continued efforts, we enable our students to work toward a brighter future, breaking the cycle of poverty and contributing positively to their communities.

Secondary Students



Some of Tariro’s 2023 secondary students

Tariro supported 21 secondary students in 2023. 10 of these students wrote their Ordinary or “O” Level Exams this year, and another four – Cheryl K, Trish M, Natalie M, and Vimbai M – wrote their Advanced or “A” Level Exams. Exam results released in 2024 determine which of our students proceed to the next level in their studies. Given the challenges our students have faced, however, even the simple fact that they have remained in school and written their “O” Level Exams represents a striking success.

Tertiary Students

While our primary focus is on enabling girls to complete their secondary education, Tariro also strives to continue supporting students who achieve exceptional A Level exam results to proceed to university. In 2023, Tariro student Tilda M. completed her Bachelor of Engineering in Mechatronics, and Trysh M. was granted a Mastercard Scholarship for a fully funded Bachelor of Pharmacy degree at the United States International University in Kenya.

Four other Tariro students are at various levels of their university studies, with two more students enrolled in polytechnic institutions. Thanks to funding sourced by Tariro board member Fatima Madondo, two additional students were able to enroll in vocational and technical training programs in 2023.

ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC SUPPORT

School Supplies



Students with their school supplies

Tariro’s holistic support includes distributing essential school supplies. In 2023, we distributed 619 feminine hygiene packs, ensuring that our students are able to attend school all month long. We purchased 12 new sets of uniforms, ensuring that all students had their required school clothes. Moreover, we provided 1,419 counter books, 480 exercise books, 144 pencils, 378 ballpoint pens, and 144 pencils to our students.

Study Buddy Program

With support from Kutsinhira Cultural Arts Center in Eugene, OR, Tariro implemented a Study Buddy Program to emphasize the benefits of collaborative learning. Through this program, we purchased textbooks for students to share. As part of this program, our university students also conducted tutoring sessions for secondary school students. University student mentorship provides valuable academic guidance and allows younger students to benefit from the knowledge and experience of their peers. Through sharing textbooks and studying together, our students also participate in creating a supportive environment that extends beyond individual efforts. Thanks to Kutsinhira’s grant, Tariro students acquired essential study materials, fostered a culture of mutual support, and developed a sense of shared responsibility for academic success.

Home Visits

Regular home visits are an integral component of Tariro’s work. By visiting our students at home, we witness firsthand the conditions, challenges, and needs in their daily lives. This detailed knowledge enables us to address individually specific needs, and to ensure that our interventions are culturally sensitive and responsive to the unique circumstances of each participant. As our Executive Coordinator Simbarashe Kanyimo says, “Home visits enable Tariro staff to gain a deeper understanding of the broader community dynamics. This understanding is instrumental in tailoring our psychosocial interventions to address not only individual needs but also the unique challenges

faced by the community as a whole. By aligning our efforts with the community’s context, we enhance the sustainability and relevance of our programs.”

Mentorship Sessions



Mentorship sessions in action

Tariro’s ongoing mentorship program was developed by our board member Fatima Madondo. In 2023, Tariro students interacted with seven working professionals and university students who shared their stories and advice. This included Rhodes Scholar, Akudzwe Mawere, who is currently pursuing a PhD in the UK, web designer Evans Rwambiwa, medical student Nigel Hilary, Senior Technology Risk Associate Kudzaishe Matyanga, motivational speaker Rutendo Madondo, and music student Tanaka Chikati, who is studying music at Dartmouth College.

Our mentorship sessions go beyond traditional career guidance, prioritizing the holistic growth and well-being of the girls. With the support of dedicated mentors, this initiative aims to cultivate self-awareness, resilience, and a sense of purpose in every individual within our program. The mentorship sessions encouraged the girls to engage in reflective exercises, helping them identify their strengths, values, and areas for growth. With the guidance of mentors, individuals were empowered to set meaningful and achievable personal goals that align with their aspirations.

Beyond individual growth, our mentorship program fosters a supportive community where participants can share their experiences, challenges, and successes. The sense of camaraderie and shared growth enhances the overall impact of personal development efforts. Tariro’s mentorship program places a strong emphasis on personal development, recognizing that a fulfilled and resilient individual is better equipped to navigate life’s complexities. Through meaningful mentorship sessions, our participants embark on a journey of self-discovery, growth, and empowerment, creating a foundation for a more enriched and purposeful life.

Mentoring sessions serve as a beacon of inspiration and guidance for the girls we support towards their personal and also career development. The involvement of mentors from various

backgrounds enriches our mentorship program, providing a wealth of perspectives and expertise to empower the girls.

Media Club



Members of the media club having a meeting

This year, Tariro began working on a media club to give our students opportunities to learn skills in media production. While this initiative is in its initial stages, our students have already begun posting content to Tariro’s social media pages. Looking ahead, we aim to further engage with educational institutions fostering collaborations with schools with existing media clubs, and facilitating visits to established media houses.

