

Greetings Kutsinhira community – I hope this finds everyone healthy and in decent spirits. As our lives change so radically, my mind often turns to our friends in Zimbabwe. How are they faring through this pandemic? Like most of the rest of the world, they are under a lockdown which at times is strictly enforced with an authoritarian hand. This significantly effects their ability to earn money, to obtain food and to grow their own food. I'd like to share the following firsthand accounts. Be sure to read a somber and honest on the ground report from Nhimbe's Jaiaen Beck. If you'd like to help out, funds can be donated to Kutsinhira where we will disburse funds asap to our teachers and friends as well as to organizations operating in Zimbabwe like Nhimbe, Tariro, Ngwana, Humwe, and Vaima, so that they can help their constituents.

To make a donation through Kutsinhira:

- [Click here.](#)
- Click the Donate Button at the bottom of the landing page on the Kutsinhira website at <https://kutsinhira.org/>.
- Send a check to PO Box 50823, Eugene, OR 97405.

Tatenda chaizvo. Mugare kure nemoto – *Stay away from the fire. We need you to be safe.*

- Gary Spalter

From Matilda Magaya, daughter of Cosmas Magaya in Mutare, eastern Zimbabwe

"hello shamwari. we are all doing well . am in Mutare with my kids . we have managed to comply to the lockdown and go the shops once a week. atleast we managed to buy basics but with our economy if you can manage 2 meals a day the better. there is a bit of people moving around but we don't have public transport like the combis to travel to town. only Zupco buses ferying people town those who fall under critical skills. So travelling to Harare you hike. only private cars allowed for long distance journeys and with a limited number of people. we are practicing social distancing in the supermarkets but it becomes a different issue when people queue for mealie meal. we are in our third week now. Am very happy you are well. and let's fight this together for a brighter tomorrow."

From Lucky Moyo re: Ngwana Village in Plumtree, southwest Zimbabwe

"The community on the ground in Zimbabwe is facing critical shortages of food and for some families especially the elderly it's hard. There are no cases yet of the Virus in Ngwana area and so for now there is no need for medicines etc . There is a need for gloves and immunity enhancing medicines but people can not afford these. People are sharing what they can as regards food."

From Jaiaen Beck of Ancient Ways and Nhimbe, a sister non-profit doing work in Mhondoro, Zimbabwe, Cosmas Magaya's home area.

An excellent newsletter posting to supporters: <http://ancient-ways.org/latest-news-from-zimbabwe/>

And a somber update <http://ancient-ways.org/this-was-supposed-to-be-a-quick-update-but-is-now-long-from-our-nhimbe-team-board-of-directors/>

From Kutsinhira's Zimbabwean Liaison Marilyn Kolodziejczyk as reported to the Kutsinhira Board at its 04/11/20 meeting

Musekiwa is now totally out of the money he earned with us in previous years. His house is still unfinished. He was looking forward to leaving for a tour in Japan on April 14, and thus replenish his savings, but due to COVID-19 that was cancelled. His summer and fall tour to the US is also in grave jeopardy due to COVID-19. It may not happen at all or maybe only the last part of it. He looks to have no way to feed his family and pay rent for the near or perhaps more distant future.

Musekiwa sends his love to all his friends here. He still seems hopeful and cheerful.

Patience reports:

"People are not used to lockdown and you know many people live from hand to mouth. They go out in the streets to sell and get money for food that day. So that has put me in a difficult position as the whole extended family is looking up at me for assistance as well as distance relatives they are coming to knock at my gate to ask for food. That is hard.

Also many people are ignorant. They are not taking this problem seriously. Yes they have vacated the town but they are still moving about in the streets in residential places. At first they were saying covid won't affect us but other countries. South Africa has more cases they are seeing the danger but kind of resisting. So the security arms are helping the government by encouraging people to stay at home. So this could be dangerous for us. Then there is another fraction of people who went to rural areas because they had no food for 21 days.

My cousin in Dubai tested positive and is isolation now for 3 weeks.

For the food my family has run out of vegetables. But going out to buy them is risky for me. shops are open but going there stand in a line though they are observing 1metre apart distance is kind of scary for me. Getting things like sanitizers, masks, gloves, disinfectants is very expensive for people and are not available every shop. So that is difficult for us to go to shops where you meet other people without these.

Yes, money has been a problem for sure. I called Musekiwa to check on him the past days. I know he was supposed to leave for Japan. But with the situation that was not going to happen that's when we talked about money. Now the western union is open only in Harare at the main branch Samora Machel.

My greetings to all Kutsinhira members. I miss them all. I hope we will overcome this problem."

Cosmas writes to say that since all but 3 of his 57 cattle died from Theileriosis, he thinks he should buy a motorized plow (\$2000) or tractor (\$10,000 - \$20,000), but presently hasn't the money to do this.

They did harvest enough maize in one field this year to feed them until the next harvest, but being diabetic, sadza and other corn dishes are not what Cosmas should be eating. He needs other foods (fruits and vegetables) which he now does not have access to.

He informs me that banks and money agencies like Western Union have been ordered to stay open 3 days a week, despite lockdown. This of course kind of nullifies lockdown, as there will be long queues of people waiting to pick up their US dollars.

He noted that although many people at first tried to flock to their rural homelands to avoid starving during the lockdowns, the government has now forbidden this