

ORANT CHARITIES AFRICA MONTHLY REPORT

JULY 2021

COMPILED BY

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(COUNTRY DIRECTOR)

## WATER PROGRAM



### Executive Summary

The water program continues to support rural communities in the promotion of access to Water and Sanitation. In July, the water and sanitation program continued drilling of boreholes in its effort to promote access to potable water in Kasese catchment. By the end of July, the water and sanitation program managed to achieve the following milestones;

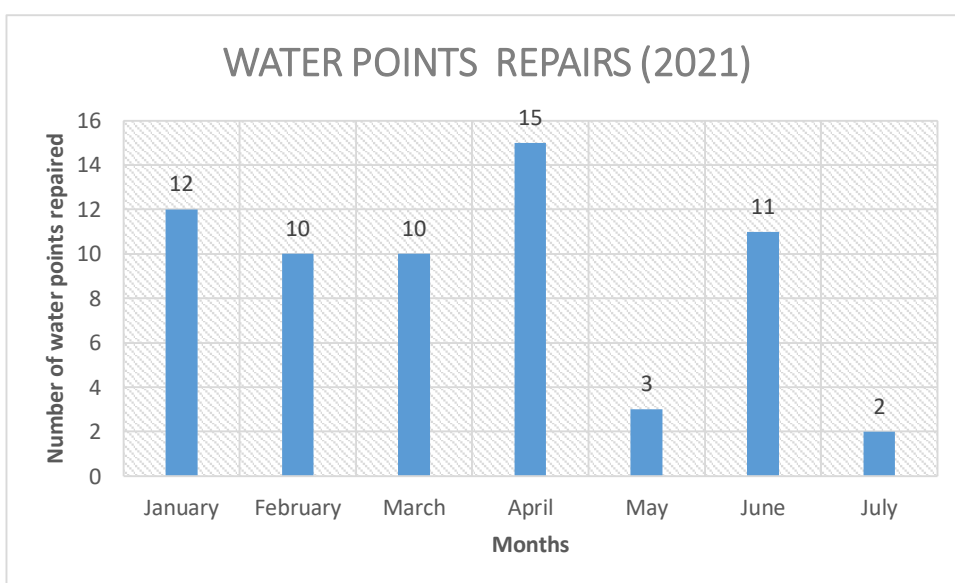
- Drilled 2 boreholes in Chinkha and Solokoto village
- 2 Water-point repairs
- Borehole drilling sites verification
- Attended Area Mechanics and Pump Mansions training
- Community-Based Management (CBM) Training for Kapale borehole

### DETAILED NARRATION OF MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

#### 1. Afridev Pump repairs and rehabilitations

To ensure sustainable functionality of water points and access to safe water within the OCA catchment. The water and sanitation program continues to support repairs and rehabilitations of broken Afridev pumps. In June 2021, the water program managed to repair a total of **2** Afridev pumps. The water program registered the lowest due to the extension of borehole drilling program in the month which led to cancellation of other field activities such as pump repairs. The extension of the borehole drilling program was caused by unforeseen challenges which were experienced during the drilling process. So far in 2021, the water and sanitation program has supported repairs and rehabilitation of **63** Afridev pumps within the Kasese catchment.

No.	VILLAGE	GVH	PROBLEM	MATERIALS	REMARKS
1	Katunundu	Bweya	Broken head pump	Head pump, & 6 rod centralizers	Successfully done
2	Kalumo		Broken pipes	1 Foot valve, 4 boats & nut, 1 Rubber flapper, 4 Bush bearings, 5 Double-end socket, 1 solvent cement, 2 bobbins, 8 rod centralizers, 1 pipe centralizer.	Successfully done



*A graphical representation of the number of water points repaired in 2021 (January to July) by the OCA water program*



*Team effort during pump repairs*

## **2. Borehole Drilling and Construction**



**Left** – Borehole drilling at Chinkha village, **Right** – Borehole civil works in Soko village before handover

In July OCA drilled two boreholes in Chinkha and Solokoto village. The two boreholes have been installed with Afridev pumps and currently the total number of boreholes drilled in 2021 is at 5 out of the planned 12. The two new boreholes are now in use. During the month the water program drilled two dry boreholes in Mshangula and Kam'phika village. This led to swapping of sites for the month with those which were meant for August (Chinkha and Solokoto) hence extending the drilling period for the month of July with a week. The occurrence of dry boreholes affected scheduling of other activities such as borehole repairs hence fewer boreholes were repaired in July. The cost for the two dry boreholes was incurred by the driller since he was also responsible for geophysical surveys before drilling. Below are details for the two newly drilled boreholes in July;

