



OCTOBER 2021

# FALL REPORT

*Orant Charities Africa*

**Orant**  
CHARITIESAFRICA



# ABOUT ORANT CHARITIES AFRICA

## MISSION

To build stable local communities in Malawi by empowering women and the poor with holistic and data-driven programs.

## PROGRAMS

- Healthcare
- Water & Sanitation
- Education
- Agriculture & Business



# LETTER FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR



It's Fall in the US, but we're enjoying summer in Malawi. We're approaching the rainy season, which every person in the village looks forward to. The rain is great for watering crops. However, rainy season is also a lean season. Most people in rural villages suffer from hunger.

Orant proactively tackles all challenges our community faces. Through the Healthcare Program, we confront malnutrition by distributing ready to use therapeutic food. To reduce hunger problems, we have stored over a thousand bags of maize for vulnerable households. Both our static and mobile clinics continue to serve rural communities. Thanks to our donors, we don't run out of medicine or other essentials. In the rainy season, our Mobile Outreach Clinic faces challenges of rough and impassable roads. To make matters worse, we also experience an increase in number of patients and an increase in cost of supplies. In face of these challenges, we extend gratitude to our donors for their support.

In other news, I'm happy to report that we were awarded a grant from USAID through Strategic Impact Advisors. With this grant, we are integrating the women's digital financial literacy campaign, Hey Sister! Show Me the Mobile Money! into our women's economic empowerment activities in Malawi. This project narrows the gender digital divide.

In 2021, we've seen our organization grow both in programs and in staff. Orant's progress is made possible by our hardworking team, our donors, and the government of Malawi.

I leave you with an African proverb—in appreciation for all the small or big efforts you make to help others, wherever you are: “If you think you are too small to make a difference, you haven't spent the night with a mosquito.”

From the Warm Heart of Africa, thank you.

Sincerely,

Gabriel Kapanda



# EDUCATION

**We sponsor 113 students. 99 are girls.**

Education inspires possibility.

Unfortunately, free education stops in Malawi after eighth grade. Students must pay for tuition and few students can afford it. Even when parents can afford tuition for some of their children, boys are often

prioritized, girls left out. Orant aims to lessen the gender opportunity gap.

One of our greatest challenges is keeping girl students in school when circumstance and gender expectations push them elsewhere. 7 of our sponsored students this year dropped out due to pregnancy.

To avoid scenarios like this as much as possible, we monitor students' progress through regular site visits and stay in touch with them after graduation.

**3 graduated sponsored students were accepted into universities in 2021.**



# AGRICULTURE

**4 solar pumps and 2 drip kits distributed to Irrigation Clubs.**

## Why Solar Pumps?

Without solar pumps, people irrigate their land with buckets or treadle pumps. These human-powered methods are laborious and limited. But with solar pumps, several of Orant's irrigation clubs have doubled or tripled their farmable land. As a result, their crop production and personal income increased. Farmers used their funds to send their children to school, put iron sheets on their homes, and invest in their futures.



## Why Drip Kits?

Conservation of water is critical. If a solar pump provides excessive water, it floods the crop. To prevent this, we use drip kits. Drip irrigation drips small amounts of water into the soil at the same interval the plants are spaced. It optimizes plant growth, minimizes water use, and reduces the possibility of fungus or insect infestation.





# BUSINESS

Orant's FEM for Women Program provides local women entrepreneurs with microloans and training programs. We currently support 15 women.

## Hey sister, show me the mobile money!

Orant received a small grant of \$4k from USAID through Strategic Impact Advisors. With this award, we are integrating the digital financial literacy curriculum, "Hey Sister, Show Me the Mobile Money!" into our women's economic empowerment programs.

