



ORANT CHARITIES AFRICA MONTHLY REPORT

**WATER, EDUCATION, AGRICULTURE, AND BUSINESS
PROGRAMS**

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COMPILED BY

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WATER AND SANITATION PROGRAM



Practical training on water well repairs

INTRODUCTION

Early in February, the water program set several objectives in line with the program goal of supporting rural communities in the promotion of access to Water and Sanitation. In February the water program focused on training water point committees that were not trained in 2021. The following activity milestones have been achieved in February 2022;

- 15 Water-point repairs and rehabilitations
- 4 water point committees were trained

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 supports repairs and rehabilitations of broken Afridev pumps with spares and technical expertise in collaboration with Afridev pump Area Mechanics. Despite OCA support in repairs, water point committees are being encouraged to have a water point fund to support themselves in minor repairs to promote a sense of ownership which is tantamount to the sustainability of their water point. In February 2022, the water program repaired **15** boreholes (2 Minor repairs and 13 preventive maintenance/ services).



Borehole repair session with Area Mechanics in Chimbalu village

2. Water Point Committees (WPCs) Training

To ensure community participation in the management of their water points, OCA trains water point committees in Community Based Management (CBM) of water points. Thus, training water point committees to conduct minor repairs and sanitation activities of their water points to ensure sustainable access to safe water. During the month the water and sanitation program trained 4 water point committees from Basikolo, Malizeni, Kaunjika, and Mphaluka. All four boreholes were drilled in 2021. In each village, a total of 10 water point committee members were trained. In each village, training sessions were also attended by a Chief who is a custodian of by-laws which are important in borehole management. In total, the water program trained a total of **44** people in CBM. The training sessions were facilitated by OCA staff in collaboration with government extension workers and Afridev pump Area Mechanics.



Left: A classroom session during water point committee training for Basikolo and Malizeni boreholes, Right: A practical session during water point committee training for Basikolo and Malizeni boreholes

3. Program Data Management

In 2021 the water program started working towards improving the data management for program monitoring and evaluation. This is in line with the OCA mission which highlights the need for a data-driven approach in program implementation. During the month the water program managed to complete compiling pump repair data in the borehole repair database for 2021. As a way forward on borehole repairs data the water program plans to attach a dashboard for real-time analysis of borehole repairs data thereby improving the scheduling of borehole preventive maintenance. Furthermore, the water program also completed a

compilation of borehole drilling data for boreholes drilled between 2017 to 2021. Water program data management is done in collaboration with the OCA data management office and Orant Charities US.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES/ PLANS FOR MARCH 2022

- Borehole repairs and rehabilitations
- Training of water point committee for Chimpanda borehole
- Water program field monitoring with the Country Director
- Meeting with Chiefs from the water and sanitation committee.
- Area Development Committee meeting

CONCLUSION

The just-ended month of February was very productive for the water program, especially in the training of water point committees and pump repairs. The water program is very optimistic for the new month of March as we expect to receive visitors from Orant Charities US.

AGRICULTURE PROGRAM



Women from Mwaiwathu group working on their groundnut field in OCA farm

Introduction

The agriculture program performed several activities during the month of February 2022 in supporting smallholder farmers in the communities of Kasese. 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 and rain-fed farming. Below are activities which were carried out during the reporting period.

Maize distribution

OCA operates in rural areas where most of the farmers depend on rainfed farming. During the growing season of 2021 to 2022, the area experienced late rains which has resulted in late

crop maturity. As compared in the past, within the month of February, farmers were eating green maize but for this year the case has been different and farmers are just applying top dressing fertilizer. Due to late rains, it has resulted in hunger problems in our community. Most small scale farmers also harvested little in the previous growing season and they failed to keep enough food to date. Furthermore, some farmers or irrigation clubs were affected by flooding.