VILLAGE	GVH	TA	ESTIMATED POPULATION	MONTH DRILLED	YEAR DRILLED
Chinkha	Chibisa	Chakhadza	650	July	2021
Solokoto	Makombwa 2	Chakhadza	380	July	2021

### 3. Community-Based Management (CBM) Training for Water Point Committees (WPC)



**Left** – A practical session of WPC training at Kapale village, **Right**- A water monitoring assistant facilitating during class room session at Kapale WPC training

To ensure sustainable management of water points by communities, OCA trains WPCs in Community Based Management (CBM) of Afridev pumps. In July, the water program managed to train 1 WPC for the Kapale borehole which was drilled in June, 2021. The training was facilitated through a collaborative effort among OCA Water program staff, Water Monitoring Assistant from Dowa District Water Department, Afridev Pump Area Mechanics, and Health Surveillance Assistants (HSAs) from Kasese Health Centre/ Dowa District Health Office. A total of 12 participants (Female: 6 and Male: 6) attended the training, this includes two local leaders (Chiefs) and 10 water point committee members. During the training water point committee were trained in minor borehole repairs and sanitation for their water point among other lessons.

#### 4. Borehole drilling sites verification

During the month the water program also organized borehole drilling sites verification for villages proposed by Chiefs and Area Development Committee (ADC). The aim of the visit was to further assess proposed sites for borehole drilling and finally compile a list of villages where remaining borehole for 2021 will be drilled. Following the verification exercise, the list of boreholes below was produced. Note that the list also contains boreholes which have already been drilled so far in 2021.

<b>2021 PROPOSED LIST BOREHOLES TO BE DRILLED/ DRILLING PROGRESS</b>				
<b>NO.</b>	<b>VILLAGE</b>	<b>GVH</b>	<b>DRILLING MONTH</b>	<b>PROGRESS</b>
1	Chiliphiza	Chiliphiza	May	Done
2	Kapale	Chikwangula	June	Done
3	Soko	Joseni	June	Done
6	Chinkha	Chibisa	July	Done
7	Solokoto	Makombwa 2	July	Done
8	Chikumba	Kalonga	August	
9	Mtengo	Chazinga	August	
4	Mshangula	Chidya	September	
5	Kam'phika	Kachira	September	

10	Chikepe	Makombwa 1	October	
11	Kaunjika	Joseni	October	
12	Basikolo	Chikwangula	November	

## **CONCLUSION**

The month of July was another busy month. During the month, the water and sanitation program drilled two dry boreholes which led to the extension of the drilling exercise for the month. Despite this, the water program is very optimistic for the new month of August 2021 as we continue driving towards Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 thus promoting access to clean water and sanitation for all.

## AGRICULTURE AND BUSINESS

### AGRICULTURE

#### Executive Summary

The During the month of July 2021, the agriculture program performed several activities in supporting smallholder farmers in the communities. The activities were aimed at empowering the local farmers to live independent lives by having enough food and improved economic levels in their homes through irrigation farming. Below are activities which were carried out during the reporting period.

#### Solar pump Installation



*Gracious Msimuko delivering the new solar pump at Timvane irrigation club (left picture) and the Country Director (Gabriel Kapanda) posing with very happy farmers*

For bumper harvest to be achieved during irrigation farming, it requires application of enough water to the plants. One of the problems OCA irrigation clubs are facing is lack of better watering equipment. In reducing problems of watering the crops, OCA has supported the irrigation clubs with portable solar water pumps and irrigation drip kits. Total of four irrigation clubs have been supported with the portable solar water pumps and two irrigation clubs have been supported with irrigation drip kits. These watering equipment will reduce problems of supplying water to the crops in the field and also it will increase land for cultivation as in the past years watering equipment has been a limiting factor for expanding land for cultivation. The clubs which have benefited from this program include Timvane, Ndalusa, Chigona and Kasangadzi irrigation clubs. The total beneficiaries from this program are 122 farmers whereas 87 farmers are Female and 35 farmers are Male.



*Solar pump installation in progress at Timvane irrigation club*

### **Demonstration Plots**

Timvane irrigation club has been given three varieties of Maize to be cultivated on demonstration. OCA in partnership with Bayer Company has chosen Timvane club to be the site for a Maize crop production demonstration farm where seed has been provided by Bayer Company and OCA is providing all required training to the club members for Good Agriculture Practices (GAP). The site has been designed to be the learning area for all other irrigation clubs and smallholder farmers whereby vegetative and harvesting Field day will be conducted.

