

MONTHLY REPORT

JUNE 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 June, the water program continued drilling of boreholes in its effort to promote access to potable water in Kasese catchment. Furthermore, the water and program was privileged to welcome members from Orant Charities –US who were visiting OCA programs. By the end of June, the water and sanitation program managed to achieve the following milestones;

- 11 Water-point repairs and rehabilitations
- Drilled 2 boreholes in Kapale and Soko village
- Present progress report during DCT meeting at Dowa District Council
- Conduct a meeting with Inter-aide and Pump aid
- Supported Design Outreach Testimonials
- Orant Charities US visit
- Water Quality Testing for Chiliphiza borehole
- Community-Based Management (CBM) Training for Chiliphiza borehole

DETAILED NARRATION OF MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

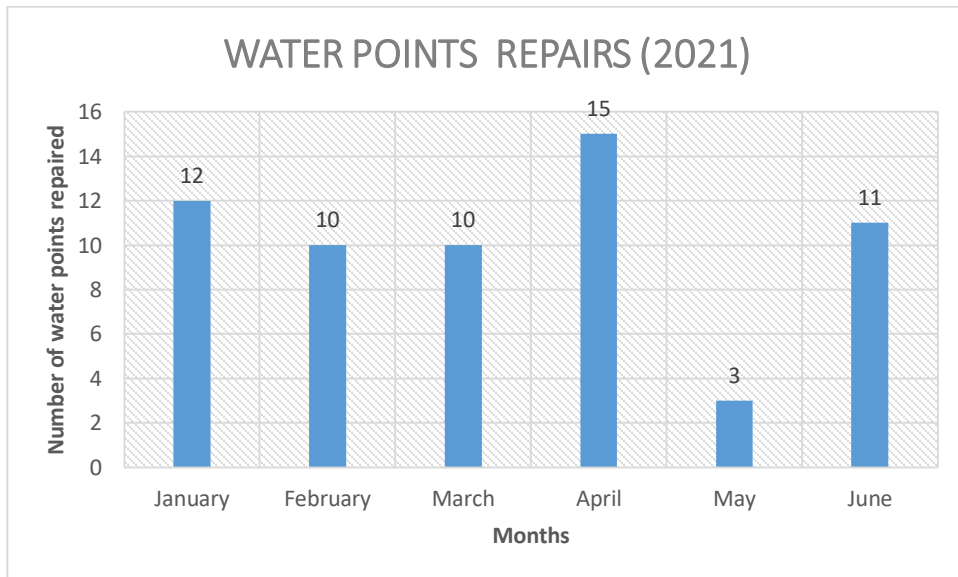
1. Afridev Pump repairs and rehabilitations

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. The water program managed to repair a total of **11** Afridev pumps. So far

in 2021, the water and sanitation program has supported repairs and rehabilitation of **61** Afridev pumps within the Kasese catchment.

No.	VILLAGE	GVH	PROBLEM	MATERIALS	REMARKS
1	Chuzu	Chiliphiza	Pump stuck inside the borehole	7 Double end sockets, 13 rod centralizers, 1 cup-seal, 1 bobbin, 1 bottle of solvent cement, 1 Pipe centralizers, 4 Bush bearing,	Successfully done
2	Chidya	Chidya	Worn-out foot valve	1 Pump rod, 8 Rod centralizers, 4 Bush bearing, 1 Foot valve, 2 Bobbins	Successfully done
3	Mtandaza	M'biya	Worn-out hunger pin	4 Bush bearing, 10 Rod Centralizer, 1 Hunger pin	Successfully done
4	Makombwa	Makombwa	Worn-out Cup-seal and broken pump rod	1 Pump rod, 10 Rod Centralizers, 1 Cup-seal, 2 Bush bearing, 1 Bobbin	Successfully done
5	Inje 1	Inje	Worn-out Cup-seal	1 Cup-seal, 1 pump rod, 2 Rod Centralizers, 2 Bush bearing	Successfully done
6	Kam'mata	M'biya	Worn-out cup-seal and bobbin	1 Rod centralizer, 1 Cup-seal, 1 Bobbin, 4 Bush bearing	Successfully done
7	Chilinkholi School	Chilinkholi	Damaged cylinder	1 Cylinder, 6 Double-end socket, 3 pump rods, 4 bush bearing	Successfully done
8	Chadzelakuti	Inje	Service	6 Rod Centralizers, 1 cup-seal	Successfully done