Many households have been going through hunger problems until OCA comes into their rescue with food. OCA distributed 57,500 kilograms of the Maize in the month of February to the communities of Kasese, BOMFA cooperative and Bowe Parish area. A total of 2,300 households benefited from this program. Out of this number; 1600 households were from Kasese, 400 from BOMFA cooperative and 300 from Bowe parish. The type of people on target of the program were those who were food insecure and included the; elderly, widows, orphans, those with disabilities, the sick and those affected with floods. The food given to them will help them to concentrate in their field for better harvest than concentrating on piece work in search of food which can result in low yields at the end of the season.

Table showing area maize distributed and total beneficiaries.

Description	No of Bags	Total kgs	K g s Household	p e r Total beneficiaries
Kasese	800	40000	25	1600
BOMFA	200	10000	25	400
Bowe	150	7500	25	300
	1150	57500		2300



Beneficiaries taking their maize share

OCA Farm club

Three quarters of the OCA farm has been cultivated by Mwayiwathu club and intends to be registered as cooperative after receiving training and certificate from the ministry of trade. Currently the crops which have been cultivated are legumes which include Groundnuts and Soy bean. Groundnuts has been cultivated on 12 acres land and Soy bean on 8 acres giving a total of 20 acres under mwayiwathu farm club. During the reporting month the activities which were carried out include second weeding and pesticides application. Fields have been

weeded to reduce the competition between main crop and weeds from moisture and nutrients. Weeds also act as breeding sites of pests and disease hence weeding is regarded as a more important activity and all farmers were encouraged to do it in time. Pesticides were applied in the Soybean crop which was attacked with beetles which feed on leaves of the plant hence it reduces photosynthesis process.



Second weeding being done by Mwaiwathu club members

Irrigation farming

During the reporting month of February, the area has received heavy rains and most of the irrigation sites were flooded. Some areas which had crops during this period were heavily affected hence it brought huge losses in irrigation farming. Flooding causes the unfavorable conditions for irrigation farming hence activities on irrigation were paused until the area is free from floods. The activities on irrigation farming have been proposed to commence again in the month of March 2022.



Irrigation sites which were affected with floods this year

Demonstration Plots

Demonstrations are established on the OCA farm every year and are used for learning for farmers. This rainy season demonstrations have been mounted with support from seed companies such as Bayer, Seed-co and Global seed. Some have been mounted with support from other agriculture related offices such as Famer's world. Seed companies are showing different types of maize varieties to smallholder farmers so that they can be able to choose the variety by themselves through what they have seen at the demonstration plots without someone imposing them. Farmers world is promoting Good agriculture practices for bumper harvest. Crops under production on demonstration are different varieties of Maize, Soya, Groundnuts and Sunflower. This system has been seen as one way of reducing problems of

hunger since farmers will be able to produce bumper harvest through the choice of varieties being seen at the demonstration plot and following what has been advised during field days.

The demonstration plots have been expanded up to the Mphamba, Kachala and Katalima section with support from Bayer and Farmers World. The demonstration plots are well taken care of by Lead farmers within these sections. These partners thought it was more important to put some demonstration plots close to smallholder farmer's homes with an aim of reducing distance to excess information. Katalima section, the demonstration farm is located in Matchondo village, Mphamba section at Kapachika village and Kachala section at Kashangula village. The crops under practice are Maize, and Soybeans where new production processes are being practiced.



Crop stand at OCA demonstration site (left is Maize and Right Sunflower)

FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT MICROLOANS (FEM)

Introduction

Financial empowering microloan program continues to serve the kasese and its surrounding communities with business empowering microloans. Currently the program is working with 28 women entrepreneurs engaged in various trades and operating businesses in Kasese, Katalima, Chikaonda, Kalungulu, Kachara and Chidothi respectively.

