



# **Bikes for Zim**

## **2-Annual Report 2022 – 2023**



### **Introduction**

We continue to source discarded bikes from the Netherlands and ship them to Harare to make sturdy bikes available to underprivileged children through a network of social organisations and small entrepreneurs based in the high density areas of the city.

### **Review of results in line with strategic plan**

- **PR with new committee member(s)**, intensify fundraising.

No new funds were generated other than those of our most consistent donor the fintech company Vivcourt. Through our association with the Harare stakeholders group, new potential committee members were identified.



German Embassy  
Harare

- **Improving administration and accounting procedures** using off-the-shelf accounting software. Administration is still done using the classical 'manual' accounting procedures. Meticulous records are kept of all transactions, both in Zimbabwe and the Netherlands. A backlog of account summaries has now been cleared by our BfZ Treasurer and are reflected in the accounts section below.

- **Marketing of our bikes and bikes accessories** presently stored and displayed at RESCU. We made limited use of the ABC auction system to raise funds

- **Setting up a first outreach repair workshop** using a 20-foot container.

We purchased a 20-foot container and had it nicely decorated for use during the street events.

- **Training mechanics**, employing the tools and bikes at the RESCU facilities.

We had ample opportunity to practice on the third consignment of bikes, because they needed more work than the first two loads.



- A first pilot outreach workshop, preferably in Hatcliff or Epworth.

However good the designated, approved location was for students having to commute to town, the Hatcliff workshop did not materialise. A second container-workshop was purchased for the Epworth township, where many of our bikes had already gone.

- **Participation in promotional cycling events** and networks.

We provided bikes and promotional material at several Open Street events

- **Support to budding bicycle repair-, and sales entrepreneurs.**

The links with successful local small entrepreneurs was strengthened on an individual basis. Practical advice and service were rendered to these inspiring people. We gave individual coaching of our best partners from the Epworth township.

The vision for a Zimbabwe Bike Repairers Association (ZimBRA) to strengthen the lobbying power for this vital community service was only at the needs assessment phase. The coordinator to spearhead this project was envisaged to be a student from the Maastricht business school. Although pre-selections were conducted and motivated students screened, the lack of funds prevented us from engaging somebody.

- **Strengthening and expanding the management structure** both in the Netherlands and in Zimbabwe.

We may have to admit that we failed in this respect. On the Dutch side we had our minimal staff with a fly-in-fly-out chairman and a dedicated treasurer. Still, we were able to achieve quite a lot considering the circumstances. In spite of the limited staff in the Netherlands, BfZ was brought successfully to the attention of some excellent partners who contributed positively to the result of our outputs, especially in 2022.

- **Fundraising** was less successful than in the previous reported period. Our most trusted donor Vivcourt kept playing a positive role for which we are very thankful.

- **Training of bike repair mechanics** picked up after the Covid restrictions. The quality of the third semi-commercially purchased consignment needed more work, but was excellent training material. Street-kids supported by Child Welfare & Protection Services, who are attached to the workshop, received basic training in bicycle maintenance and repair.

- **Publicity and promotion.** We received considerable attention from our colourful mural led container, placed right in the centre of Harare on Unity Square. BfZ was seen and appreciated by more and different types of organisations and individuals during the time it was there. The Facebook page got some attention and positive comments, but not nearly as much as what should and could have been done. BfZ definitely got positive exposure through personal contacts and our activities in Harare.

### **Other activities and achievements Jan 2022 Dec 2023**

Throughout the reporting period over 600 bikes found their way to new cyclists, often to schools and mostly to children, who would otherwise have had no access to this type of transport, with the only other option to walk. By May 2023 our stocks were depleted and a search for new supplies had to be started. The workshop at RESCU continues to be functional for mechanics training and maintenance of the bikes that were issued from there.



The years 2022 and 23 were still influenced by the after effects of the Covid pandemic. Fewer activities were possible. Our third 40-foot container had been loaded by the very end of 2021, on the shortest and coldest day of the year!. We off-loaded the third container, which included German Embassy donated bicycles, in May 2022. The bikes were generally made available to small township based entrepreneurs whose main clients were school children and workers in the high-density areas. By the end of March 2023 all the bikes from this 3<sup>rd</sup> consignment were disposed of.