9	Inje 2	Inje	Service	4 Bush bearing, 1 cup-seal	Successfully done
10	Joseni	Joseni	Broken pipe	7 Double-end socket, 1 Pump rod, 1 PVC pipe, 1 Rod centralizer, 3 Pipe centralizers, 1 Solvent cement, 4 Bush bearing	Successfully done
11	Chinguwi School	Chikamphula	Broken Cylinder	1 Cylinder, 7 Double-end socket, 1 PVC pipe, 1 Pump rod, 3 Rod centralizers, 2 Pipe centralizers, 1 Cup-seal, 4 Bolts and nuts	Successfully done



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



Team effort during pump repair at Chinguwi school during the month

2. District Coordination Team (DCT)/Progress Report Presentation

On the 18th of June, 2021, the water program supported WASH DCT for the Dowa district. WASH DCT is a forum for WASH stakeholders at the district level from Government departments and Non-Governmental Organizations. During DCT meetings stakeholders appraise new WASH projects and Old projects at the district level. DCTs are also responsible for the monitoring of WASH projects being implemented by both NGOs and the Government within Dowa district. More importantly, DCTs promote coordination among WASH stakeholders at the district level. During the recent DCT meeting, the water program was privileged to present its progress report for 2020 to 2021. The report focused on activities implemented in 2020 as well as plans and progress of 2021 activities so far. Following the OCA presentation, DCT members applauded the OCA effort in 2020 and 2021 so far. DCT members expressed their interest to visit OCA activities in the field to further appreciate OCA interventions. OCA plans to invite members of the DCT visit some of the interventions OCA has implementing in the field in July 2021.



A section of participants during OCA DCT meeting Presentation at Dowa District Council

3. Borehole Drilling and Construction



Left –Unprotected old water source in soko village, Right – New water source in Soko village during curing process before opening

Following the onset of borehole drilling season in May OCA continues to drill a new borehole in areas with limited access to safe water. In June OCA drilled two boreholes in Kapale and Soko village. The two boreholes have been installed with Afridev pumps and currently the total number of boreholes drilled in 2021 is at 3 out of the planned 12. The two boreholes are not yet in use pending the curing of their civil works. Communities in these two villages are expected to begin using the boreholes in early July 2021. Initially, the water program had 11 boreholes to be 2021 and recently the Brennan family has donated extra funds to drill one more borehole in 2021, raising the total to 12. Below are details for the two boreholes drilled in June;

VILLAGE	GVH	TA	ESTIMATED POPULATION	MONTH DRILLED	YEAR DRILLED
Soko	Chanduzi	Chakhadza	313	July	2021
Kapale	Chikwangula	Chakhadza	200	July	2021

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



Left- OCA Water Field Assistant stressing a point during practical session of WPC training at Chilliphiza village, Right- Class room session during Chiliphiza WPC training

To ensure sustainable management of water points by communities, OCA trains WPCs in Community Based Management (CBM) of Afridev pumps. The water program managed to train 1 WPC for the Chiliphiza borehole from GVH Chiliphiza. The borehole was drilled in May 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: 7 and Male: 5) attended the training, this includes two local leaders (Chiefs) and 10 water point committee members.