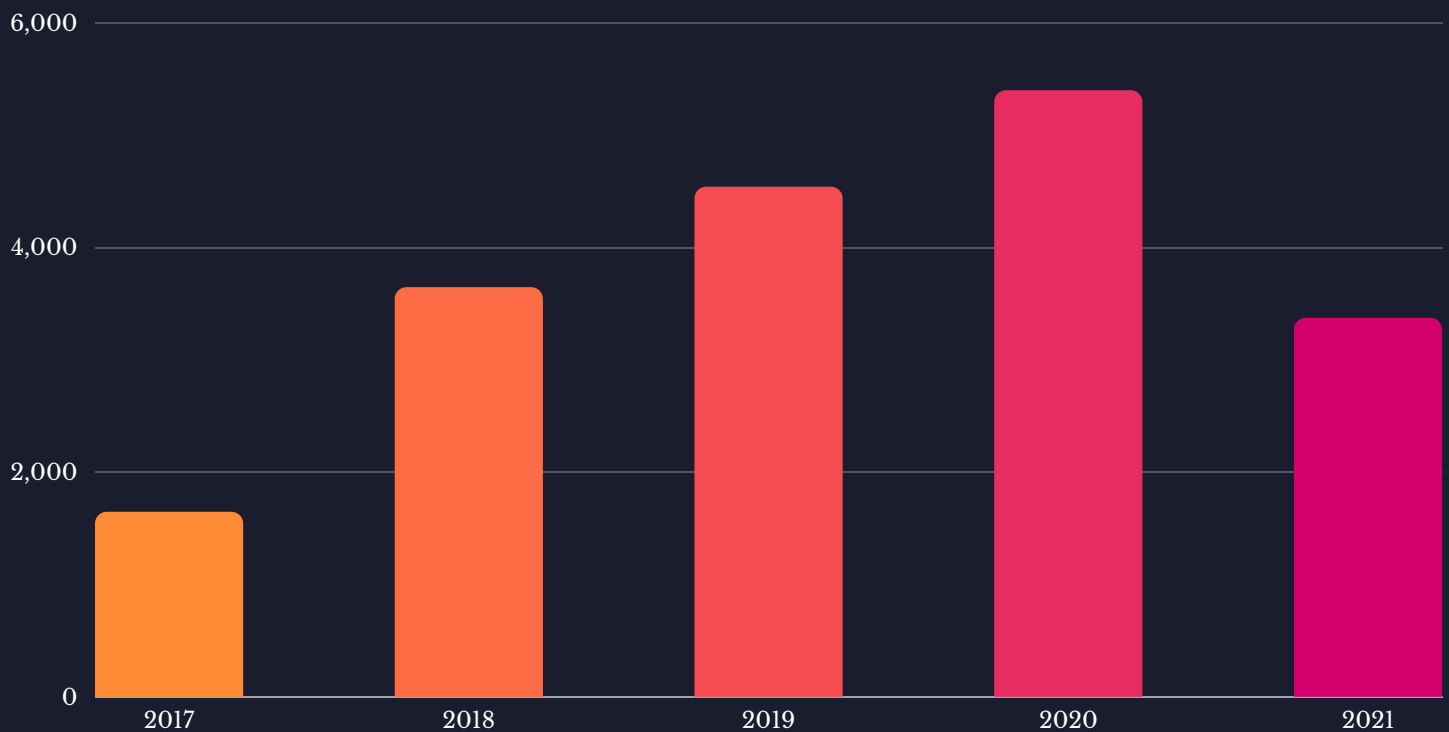
Most women in Malawi lag behind in the adoption of digital financial services.

This campaign aims to increase women's access to and use of digital financial services like mobile money. Access is the first step to agency over personal finances. So far, we have reached over 3,500 people in the Dowa area.



# WATER & SANITATION

## New Water Well Beneficiaries by Year



## 2021 Water Program Updates

- 10 boreholes drilled
- 78 boreholes repaired
- 10 water point committees trained

## What is a Water Point Committee?

Water Point Committees are made up of 10 community members. They regulate, use, and care for their borehole, stand pipe, or water tower. They also collect and manage money to pay for parts and repairs. This local involvement is integral to the sustainability of water systems.

# HEALTHCARE

Orant runs a static health clinic in Kasese and a Mobile Outreach Clinic that travels daily to hard-to-reach rural areas.

## Treating Undernutrition

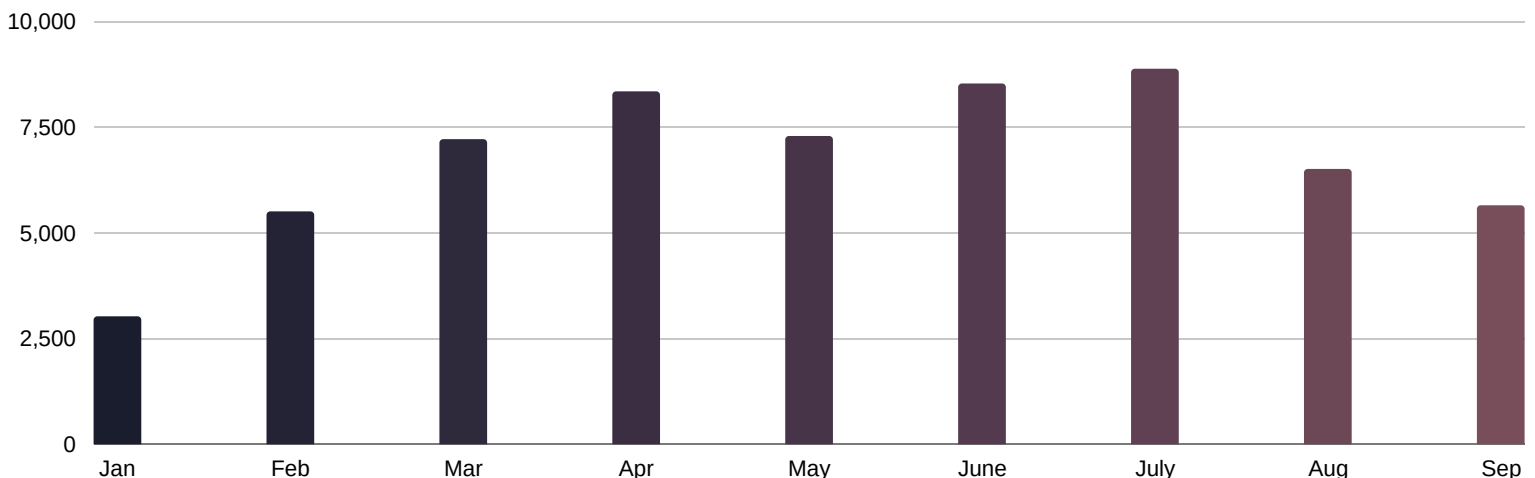
45% of global deaths among children under 5 years old are linked to undernutrition, according to WHO. These deaths occur mostly in middle and low-income countries, like Malawi. Orant's clinics treat undernourished children, teens, and adults with a deceptively simple prescription: Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF). RUTF is a combination of powdered milk, peanut butter, and micronutrients. The treatment is combined with routine medical check-ups, counseling on the importance of diversified diets, and a planned exit strategy.