### **Land preparation**

When cultivating different types of the crops, soils are supposed to be prepared with an aim of creating good growing conditions for tomato plants to develop the optimal root system in the specific soil profile. In tomato production, soil preparation improves the potential for profitable production of tomatoes. Kasangadzi irrigation club was involved in soil preparation activity whereby soils were ploughed at depth of 30cm and transplanting beds were constructed at 3m by 1m. Soil preparation is advantageous in a way that it has no restriction on root development and more space for oxygen circulation in the soil creating better root development. Smallholder farmers from Kasangadzi irrigation club were encouraged to do dip ploughing on their fields for better growth of the crops to be cultivated.





*Bed making in progress at Kasangadzi irrigation club*

### **Transplanting and Planting**

Transplanting activity was done at Kasangadzi irrigation club in the village of Mzimuwakana. For good quality and healthy seedlings in tomato crop production, it requires the correct choice of both variety and seedling grower. When farmers are planning to transplant the seedlings from a nursery, farmers are supposed to complete land preparation and also the irrigation system has to be in place. Tomatoes are mostly sown in a separate bed whereby it is transplanted into a baby bed after 3 to 4 weeks from the day of sowing. Tomato seedlings transplanting activity was done at spacing of 50cm by 60cm and one seedling was planted per planting station. The spacing and planting population was well controlled with an aim of producing good tomato fruit size and creating enough space for aeration and sunlight penetration. Manure was also applied during the transplanting period where it was well mixed with the soil before planting the seedling.

Timvane irrigation club was taken into process of Maize planting where Sasakawa system of maize planting was practiced. Maize was planted at spacing of 25cm by 25cm from planting station to other planting station and 75cm between lines. Farmers were able to adopt the system and was encouraged to be practices on there fields.



*Planting of maize seed in progress*

### **Manure/Fertilizer application**

Addition of manure and fertilizer in crop production is of more benefits for bumper harvest. Club members were encouraged to apply manure before transplanting followed by little application of fertilizer. Manure works better by mixing with soils than sprinkling on the ground. Manure application helps in improving soil fertility and structure. Application of the manure in the field also reduces the rate of fertilizer application. Irrigation clubs of Timvane and Madzimayela were involved in manure and fertilizer application for better harvest.



*Basal dressing fertilizer application*

### **Stalking and tying up**

Chigona and Madzimayela irrigation clubs were involved in staking activity whereby smallholder farmers were trained on how to conduct staking activity and the importance of keeping tomatoes staked. Staking activity is done with an aim of keeping the fruit and foliage off the ground, increasing fruit yield and size, reducing fruit rot, and makes spraying and harvesting easier. Tying of tomato plants to the stick is done to support the stems while they are growing. Tying is done loosely to the stick so that the stem is not damaged and retired regularly as they grow.

### **Pruning**

Mantchedza and Madzimayela irrigation clubs were involved in pruning activity during the reporting month. Pruning is a more important activity in the process of tomato production as it improves the light penetration and air circulation. Pruned tomato plants produce good size and quality tomato fruits. Smallholder farmers were advised to remove any yellow or decaying foliage as soon as possible to avoid spread of disease and competition of nutrients for the plant. Pruning was also done by removing some side branches as the plant became too large to support itself. Pruning was done with proper care to avoid spread of disease via hands or any tools used for pruning. Proper care was done by cleaning tools used for pruning regularly and burning or burying all pruned leaves to avoid disease infections. Farmers were also advised to do pruning activity during morning hours on a sunny day so that the wounds can dry quickly.

## **Pests and disease control**

Pests and disease reduces quality and quantity of produce on the crops hence prevention or control is extremely important. Timvane irrigation club is producing Maize and the field was affected with fall army worm pests despite following Integrated Pests Management (IPM). For the control of pests attacking the crops, synthetic chemicals were applied and the club members were directed on right dosage rate/ acre, right time of applying and right way of spraying the chemicals. The best time for the control of pest and disease is during early in the morning or evening hours as stomata are open for chemical penetration.



*Spraying pesticides in Maize plants*

## **FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT MICROLOANS PROGRAM**

### **Executive Summary**

The agriculture and business department through the Financial empowering microloan program continues to provide financial and literacy support to women entrepreneurs around Kasese catchment area to ensure that women are economically empowered at a local level. In the month of July, the Fem program had planned and conducted a series of activities as narrated below.