5. Meeting with Inter-aide, Area Mechanics (AMs) and Pump-Aid

Following the selection of 2 Area Mechanics (AMs) to replace Area Mechanics who stopped working in 2020, the water program together with a partner NGO; Inter-aide organized a meeting with AMs to strategize on how the new AMs will carry out their duties in OCA catchment. OCA catchment now has retained a total of 4 AMs (3 ladies and 1 man), who are responsible for maintenance of pumps at village level. During the month, the OCA water program also met with a Program Manager for Pump-aid to discuss how these two NGOs can coordinate since they are sharing a catchment and are implementing similar activities. Pump-aid is implementing a 3-year project in TA Chakhadza aimed at Promoting low-cost pump technologies for household drinking water and irrigation. In this project, Pump-aid is promoting the Rope pump technology and repairing Afridev pumps through Area Mechanics as well. During the meeting, the two NGOs shared implementation plans for their respective projects/programs and plan to engage each other whenever necessary during the implementation of activities.



Participants during the meeting between the OCA water program and Inter-aid

6. Supporting Design Outreach Testimonials for Life Pump

Early in June 2021, the water program was invited to support the Design Outreach testimonials for the Life pump which was installed in Chikwangwala village. Design Outreach is another OCA partner NGO promoting a Life pump. During the event design outreach wanted to film a documentary on how life for people from Chikwangwala village has changed since OCA and Design Outreach together donated borehole with a Life pump in the village. Design Outreach

further promised to share the documentary with OCA to appreciate the fruits of their collaboration.

7. Orant Charities US Visit Malawi



Pump repair session at Chinguwi Primary School during OC-US visit to Malawi

During the month, Orant Charities US (OC-US) visited Orant Charities Africa (OCA) to appreciate some of the activities OCA has been implementing since 2020. During the visit, the members from OC-US managed to visit some of the program activities under the water program. These include new latrines at Chilinkholi, pump repair session at Chinguwi primary school, and two boreholes drilled in 2020 (Mankhaka and Chilindauta). The water program manager also prepared a progress report which was shared with visitors on one of the days during OC-US member's stay in Malawi. During the visit, the water program received the Sonlist water level meter which will facilitate data collection for water levels in boreholes across the OCA catchment.

8. Water Quality Testing for Chiliphiza Borehole

For every new water point drilled, OCA collects water samples which are later tested at Governments Central Lab in Lilongwe for relevant parameters. This is done to ensure the provision of water of good quality to the benefitting communities as well as maintain adherence to Malawi Bureau of Standards and WHO guidelines for drinking water. During the month, the water program in collaboration with the Government's water chemist collected samples for the newly drilled Chiliphiza borehole for testing. Following the tests, the water samples from the Chiliphiza borehole were within acceptable levels for both microbiological and Physicochemical parameters. Hence worth concluding that the water was safe for drinking. Chiliphiza borehole which was drilled in May 2021 is supplying clean water to a total of 435 people.

CONCLUSION

The month of June was a very productive month based on the activities which the water program managed to implement. The water program is very optimistic for the new month of July 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 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;

Transplanting

In tomato production, farmers start with sowing of seeds to be transplanted after 3 to 6 weeks from the day of sowing. The advantages of transplanting the seedlings include good and healthy plant seedlings that can be selected to be planted in the main field and the planting distance is more than sowing directly in the field. Seedlings can be transplanted within the period of 3 to 6 weeks after sowing but a week before transplanting, seedlings should be hardened off. Hardening off is done by reducing application of water by 12 to 14 hours before transplanting the seedlings. The seedlings should be thoroughly applied with water during the time of transplanting to avoid excessive damage to the roots. Ndalusa club members were encouraged to conduct transplanting activity during afternoon hours or cloudy days to reduce the transplanting shock. Ndalusa irrigation club was monitored during transplanting of tomato seedlings. Ndalusa club is one of the bigger irrigation clubs for OCA and it has increased cultivated land from 3 to 5 acres with tomato plants. Ndalusa uses a watering pump for irrigating the crops which makes it easier to irrigate the crops and expand land for cultivation.