## Mizu Installation

We're currently installing a new, Malawian-made medical records system from Baobab Health Trust called Mizu. This electronic medical records system will help us better provide much-needed health services.



## Total Patients Treated 2021





# THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

## Economy

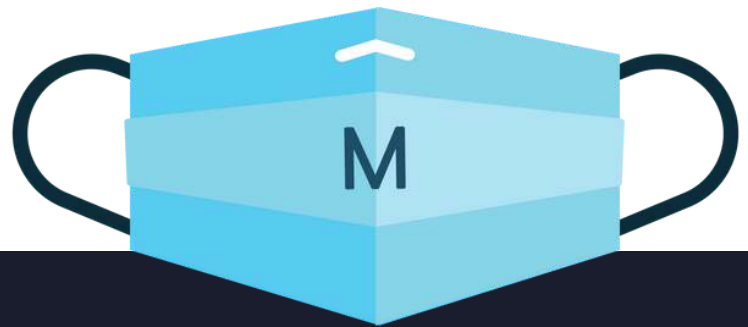
Many countries have closed down their borders, which limits Malawi's export & import trade. As a result, prices have risen, increasing the cost of living. Meanwhile, COVID-19 restrictions have led to a lack of labor and trading opportunities. Poor households are struggling to survive off little or no income.

The pandemic has not spared local traders, including our Financially Empowering Microloans for Women (FEM) participants. High costs have resulted in an inability to restock and sustain business. Furthermore, government COVID-19 restrictions impact business traffic.

Edilina Joshua, a FEM Program participant, says, “Before the pandemic, I could have many customers visit my tea room. But now, the numbers keep going down.

## Education

COVID-19 has affected students' feeling of safety at school. Some choose not to attend classes out of fear.



## ORANT'S RESPONSE

# 2,345

vaccine doses administered to Orant staff and local clinic patients in July through September.

# 15

FEM for Women Entrepreneurs now supported with two loan periods per year instead of one, as well as training in digital financial services.

# 8950

masks donated to 14 partner schools and 4 non partner schools.

# STAFF

## NEW EMPLOYEES, 2021

### EMPLOYEES OF THE QUARTER



***Beauty  
Banda***

Patient Care  
Attendant



***Herbert  
Chunga***

Clinician



***Ronald  
Makamba***

Data Officer



***Tango Phiri***

Program Manager:  
Financially Empowering  
Microloans for Women



***Praises  
Padambo***

Communications and  
Marketing Officer



# 14 YEARS OF ORANT

This November, Orant will celebrate its 14 year anniversary. In 14 years, we have evolved organically from a foreign mission into a global-local partnership. We envision a sustainable Malawi in which all people, including women, have opportunities to grow and flourish in a stable environment that meets their basic needs.



## 2021 Orant Charities Gala

On October 2nd, 2021, over 200 US supporters gathered at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science in Dallas, TX to raise funds for Orant's on-the-ground programs. We are so grateful for the generosity and service of our donors and volunteers. Among the funds raised at the event, a significant amount will go to maintenance of our Mobile Outreach Clinic.

## A Mobile Clinic Story

In February, 2021, Chrissy Banda noticed a small growth in her baby's armpit. In just a week, that growth spread to the child's waist, back, and neck. The closest government hospital was a 4 hours' walk away from their village. Chrissy and her husband sold chickens and a pig, their most valued assets, to pay for transportation and hospital bills. After a futile visit to a hospital, a private clinic, and a traditional doctor, Chrissy took her baby to Orant's Mobile Clinic. Orant's clinicians diagnosed the child with critical abscesses. They gave her injections, then an ambulance ride to the hospital. At the hospital, Jacqueline went through a major surgery. She is now healthy and happy again.

"I was so close to losing my child," Chrissy says. "Orant gave us medication and transportation to a hospital. I am so thankful."