



*Biology student Samela Satere-Mawe, 23, mails a package of masks.*

# Portraits of Resilience



## **Samela Satere-Mawe** **Manaus, Brazil**

**BIOLOGY STUDENT SAMELA SATERE-MAWE**, 23, serves as secretary of the Association of Satere-Mawe Indigenous Women in Manaus, Brazil. Despite her youth, Samela—whose indigenous name means “bee”—is already committed to fighting for the rights of her people.

But the association—which has long thrived by selling handicrafts made from Amazonian products, mainly to tourists—has seen its usual activities come to a halt, thanks to COVID-19. The group began making face masks—initially for its members’ own use and later for sale more broadly. Their work drew the attention of organizations that donated sewing machines, material, and even food. Samela coordinates the production of face masks that are now the lifeblood of the association, which has successfully pivoted to stay afloat during the pandemic.

Photography and reporting by **RAPHAEL ALVES** in Manaus, Brazil.



*Samela's mother, Sonia, gives her a massage after a long day at work.*



Sonia Satere-Mawe, coordinator of the association, displays with her daughters Samela (right) and Sandiely (left) the masks produced at the association.



Residents of the Association of Satere-Mawe Indigenous Women gather for a group photo in July after receiving gift baskets from the Amazonas Sustainable Foundation.



Members of the association sew face masks.



A bundle of face masks to prevent COVID-19, packaged by the association.



*Lupe Salmeron Ibarra on a visit to her alma mater, Edgewood College, in Madison, Wisconsin, United States. Because Lupe is an undocumented immigrant, she does not qualify for federal student loans and must pay international student tuition, which is higher than in-state tuition. Edgewood College offered her a generous financial package.*

## Lupe Salmeron Ibarra Madison, Wisconsin, USA

**LUPE SALMERON'S** coming graduation from Edgewood College in her hometown of Madison, Wisconsin, was set to make her first in her family to obtain a degree. Family in Mexico would fly in to celebrate. And with a spring internship in Washington, D.C., she was poised to snag a full-time job in American politics.

COVID-19 dismantled it all. When both her congressman's office and the restaurant where she worked part time were shuttered in March, Lupe, an undocumented immigrant who came to the United States at age six, returned to Madison. For a time, she worked as a credit union teller to help defray the steep tuition that noncitizens like her must pay. And then she contracted COVID-19 herself.

After isolating with mild symptoms, she returned to her job before joining the staff of a local nonprofit that helps Latinx youth prepare for college. While helping others achieve their goals, she keeps sight of her own. "If more people in my generation get into politics, we can reflect on how the system is broken," she says, "and focus on what we want to change."

Photography and reporting by **ARIANA LINDQUIST** in Madison, Wisconsin.



*Lupe cooks breakfast for her younger sister Ximena, left, at home in Madison.*



*Lupe holds graduation stoles that represent various organizations she belonged to while in college.*



*Lupe bikes with an old friend from high school, Damien Burke. Madison is a politically progressive city, and there are many reminders to vote. Although Lupe is politically active, she cannot vote because she is an undocumented immigrant. Her younger brother, who just turned 18, will be the first in the family to vote.*



*Lupe watches the television show Grey's Anatomy on Netflix after dinner. While Lupe was sick with COVID-19, she had to be isolated for 10 days.*



*Lupe and her friend Damien stop to buy lemonade.*

*Rickshaw driver Raja Mia counts his day's earnings as dusk falls on Dhaka.*



*In the evening, Raja enjoys playing music with friends.*



## **Raja Mia** **Dhaka, Bangladesh**

**RAJA MIA**, 45, is a rickshaw driver who lives with his wife, Beauty, and youngest son, Bishal, age 7, in Bangladesh's capital. Their house has just one room, and they share cooking and sanitary facilities with members of other families.

Originally from a rural village, Raja moved to Dhaka in hopes of making a better life. On a normal day, Raja makes \$7, barely enough to provide for his family. When the COVID-19 crisis hit and things officially closed the city down on March 25, his work slowed to a trickle and his family had to rely on neighbors for food. Raja's daily income dropped to \$2.50. Some days, he just stays at home. He doesn't worry too much about getting COVID-19. "If I don't work, we will die anyway," he says. **FD**

Photography and reporting by **K. M. ASAD** in Dhaka, Bangladesh.



*Raja comes out of the rickshaw garage to pick up a passenger.*



*Raja lives with his family in a 10 by 10 foot room in the capital city.*



*A customer pays Raja for the ride.*



*Raja covers his face now.*