### *A city Bike tour with the visitors ending at Unity Square Harare*



The period under review saw an interest from the City of Munich (CoM) in joint town planning with an emphasis on 'Active Mobility' and the establishment of a stakeholders group of alternative 'open space users'. BfZ participated

in events organised by this group. Links were developed with the General German bicycle club (the ADFC Bavarian Chapter) that would result in them sourcing orphaned bikes for Harare. In December we received a group from the CoM at our RESCU workshop. Most importantly, the ADFC Director was a member of its delegation. She suggested the possibility of a donation from the CoM's excess orphaned bikes. This resulted in a trip to Munich in May 2023 to assess possibilities to link up with the ADFC to get a load of bikes from the Park&Ride Dept. of the CoM.

Efforts were made to set up bicycle workshops through the use of 20 foot containers. We established a cordial relationship with the organisation Bike Addicts, that promotes cycling specifically for township-, and rural kids. A spot for our colourful container container was agreed on with the CoH planners but final permission for transfer and relocation has not yet been forthcoming.



In May 2022 we associated ourselves with the Zimbabwe Bike Addicts, as noted above,, a BMX sports initiative in Mount Pleasant for disadvantaged kids from Hatcliff and Domboshawa that have limited opportunities of owning or riding a bike. Bike Addicts will get one of our containers to keep their training material, workshop tools and bikes for resale at greatly discounted prices.



We participated in the Big Cycling Event at Unity Square ( 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022) organised by the City of Harare (CoH), GIZ and the Active Mobility Stakeholder group. We raised awareness and funds for BfZ. The Mayor of Harare held a spirited speech for cycling infrastructure and safe cycling in BfZ regalia!

Other Open Street event at which we had a stand and to which we provided bikes were in Glenview (21 October 2023) Highfield and Ridgeway.

*Overview of the Open Streets day at Ridgeway North  
The tandem was a favourite with the children*

**some more photos:**



*Happy and proud clients*



*Our workshop at RESCU and the team*



## Financial Report

Our largest BfZ expense is the cost of transport from Europe into Harare, where the cost of the last leg: Beira to RESCU in Harare costs as much as the total sea-freight. Also, even as a charity we are charged VAT and Duty on importation into Zimbabwe.

We have learned that handing out bicycles for free does not result in good care or appreciation of the donations, so we charge handling fees to cover these costs, but sell at generous discounted prices according to the social objectives of organisations or small scale entrepreneurs.

We purchased 2 small containers to serve as workshops and distribution points of the bikes in townships on a rent-to-buy basis.

The balance sheets with cumulative figures are as follows:

### Bikes for Zim Trust

Balance Sheets	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
As at 31 Decemb. 2020 to 2024	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$
<b>Assets</b>					
Containers at Cost	24,364	19,379	19,379	10,495	2,341
Loans	3,362	3,333	3,185	1,340	361
Bank and Cash	2,496	14,403	3,909	2,955	3,354
Total Assets	30,222	37,115	26,473	14,790	6,056
<b>Represented by:</b>					
Loans					
Accumulated (Deficit)/Income	30,222	37,115	26,473	14,790	6,056
Net Loans	30,222	37,115	26,473	14,790	6,056

The Income and Expenditure statements are as follows:

**Bikes for Zim Trust**

**Income and Expenditure Statements**

**Years Ended 31 Dec. 2020 to 2024**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>US\$</b>	<b>US\$</b>	<b>US\$</b>	<b>US\$</b>	<b>US\$</b>
<b>Income</b>					
Donations	135	11,688	5,436	17,975	3,581
Sale of Bikes and Parts	4,368	1,430	11,676	13,395	
Total Income	4,503	13,118	17,112	31,370	3,581
<b>Costs</b>					
Bike Purchases & Repairs				11,721	
Training & Workshop Allowances	884	944	195	1,971	
Shipping, Handling & Duty	6,585				
Administration Costs	1,043	300	1,200	800	3,820
Office Furniture/ Equipment				280	
Website Support and Media				1,184	
Workshop Rental	640	400	1,800	1,600	
Workshop Tools and Accessories	713	96	430	1,698	
Workshop Repairs				1,837	
Transport & Distribution			50	88	
Energy costs					
Bank Charges	94	237	202	193	
Container Purchase					
Sundries	1,437	597	1,430	1,106	86
Loans					
Advances to AVG					
Total Costs	11,396	2,574	5,307	22,478	3,906
Net Income/Def. before Exch. Gains (Losses)	(6,893)	10,544	11,805	8,892	(325)
Exchange Gains (Losses)		98	(122)	(158)	366
Net Income/Deficit for the year	(6,893)	10,642	11,683	8,734	41
Net Deficit 1 January	37,115	26,473	14,790	6,056	6,015
Accumulated (Deficit) / Income	30,222	37,115	26,473	14,790	6,056



Some more of our target beneficiaries