Ndalusa club transplanted seedlings

Manure application

Tomato crop is a heavy feeder plant which requires more nutrients for bumper harvest hence manure was applied immediately after land preparation to improve nutrient content in the soil. Application of manure is mostly encouraged to be done before transplanting. Manual is mixed with the soil for faster functionality. Despite manure improving soil fertility, it also improves soil structure whereby water holding capacity and erosion is being improved.



Club member applying manure on well prepared land

Staking

As a way of keeping tomato fruits away from damage by pests, staking has to be done in good time to keep the tomato fruits away from touching the ground. Timvane irrigation club was monitored during tomato staking. Staking is done in tomato production to ensure cleaner and healthier tomatoes are produced. Staking helps in keeping tomato fruits off from ground hence reduces losses from fruit rots which can be the result of tomato fruits touching the ground (soil). Farmers were also trained on importance's of staking tomato plants; staked tomato plants are easier to spray or dust for insect and disease control and easier to harvest than those sprawling in the ground. The methods of staking which was brought to the farmers were by the use of sticks

which are readily and commonly available in their area. This will help in cutting costs and bringing more profits at the end of the production process.

Pruning

Mantchedza irrigation club is practicing tomato production and removal of dead leaves and side branches is being done. Pruning was done with an aim of maximizing photosynthetic efficiency and minimizing risk of pests and disease. The process of pruning was monitored where the use of a knife or a fingertip was encouraged. In tomato production, the pruning process targets most suckers and dead leaves. Suckers are the shoots that are formed in the axils where side branches meet the stem. If too many stems are allowed to develop, energy is used in developing the multiple growing tips and fruit production may be slowed. More stems will also result in smaller fruit size produced. Farmers are encouraged to remove the suckers while they are small in size and it is necessary to remove all suckers that grow below the first flower cluster. This helps in keeping the main supporting stem strong. Club members were also trained to avoid the removal of upper suckers that will eventually produce flowers and fruits. This will help to have fewer stems which will produce fewer fruits which are large in size and mostly liked by the customers.



Pruned tomato plants to improve aeration

Harvesting and marketing

Ndalusa irrigation club is producing tomatoes and the tomato fruits have ripen hence harvesting process has commenced and good quality tomato fruits have been achieved. As the process of harvesting has commenced, club members were trained in grading and good ways of storing the harvest to keep it away from damage. Well graded tomatoes help in achieving better prices at the market.



Ripen tomato fruits ready for harvesting

Purchase of maize

Nsima is the staple food for the people living in Malawi and it is made from Maize grain. As a way of helping smallholder farmers and some households living below poverty line, OCA has purchased 1,100 bags of maize locally which will be given to those households facing hunger problems and having malnutrition/healthy problems. OCA catchment area has a population of more than 36,000 people and a larger number of people face challenges of hunger hence support in terms of food is more important. The purchased maize grain is being applied with pesticides to keep it away from damage by weevils. The Maize will be stored and distributed in the lean season.



Purchased Maize treated from weevil's attack

FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT MICROLOANS PROGRAM



Executive Summary

FEM program continues to support women entrepreneurs around Kasese trading centre through provision of interest free microloans which are repaid in four equal instalments and periodic entrepreneurship courses aimed at equipping women with essential business skills to enable women to successfully manage their businesses. These microloans and entrepreneurship courses are meant to empower women so that they become financially self-reliant and be able to support their households. In the month of June, FEM had accomplished the following activities as narrated below;

Activities Planned and achieved

Financial Literacy Training; Bookkeeping and Financial management

OCA facilitated a three-day training from 23rd to 25th June for the women entrepreneurs which took place at OCA premises in Kasese. The training aimed at equipping FEM members with bookkeeping skills to effectively and efficiently keep complete and accurate records of all the business activities which will later on aid them in making informed decisions pertaining to their businesses. The training was solely facilitated by the FEM manager.