### **Activities planned and achieved**

#### **1. Financial literacy Training 2**

As part of capacity building, FEM program organised a training session for the women entrepreneurs. The main focus areas for the training were; Goal setting, Prioritization and Savings and investments. The training was jointly facilitated by OCA, Zoe empowers and SMEDI. The women entrepreneurs were very excited as they continue to learn new ideas of how best they can manage their business at the same time be able to contribute to their families' well-being. As one way of ensuring that the women entrepreneurs are practicing what they are being taught for the betterment of their businesses, each one of them was given a tasks to do and OCA will be monitoring to ensure accomplishment of the tasks.

## Recommendations

- i. Each one of the women entrepreneurs should write down their short term and long term goals Rank the goals according to most important to the least important (prioritization) and
- ii. set time frames of achieving the set goals
- iii. FEM members should select a saving plan method

## OCA deliverables

- i. Help the women entrepreneurs in setting realistic and attainable goals
- ii. Monitor whether the women entrepreneurs are able to meet the set goals
- iii. Help in enforcing the saving plan method opted for by the women entrepreneurs

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Kugula Malata												
Kugula mbuzi												
Ku Pasa Kadi												
Kila Kufuta watawa watawa House												
Kugula nkumbi												
Thawa Zium 20												
NSeuna ndi Sogor												
Kugula Buze 5												
Kugula Fridge												
Fees												

*Sample savings plan presentations*



*Olipa Malizani presenting during group*



*FEM members during group discussions*



*Training with Lauryn Dzombe (ZOE empowers)*

## 2. Sensitization meeting with Market committee

OCA facilitated a meeting with the market committee members of Kasese trading centre. The objective of the meeting was to make the committee aware of OCA's plans to establish another

Fem group within Kasese trading Centre since they are the overseers of the market hence we could not bypass them. We also used this forum to discuss a possible targeting criteria which will contribute to enrolling of eligible women entrepreneurs into the program. The committee was then tasked to raise awareness to all the women entrepreneurs doing business within Kasese catchment area so that those who might have interest could apply to be part of the program.



*Meeting with some of the market committee members of Kasese trading centre*

### **3. Loan repayment**

In the month of June, we had disbursed loans to the women entrepreneurs, as per agreement, they were given a month to fully invest the loan before they start repayment. They women were supposed to start repayment on the 30<sup>th</sup> of July 2021. Due to the change of repayment mode, and being the first time using mobile money to repay the loans, we had fears that we may encounter some challenges but contrary to this, all the women entrepreneurs had managed to repay the loan via our OCA mobile money line by the agreed date which is a good indication that they have adopted the new system. Table below shows their monthly instalments and the transaction ids as proof of payment of the first instalment.

<b>S/ N</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Approved Amount</b>	<b>Amount paid</b>	<b>Loan Balance</b>	<b>Transaction id</b>	<b>Scheduled repayment date</b>
P- 12	Alineti Machisawo	170,000.00	42,500.00	127,500.00	C1210730.1024. D16368	30/07/2021
P- 7	Deborah Mauagule	120,000.00	30,000.00	90,000.00	C1210730.1013. G13966	30/07/2021

P-11	Dorothy Jelalo	200,000.00	50,000.00	150,000.00	C1210730.0953. D13220	30/07/2021
P-09	Edilina Joshua	290,000.00	72,500.00	217,500.00	C1210730.1011. H13260	30/07/2021
P-15	Gloria chidzanja	250,000.00	62,500.00	187,500.00	C1210730.1019. H88838	30/07/2021
P-28	Lizineti Thokozani	210,000.00	52,500.00	157,500.00	C1210730.1751. G57041	30/07/2021
P-06	Lonely Lameck	130,000.00	32,500.00	97,500.00	C1210730.1005. D14388	30/07/2021
P-17	Maligelita Yosafati	170,000.00	42,500.00	127,500.00	C1210730.1002. H12380	30/07/2021
P-14	Mary Levi	170,000.00	42,500.00	127,500.00	C1210730.1034. D17387	30/07/2021
P-13	Mary Mndolo	150,000.00	37,500.00	112,500.00	C1210730.1019.I 15360	30/07/2021
P-16	Miguel Bright	260,000.00	65,000.00	195,000.00	C1210730.1035. D17438	30/07/2021
P-25	Olipa Malizani	170,000.00	42,500.00	127,500.00	C1210730.1007. H12890	30/07/2021
P-19	Patricia Simbi	170,000.00	42,500.00	127,500.00	C1210730.1013. G14191	30/07/2021
P-29	Rabecca Yohane	210,000.00	52,500.00	157,500.00	C1210730.1101. D95182	30/07/2021
P-18	Rachel Phiri	150,000.00	37,500.00	112,500.00	C1210730.1022. H14331	30/07/2021