Local Donations

In 2023, Tariro received generous support from several local entities within Zimbabwe. Among them, accounting firm KPMG Zimbabwe donated stationery, sanitary pads, and clothes, addressing critical needs and contributing to the girls’ overall welfare. KPMG also participated in a mentorship session to inspire and guide the girls towards their professional aspirations. For the second consecutive year, freight company Charlie Stevens International covered the yearly fees for Tanyaradzwa T., one of Tariro’s primary school students. The software company Proleader covered the school fees for a second primary school student for two terms. Finally, individual philanthropy also played a vital role in Tariro’s mission, with blankets donated to seven girls by Tariro’s local supporter Panashe. Tariro extends deep gratitude to these local donors for their dedication to facilitating educational opportunities for Zimbabwean girls. Their support is an important part of a collective effort to ensure access to education and uplift the future of Tariro’s students. To our local donors, we extend a hearty, “Tatenda, siyabonga, thank you!”

NGOMA YE KWEDU: MUSIC & DANCE ENSEMBLE



Ngoma YeKwedu in pictures

About Ngoma YeKwedu

Tariro’s traditional music and dance group, “Ngoma yeKwedu,” is led by instructor Daniel Inasiyo. The group celebrated several significant achievements in 2023. Tariro acquired a new set of marimbas made by Jacob Mafuleni at Tsoro Arts, as well as a new set of costumes for Ngoma YeKwedu members. Tariro donated Ngoma Yekwedu’s old marimbas to Chembira Primary School, where they will be used by Chembira’s own traditional music and dance group.

Performances

In 2022, Ngoma YeKedu had a year packed with exciting events. Among other highlights, Ngoma YeKwedu won an award for best traditional song at the National Institute for Allied Arts schools competition. The group also partnered with the USAP Community School on a day of traditional music and dance, and performed at numerous events including World Music Day at the Alliance Française, Africa Day Celebrations at Star Leadership Academy, the CBZ Bank Marathon, a breakfast meeting organized by UN Women, the Diplomat Business Networking Club, and at an event hosted by Impact Hub Harare, and a private event for President ED Mnangagwa held at Varun Beverages. Ngoma YeKwedu also reached a global audience through their participation in online and in-person festivals organized by Kutandara Marimba Center in Boulder, CO. Finally, Ngoma YeKwedu marked Tariro's 20th Anniversary year with a free, public performance at the Alliance Francaise in Harare.



Mukoma Daniel with Ngoma YeKwedu

Mbira Teaching Program

In recognizing the significance of mbira in Zimbabwean culture, Tariro has facilitated mentorship sessions and the acquisition of mbira instruments. This initiative aims to preserve and promote traditional musical forms. So far, our mbira teaching program has also been a great success! In March, our students had an initial meeting with the seven female mbira teachers they are working with. This initial meeting featured both groups performing for each other, followed by a workshop to introduce Tariro students to the mbira, including playing technique, cultural context, and history. In May, Tariro students started their first series of weekly lessons with one of these artists, using a set

of nyunga-nyunga mbira often used in Zimbabwean schools. In June, Tariro acquired a newly made set of mbira dzavadzimu instruments, a more complex type of mbira played in ritual contexts. This enabled our students to begin weekly lessons with the other six female teachers involved in the project. Once they began learning the mbira dzavadzimu, students requested an increase in the number of lessons with each teacher from four to six sessions, which we approved. Weekly lessons were briefly suspended in August due to elections, and resumed in September. So far, our students have done a short series of 4-6 lessons with 5 teachers total, leaving two more sessions with the remaining two teachers involved in the project. Once our students have completed the remaining series, we will begin preparing for them to record an album of traditional mbira music together with the musicians in Mhare dzeNhare.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE WITH HOPE

As we reflect on our achievements and progress in 2023, we express our sincere gratitude to everyone within Tariro’s global network who has supported our efforts to secure girls’ rights to quality education. As we look to the year ahead, we are full of hope – the very meaning of the word “Tariro” – for our students, their families, and their communities.

As always, Tariro’s primary mission remains that of enabling orphaned and vulnerable girls to complete their secondary school education, thereby reducing their risk of contracting HIV. At the same time, we are looking forward to exciting new programs and opportunities for our students, including a tennis teaching program in collaboration with Baseline Tennis Academy, run by Zimbabwean tennis player Nathan Hook. We also plan to move forward with our traditional music and dance program, with more public performances and an end-of-year recording project with the members of Mhare dzeNhare.

Your support for Tariro improves educational opportunities for girls, lowers adolescents’ risk of contracting HIV/AIDS, and enables young women to avoid early marriage and childbirth. Together, we can ensure that the next generation of Zimbabwean girls looks forward to a future of hope and health.

Please support Tariro...

...by sending a cheque to:

TARIRO: HOPE AND HEALTH FOR ZIMBABWE’S ORPHANS
PO BOX 50273,
EUGENE, OR 97405,
USA

...or by making a secure donation via PayPal:

<<<https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/TariroHopeandHealth>>>

Tatenda! Siyabonga! Thank you!

Your gift means everything and truly makes a huge difference!

We hope you will stay engaged and updated on our endeavors throughout the year!



www.tariro.org



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<https://www.youtube.com/tarirohopeandhealth>

THE TARIRO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Barb Roberts, President, Canada
Miranda Waltz-Peters, Secretary, USA
Tendai Ngirandi*, Treasurer, France
Stephanie Bengtsson*, Austria
Fatima Vimbai Madondo*, USA
Tony Perman, USA
Anesu Ndoro*, USA

**denotes members who are from Zimbabwe*

We owe a debt of gratitude to Simbarashe Crispen Kanyimo and Daniel Inasiyo, our hardworking Tariro team in Zimbabwe, and to Marilyn Mohr, our trusted volunteer in Eugene, Oregon!

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.