Monitoring visits

In the month of February, monitoring visits were conducted to track progress of businesses for our women entrepreneurs. During the visits, it was recorded that businesses of most of our women entrepreneurs have been slow due to the country's volatile economic growth. Malawi's Inflation rates continue to increase on a monthly basis. In the month of January, the inflation rate rose to 12.1 percent and was purged to rise to 12.4 percent in the month of February. The increase in inflation has caused a spike in almost all commodities on the market hence affecting consumer purchasing patterns and fall in sales for businesses. These effects on the economy have been felt by most of the business people even those operating businesses at Kasese and our women entrepreneurs are no exception.

Despite the effects of inflation, the women entrepreneurs have proven to be working very hard to keep their businesses afloat just to be able to sustain their families. Some have even resolved to raise the prices of their commodities to match with the high costs of production while still retaining their customers. This means that at the end of the day, the profit margins

have been affected. On average, the profit margins range for February was from as low as 10% to 30% maximum depending on the nature of business.



Women entrepreneurs at work

Loan repayment

Although most businesses were sailing through troubled waters, twenty three (representing 85%) women entrepreneurs managed to repay their loans in full whereas three of the women entrepreneurs (representing 11%) managed to pay part of the loan and one person did not pay anything (representing 4%). Failure to repay full amounts has been attributed to slowing down of businesses and the need to balance the income generated from the businesses with loan repayment and household expenditures (food and non-food item expenditures such as payment of school fees). Below are summary tables showing repayment schedules for Tikondane and Tiyanjane FEM groups).

Loan number	NAME	Loan Amount	1st Instalment to be paid	Actual amount paid	Trans ID
P-02	ALINET MACHISAWO	250,000.00	62,500.00	62,500.00	C1220214.0705.D78112
P-03	RABECA YOHANE	250,000.00	62,500.00	62,500.00	C1220214.1439.D79300
P-04	MARY MNDOLO	150,000.00	37,500.00	37,500.00	C1220214.0904.G02991
P-17	MALIGELITA JOSOFATI	170,000.00	42,500.00	42,500.00	C1220214.1704.I9193
P-19	PATRICIA SIMBI	250,000.00	62,500.00	62,500.00	C1220214.0945.I5072
P-09	EDILINA JONATHAN	250,000.00	62,500.00	62,500.00	C1220214.1013.I5360
P-15	GLORIA CHIDZANJA	250,000.00	62,500.00	62,500.00	C1220214.1018.D15416
P-07	DOROTHY JELAO	200,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00	C1220214.0957.D52239
P-28	LIZINETI THOKOZANI	100,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	C1220214.1146.H62939

P-08	DEBORAH MAUAGULE	100,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	C1220214.1706.D92441
P-01	OLIPA MALIZANI	50,000.00	12,500.00	12,500.00	C1220214.0938.D50260
P-14	MARY LEVISON	250,000.00	62,500.00	62,500.00	C1220214.1439.G77676
P-18	RACHEAL PHIRI	100,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	C1220214.1706.D58204
P-16	MIGUEL BRIGHT	300,000.00	75,000.00	75,000.00	C1220214.1358.I7373
P-06	LONILY LAMECK	80,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	C1220214.0939.I5014
		2,750,000.00	687,500.00	687,500.00	

L o a n number	NAME	L o a n Amount	1st Instalment to be paid	A c t u a l Amount Paid	Trans ID
P-05	T A M A L E KACHINGWE	150,000.00	37,500.00	37,500.00	CI220213.1522.D08716
P-10	MALITA BANDA	250,000.00	62,500.00	62,500.00	CI220213.1440.H05610
P-11	PATRICIA BANDA	125,000.00	31,250.00	27,000.00	CI220213.1653.D16063
P-12	I R E E N HENDELESONI	100,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	CI220213.1335.G01589
P-13	S T E L L A KALIMBAKATHA	100,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	CI220213.1810.D23487
P-16	NDAZIONA TESHAR MCHONJO	250,000.00	62,500.00	62,500.00	CI220213.1655.H16198
P-22	EDITTA MTSITSA	150,000.00	37,500.00	37,250.00	CI220213.1742.I20557
P-23	MANESS NKHOMA	100,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	CI220213.1655.H16248
P-24	G L A D Y S CHIODZALO	70,000.00	17,500.00	17,500.00	CI220213.1525.H08804
P-25	S O F E L E T I MANJAWIRA	100,000.00	25,000.00	10,000.00	C I 2 2 0 2 1 3 . 1802.I22652
P-26	DOROTHY MAKUTA	100,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	CI220213.1643.G5110
P-27	EMILY DAMBULENI	300,000.00	75,000.00	0	
		1,795,000.00	448,750.00	354,250.00	

