



Bringing the e-Mobility revolution to rural Africa

2023 SO FAR...



Image by Steven Chikosi

Editorial by Shantha Bloemen

Greetings from a cold winter in Zimbabwe. This update reflects the next stage of Mobility for Africa's journey to scale, expand and consolidate what we have learned so far. The last 6 months have been about strengthening systems and our internal people capacity so we can meet our ambitious targets to roll out 600 tricycles in the next 6 months to more than 10 new communities.

As the E mobility sector globally gallops into action and the momentum to decarbonise the transport sector, leverages billions of dollars in research and development, we are determined rural Africa and in particular, women will not be left behind.

Our vision remains to prove beyond doubt that e-Mobility in rural areas and reaching those at the very bottom through shared mobility solutions is doable, sustainable and catalytic.



Our team appreciates that if we fail, we may set back investment for another decade and once again rural communities will be bypassed as the EV focus concentrates in cities.

As always, this new chapter of our journey could not have been possible without the many people who have believed in us and kept us going with their words of motivation, their time and expertise, their ideas and their financial contributions. We are eternally grateful. We will not let you down.

Please continue to follow us on social media as I promise you the rest of 2023 is going to be full of exciting action as we reach more people with green transport solutions.

INVESTOR NEWS

InfraCo Africa Visits:

InfraCo Africa's Senior Asset Manager, **James Wakaba, visited** in February to meet the MFA team and women using the company's electric trikes.

Then, in May, we were grateful to have the **InfraCo HSES and business integrity team** on the ground to take the MFA team through PIDG lifesaving rules as part of the company's commitment to keeping people safe.



Toyota Mobility Foundation:

Hitoshi Bizen the African Director at Toyota Mobility Foundation, along with Thibaut de Chauny and Olujimi Akindele from EIS - EXA Innovation Studio visited all 3 sites during April. Read more [here](#)

TMF, along with other global partners, are crucial in continuing to equip us, to get one step closer to our goal: to bring an affordable, reliable, efficient and environmentally friendly transport solution to rural women and their families!

AECF and the Swedish Embassy visited the Mayfield Milk Collection Site in Chipinge and 3 farmers who are beneficiaries of Hamba. See more on the Swedish Embassy visit [here](#)



MEDIA & ARTICLES

iNews

“A lifesaver’: How electric tricycles are revolutionising the lives of Zimbabwean farmers”. Read [here](#)



Climate Chance Case study:
Zimbabwe; Mobility for Africa.

In Africa, approximately 450 million people (more than 70% of its rural population) lack access to mobility options due to a lack of infrastructure and transport systems.

Find the full report [here](#)



Find our feature [here](#)

Deutsche Welle 'The Hamba is more than a symbol of progress [for Susan]:

“We were using wheelbarrows or ox-drawn carts to go to the market. It was laborious and expensive, especially for me. I did not own an ox-drawn cart. So I would have to hire,” she told DW'.



Gavi “In rural Zimbabwe, electric tricycles are saving lives”:

The article follows the impact the hamba has had on vaccination rates at the Igava clinic, find out [more](#)

Xinhua News "Today she is not just a driver; she is among a group of rural women driving Zimbabwe's transition through the use of sustainable renewable energy, thanks to Mobility for Africa”



MFA IN ACTION

Africa Energy Indaba 2023 Founder and CEO, Shantha Bloemen, a panel member on the e-Mobility in Africa Panel 8th March 2023.



[EEP Africa Project of the Year 2022](#)

Springer Fachmedien: ATZ/ MTZ and Arthur D. Little's Sustainability Award in Automotive in the Start-up Category

MFA won in the Start-up category which honours entrepreneurship in the context of mobility concepts, new technologies, and additional innovative services focusing on sustainable mobility.





Ashden Awards for Powering Agriculture

MFA has been shortlisted for this award for the Hamba increasing access to the market, capacity for increasing produce and decreasing foodwaste...wish us luck!



Zimbabwean International Trade Fair At the end of April MFA was represented at the trade fair for the first time and exhibited across 3 stands: Zimbabwean Ministry of Energy and Power Development, AECF (see [here](#)) & UK Embassy in Zimbabwe stands.

ADMA Agricultural Show: In May, we were thankful to [Solar Shack](#) for inviting us to join their stand where we exhibited our smaller commercial fleet option (at least 3 Hambas) powered by our purpose-built charging system (including 4 of our bespoke batteries).



King Charles III Coronation Celebrations: It was an honour for our Assistant Engineer, Rumbidzai Chingosho (see *left*), to be showcased as an example of a Zimbabwean innovating for impact with UK support (InfraCo Africa) at the King's Coronation Celebrations at the UK Embassy in Zimbabwe.

Youth Energy Summit and Africa Energy Forum: In June, we were excited to be represented by our Operations Manager, Joram Dambana, and our Assistant Engineer, Rumbidzai Chingosho who was sponsored as part of our EEP project of the Year 2022 Award!



Panel Discussion "Women Drivers: Why don't we have more women in the driver's seat?"

As an extension of our collaborative Art Exhibition "Women, Power & Mobility" with Nhaka Gallery, a private gallery based in Harare, we hosted a conversation that highlighted the importance of mainstreaming gender in transport.

