

# Driving effective policing\*

Access to a **Mobility for Africa** electric three-wheeler Hamba supports the work of police officers in rural Zimbabwe.

In 2020, Mobility for Africa introduced its electric vehicles to seven public service providers including health clinics and police. The team recently caught up with two policewomen at its Shaka Hills site, 13km from their rural police station. “To come here walking would have taken two, maybe three hours to go one way. It would take us a whole day just to travel to one scene, assess it and then travel back. Now, it’s just thirty minutes on the Hamba and it is not as tiring.”

Serving an area of 650km<sup>2</sup> with a ratio of one police officer to around 1600 people, the officers say that the Hamba also enables them to undertake preventative work, “We do as much as we can around educating and raising awareness. We have focused on abuse: drug, sexual, child and gender based. Now, because it is the rainy season, we have really pushed our road safety campaigns and are teaching children not to cross rivers.”

The officers say, “The public appreciate our use of the Hamba because we can cover the whole place in a limited time. This is important as

there are time constraints on certain crimes. For example, theft.” She continues, “If the suspect has been caught, we need to get there quickly to prevent another crime being committed in the way of harm towards the perpetrator!”

To find safety at a police station, people previously had to walk many kilometres, whereas they can now be assured of a swift police presence when they report a crime from their own home. The officers suggest that this encourages victims to report crimes that may previously have gone unreported.

\*Derived from a case study previously shared by Mobility for Africa