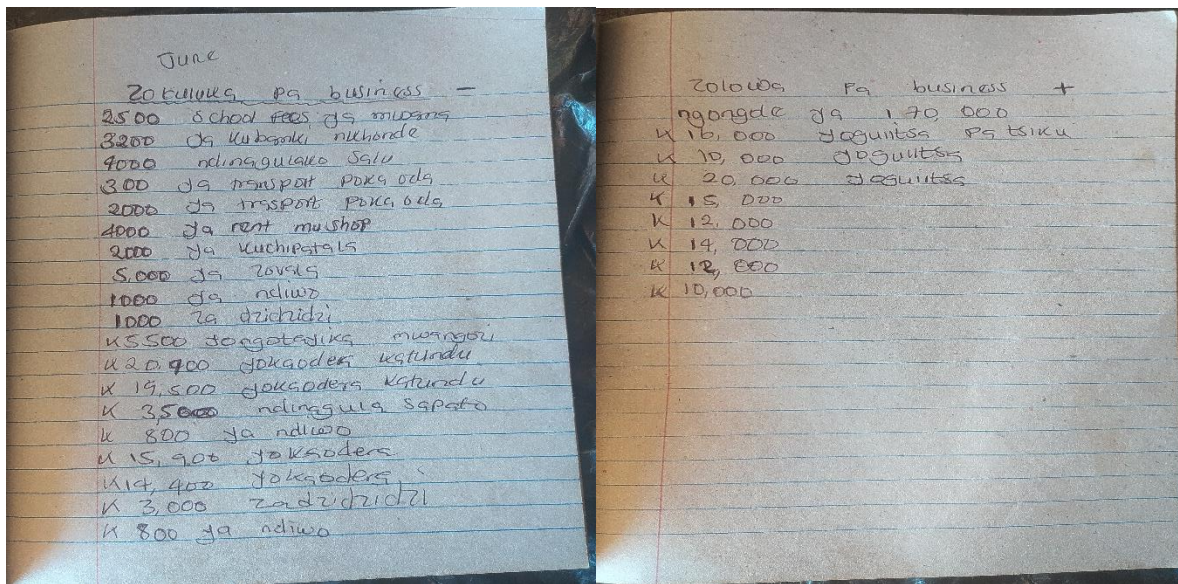


Training session with FEM Members



Some of the FEM members during group discussions

Through the Bookkeeping and Financial management training, the women entrepreneurs are now able to keep and update simple cash books where they record day to day business transaction. This is good progress as it is now possible to deduce a cash flow and income statement from their cashbook records.



Simple Cash book for one of the FEM members; Olipa Malizani Chagomerana

Monitoring visits

In order to track the program progress since we have recently disbursed the loans, monitoring visits were carried out for each business entity for all the women entrepreneurs. Again, the monitoring has helped us assess how the transition from cash loan disbursements to electronic loan disbursement has affected them since it was the first time for most of the women entrepreneurs to use banking services. Monitoring also gave room to review how the ongoing initiative to encourage women entrepreneurs to be using Mobile money will impact them.

Feedback on the use of Banking services/mobile money services

The following were some of the benefits and challenges that the women had observed with the current system of receiving and repaying loans through the bank/ mobile money and these concerns were recorded during the monitoring visits.

Benefits

- **Time saving:** the women entrepreneurs will not have to come to OCA to repay the loan as they can just transfer funds via mobile money using the nearest agent they can find
- **Flexibility:** women entrepreneurs were able to access and repay the loans at their convenient time and closer to where they are ordering their business items
- **Security:** do not have to carry huge sums of money around and when going to withdraw the money, nobody knows they are going to the bank to do so.
- **Exposure:** the women entrepreneurs have been exposed to banking services something which on their own, they would not have attempted to do open and maintain an account
- **Affordability;** no extra costs will be incurred when repaying the loans as this cost has been shouldered by OCA. Additionally, the bank accounts do not charge any service fees.

Challenges

- Incurred extra costs arising from transport and account opening fees
- Delays in getting the loan as they were waiting for the funds to be cleared by their receiving bank
- Problems in accessing the funds at the bank; since it was the first time having to go and withdraw money from the bank for most of the women entrepreneurs did not know where to start from.