Weekly Village Savings and Loans (VSL) meetings

Weekly VS& L meetings have been going on consistently for both Tikondane and Tiyanjane FEM groups. In the just ended month, the women entrepreneurs were still saving money despite the hardships they were facing. These weekly savings are what makes the women in a position to at least service their outstanding loan repayment amount because as they are saving, they are also allowed to cash out some funds if need be.

EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM

Executive Summary

Only 20% of children in Malawi go to secondary school and this percentage is much lower in rural areas. Poor families often do not afford the fees and other costs relating to secondary school, so children and other communities miss out on education. To this end Orant Charities Africa works to empower girls through education.

Our sponsorship program specifically supports young people, enabling them to develop their talents and abilities to the fullest and get the education they deserve. We pay their school fees for them, and help buy School Uniforms and textbooks and other necessities. Currently OCA is supporting **133** students attending **26** schools in primary, secondary and University.

In the month of February, 2022 OCA education program reported the following activities;

Provision of school supplies and mentorship

About 85 percent of students are impacted daily with not having the proper supplies they need to be successful in the classroom. Students cannot be successful unless they are properly equipped with school supplies. When students have their own school supplies, their grades and classroom behavior improve and they become more excited about school and learning. Availability of school supplies plays a vital role in a child's development socially, physically and mentally.

OCA provides an enhanced sponsorship package, including school bags, sanitary pads, washing and bathing soap and bucket, pens, calculators, mathematical instruments, sugar, body lotion, tooth paste and tooth brush.

[?] Below are the pictures of students from Chayamba, Lilongwe girls and Dzenza secondary schools who were visited by OCA and were provided with school supplies



A picture of students from Chayamba sec school (left) and Dzenza Sec. school (right)



 Lilongwe girls sec school students (left) and Ngala CDSS students (right)

Orant Ulemu Scholarship program

Education is the single most powerful tool to break the poverty cycle and provide students with a brighter future. At Orant we create a supportive environment as well as provide the resources to help students with their studies. We ensure that every opportunity is given to the students in our program to complete schooling to the best of their ability.

The Orant Ulemu Scholarship program was established primarily to enable young Malawians to take up studies in different sectors at tertiary level. It offers tuition costs, food, accommodation and book allowance. For a start, this year, 6 students who are hardworking and bright have benefited from the Orant Ulemu Scholarship. OCA provides an opportunity to students who could not be able to pursue their dreams due to their unfavorable family and financial situations.

Currently two students are in school at Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS). They are both in First year; one student is studying a Bachelor of Education in Business Studies and the other one is studying a Bachelor of Science in Laboratory Technology. These students are provided with tuition, book allowance, food and accommodation. The other four students are from different Universities and their studies will commence in the coming months.

Payment of Examination fees

The OCA education program has students who are writing the national exams in 2022. A total of 75 students will sit for the exams; **25** students for Junior Certificate of Education (JCE) exams and **50** students for the Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE) exams. In the reporting period, OCA managed to pay examination fees to all 75 students in their respective schools since the registration started on 4th January and ended on 18th February 2022.

Conclusion

Education Sponsorship is the most effective way to ensure girls have access to things that might otherwise be out of reach. OCA uses a holistic approach to provide education for girls and also healthcare, clean water and more community development projects.