Read more about the panellists and conclusions to the discussion [here](#)





OPERATIONAL PROGRESS

Research & Community Engagement

During January, the team conducted focus groups in Wedza to maintain a focus on finding out what possible challenges are being faced and how they can be overcome. In particular, they were targeting the Transport and Logistics drivers and their experience since they became operational.



Celebrating our 4th Anniversary

The pilot to test electric mobility was the first of its kind in Zimbabwe. And within 2 months we could tell that the Hamba had increased economic opportunities in rural Wedza. Read [here](#)

[Watch the video of our pilot launch](#)

“ We love the Hambas, we’re happy with the services because when you call them they just come there and right on time! They offer door-to-door services so we prefer the Hamba over the Mushikashika (honda fit)” - a community member

Expansion Process

Building Shared Mobility: At MFA’s core, we believe in shared transport solutions.

We aim to support a circular economy by creating jobs, enhancing current livelihoods and improving mobility and productivity in a cooperative model.

In March the research & community engagement team began our group application process: see [here](#)



Factory Updates: In preparations for the storage and management of a larger supply of tricycles, the team worked hard to build capacity and safety and security measures in the **MFA factory** to meet the HSES Standards as set by our Investors, Infraco Africa and PIDG.



Driving lessons: The team has been busy across all 3 of our locations training up-and-coming Hamba operators, check out the first week of driving lessons [here](#): Between May - June, **55** new Hamba operators have been trained, **96%** are women.



New Charging Station: the new site, stationed at our partner's, **Dairibord**, factory in Chipinge, was funded by the Australian Direct Aid Program.

We were honoured to have the Australian Ambassador to Zimbabwe cut the ribbon to open the new site (see right). Read [more](#)



Successes of Hamba-Driving Policewomen

We introduced 7 Hamba to service providers (police, health-practitioners, health-clinics) back in 2020. The MFA team recently caught up with two of the policewomen who use the Hamba at our site in Shaka Hills, some 13km from the Police station.

Read more about the policewomen [here](#)

“ We do as many [campaigns] as we can now. It's mainly to go around educating and raising awareness. We have focused on abuse: drug, sexual, child and gender-based...Also included is advising not to travel at night or travelling in groups, especially for the children, so they are less likely to be targeted.”

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Batteries & Charging system

During February and March, we were grateful to have engineers from our technology partner, Zenergy, to help, teach and build the skills of our technical team.

“ With Mobility for Africa, we think we can make even bigger progress than than we first imagined - [Ethan, Zenergy Engineer](#)

We also received our next generation of batteries and purpose-built charging systems that we have commissioned at all our sites. R&D continues...



Hambas

The team have been busy preparing, assembling and roll-out Hambas to our sites:

⇒ [Preparations](#)

⇒ [Hamba roll-out](#)



As we assemble and roll-out new Hambas we've also been bringing the 1st Generation Hambas to the factory for some TLC to get them rolling once more ⇒ [Hamba refurbishment](#)

More hambas, more locations, more mobility.



MOBILITY FOR AFRICA WELCOMES NEW TEAM MEMBERS

Simba Hlatywayo as **CFO**, with 30 years of experience with 25 years at a managerial and executive level in Zimbabwe. Involved with large corporations including Schweppes as well as start-ups like Zambezi Crocodiles (Pvt) Ltd which is the largest exporter of crocodile skins for Louis Vuitton.

Tecla Thomo, join the team as **Operations Manager** in Chipinge, Zimbabwe. She joins us with 12 years of experience with Dairibord, one of MFA's partners, working and building networks with small-scale farmers in the greater Chipinge region.

In March and April, our finance team also gained 2 new members: **Fortunate Mupfumira**, as accountant, and **Nyaradzo Kushata**, as finance assistant.

A Tribute for Felicity Tawengwa

A year after our co-founder Felicity Tawengwa passed away, Mobility for Africa's team joined her family for her memorial. As part of celebrating Felicity and her amazing commitment to rural women, we marked the occasion by opening the Felicity Tawengwa training centre at our initial pilot site at Shaka Hills Farm. This centre will remain at the forefront of testing new technology, transferring practical skills to young Zimbabweans in energy, battery management and electric mobility.

In the next year, with support from Toyota Mobility Foundation, we will be collaborating with Shaka Hill to work to help improve access to markets for rural women. By combining mobility and agricultural support, and creating a hub where local farmers can sell their produce, we plan to improve rural incomes for women and their families by giving them access to better markets for their produce.

This was part of the vision Felicity had. She was committed to rural Zimbabwe and believed we can be part of building a vibrant resilient continent.

We still miss her every day but are inspired to work even harder to achieve her vision.



Thanks to our partners:



An Expo 2020
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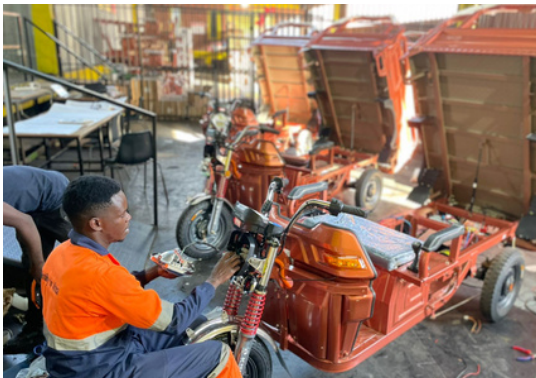


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