Lessons learnt

- Proper orientation on digital finance was required for the woman entrepreneurs before actually exposing them to the bank procedures
- Account opening processes for members who do not have bank accounts must begin at least a month prior to disbursement so that the accounts should be ready in due time
- Funds should be disbursed at least two days prior to the agreed day of disbursement so that they should be able to get the loans on the agreed dates
- Extension of period to a month before they start repayment of the loan has given the women entrepreneurs ample time to invest and make full use of the loan before they start repayment

Partnership with SIA

Having gone through OCA website and seeing the tremendous work that we are doing especially with the women entrepreneurs, Strategic impact advisors (SIA), an international consulting firm that is implementing the USAID-WGDP in Malawi, Ghana, and Uganda approached us to discuss the possibilities of partnering on the ongoing Digital Finance Literacy Campaign in Malawi. SIA with funding from USAID Washington DC, has developed a Digital Finance Literacy Campaign curriculum with the aim of developing the capacity of women in digital finance, to empower and enable them to make informed decisions on finance so that they are financially included at country level. After a careful research/review of SIA, their work and the documentation which they had sent to us, OCA has signed an MOU to partner with SIA, an agreement which will be valid for nine months from the date of signing the MOU. So far we have had one training on how their toolkit can be used during facilitation of trainings with program beneficiaries.

Disbursement of loan

At the time when we were disbursing the loans last month, one of the members by the name of Lonily Kaliwa Lameck did not get the loan. This was because she did not have a national identity card. OCA facilitated the process of renewing the ID but there are still some challenges. For now, she has been given cash while she is waiting to complete the ID renewal process and proceed to open a bank account.

Account Name	Phone Number	Amount
Lonily Kaliwa	+265996236356	MWK 130,000.00

EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM



Executive Summary

Orant Charities Africa (OCA) Education Support program envisions a community in which girls are empowered and protected. It focuses on preventing and mitigating under-age marriages by encouraging girls to go back to school. OCA believes that girls can rise out of poverty through proper education.

Activities

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

School Visits

The month of June was a great month for OCA education program since the school visits were accompanied by Orant Charities USA Board members and Executive Director. The schools which were visited include; Likuni girls secondary school, Nkhamenya girls secondary school, Ngala Community Day Secondary School (CDSS) and St. Peters primary school. The students at Nkhamenya girls Secondary school were visited for encouragement, support and progress. The visitors were warmly welcomed by the students and they had a wonderful interaction.



A pose with students at Nkhamenya girls Sec. school

Below is a picture of Omega Mcdonard (middle), OCA personnel (left) and Omega's Headteacher (right). Omega was also visited in the month of June. she is a standard 6 learner at St.Peters primary school in Mponela. She was given a school bag (which she is carrying) by her sponsor from USA. She is a happy girl and hard working in class.



In the same reporting period, Ngala CDSS was also visited by OCA education program together with Orant charities USA Executive Director. OCA had a wonderful time at Ngala by interacting with the students as well as the school authorities. Classroom and outside videos were taken and we also conducted some interviews with the sponsored students.



A visit at Ngala CDSS

Distribution of supplies

Apart from encouraging the students and checking their progress, OCA education program visited some of the students in their perspective schools with the aim of providing them with supplies which are essential at school. OCA provides these materials in order to help them sustain their

lives and concentrate in school since these students come from poor families and cannot afford such basic necessities. The supplies include; Hardcovers, pens, sugar, washing and bathing soap, , girls sanitary pads (shown in the pictures above) e.t.c



Dowa Sec. school girls pose with their supplies
sec. school



OCA pose with students at Byanzi



Students at Natola CDSS carrying supplies given by OCA

Conclusion

OCA education program ensures that its beneficiaries meets the criteria of OCA support policy. This stipulates that all beneficiaries of the program must be selected from disadvantaged, low-income households and that they must maintain high levels of attendance, good academic performance and excellent conduct and application to their studies.