<b>Total</b>	<b>2,820,000.00</b>	<b>705,000.00</b>	<b>2,115,000.00</b>		
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#### **4. FEM applications**

Since OCA is planning to expand their FEM program by establishing a new Fem group, a simple application form was devised so that interested women entrepreneurs who fit our criterion for FEM beneficiaries could access the forms from OCA offices and fill it out. Considering the target population, we had anticipated that not everyone would be able to read and write, hence there was that flexibility for those who could not manage to write to seek assistance from the OCA staff in charge, market committee members or someone they trust to help them in completing the details of the form. Looking at the number of people we would like to incorporate and for easy identification and review of the members, we had opted to have a sample size of fifty people. forty-five forms were disbursed to potential women entrepreneurs. Out of the forty-five applicants, not more than twenty people are going to be selected to be in the second FEM group provided they qualify to be part and parcel of the program.

#### **5. Monitoring**

One of the recommendations from the training was that the business women should identify and agree on the best way possible for saving income. The women had opted that they form a village savings and loans (VSL) group. The aim of establishing this savings group is to instil a saving culture in the women entrepreneurs so that they can be able to achieve their goals easily. The group agreed to be meeting every week on Thursday. On 5th of August, we had a meeting with the women to discuss how the vsl group will be operating. It was a fruitful meeting as the women had a set of rules established upon which every member is supposed to abide by.

## EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM

### Executive Summary

Orant Charities Africa (OCA) Education Support program is supporting 100 disadvantaged students through their education in Malawi. It provides support to children and their families, and works with the schools and the wider community to ensure each beneficiary receive full support to pursue their education and flourish.

### Activities

The following were the activities which were conducted by the education program in the month of July 2021;

### School Visits

During the reporting period, OCA education program visited sponsored students in their respective school. the schools which were visited include: Nkhamenya girls sec. school, Tchawale CDSS, Lilongwe girls Sec school, Dzenza Sec school and Chayamba Sec. school. the aim of the visits was to monitor students' academic performance and encourage them to work extra hard. In addition to that, the visited students were also given some school supplies by OCA. The supplies include; washing and bathing soap, sugar, sanitary pads, hardcovers, pens, pencils, toothpaste and body lotion. These things are given to the students because the school does not provide to them and the students cannot afford on their own because they come from poor families and they are the basic needs which are needed in their day to day life.

- Below are the pictures of students which were visited carrying their supplies given by OCA;



Lilongwe girls students with OCA personnel



Chayamba students pose with OCA staff





Nkhamenya girls students



OCA personnel with Tchawale students



Students at Dzenza Sec. school

### **Identification of new students**

In the same month of July, 2020 new students were identified into the education program. Since the education program is split into three types of sponsorship, the new students were identified under OCA sponsorship. This means that each student has an individual donor who will be supporting their education through Orant charities Africa. Six students from Nkhamenya girls Secondary school were identified and they are all in form one. They will be sponsored for four academic years (until form 4). With this additional six students, Orant is now sponsoring 100 students from various school.



*The 6 girls identified by OCA*

### **Mask distribution**

OCA education program distributed 600 face masks to Chayamba secondary school. Chayamba secondary school is in Kasungu district and OCA is supporting the education of 6 girls who are now in form 3. OCA started sponsoring these students when they were in form one. Despite supporting 6 students at Chayamba, OCA has distributed face masks to the whole school in order to help in the fight against Covid-19. This was the second time OCA distributing face masks to Chayamba Secondary school since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.



Students at Chayamba Sec. school wearing face masks donated by OCA

### **Challenges- Drop out student**

It is on a sad note to report the drop out of one OCA sponsored student. The student (Mary Kadwala) was being sponsored by Rotary international donors. She was in form four at Bishop Mtekateka Secondary school and was expected to graduate this year (2021). It was reported that the student was expelled with other 5 girls on disciplinary grounds. They were found drinking alcohol in school which is prohibited. This is a sad development for OCA education program because the student was in boarding school, hardworking and there was great potential in her and this behaviour was not expected from her. OCA tried its best to instil a hard working spirit in her, encouraged her to stay in school and expected her to be the future leader.

