



ORANT CHARITIES AFRICA MONTHLY REPORT

WATER, EDUCATION, AGRICULTURE, AND BUSINESS

PROGRAMS

DECEMBER 2021

COMPILED BY

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WATER AND SANITATION PROGRAM



INTRODUCTION

The water program continues to support rural communities in the promotion of access to Water and Sanitation. Having completed borehole drilling in November, in December the water program focused on monitoring of newly constructed boreholes and pump repairs. By the end of December, the water and sanitation program managed to achieve the following milestones;

- Water-point repairs and rehabilitations
- Presentation of the annual report at WASH Cluster
- Construction of a boy's latrine at Madzo primary school

DETAILED NARRATION OF MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

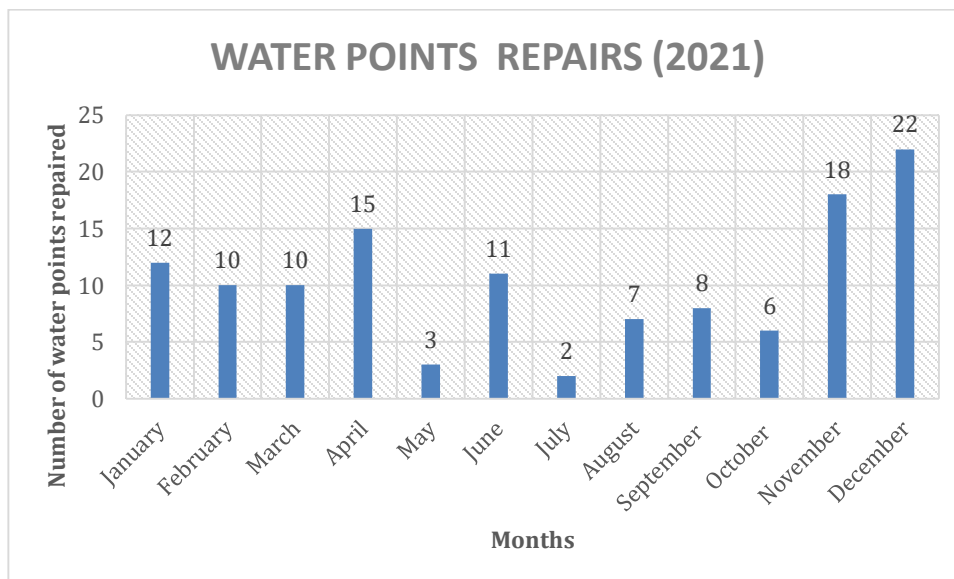
1. Afridev Pump repairs and rehabilitations

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. The water program conducted **22** pump repairs of Afridev pumps. So far in 2021, the water and sanitation program has supported repairs of **124** Afridev pumps within the Kasese catchment. Below is a list of repairs and services supported by OCA in Kasese catchment during the month and a graphical representation of monthly borehole repairs for 2021;

No.	VILLAGE	GVH	PROBLEM	MATERIALS	REMARKS
1	Kam'mata	M'biya	service	8 Rod centralizer, O-ring, 2 Bobbin, 4 Bush bearing	Successfully done
2	Chitsulo	Kachila	Minor	1 cup seal, 2 Bobbin, O-ring, 4 Bush bearing,	Successfully done

				Hanger pin, 10-rod centralizer	
3	Kapale	Chikwangula	service	4 Rod centralizer	Successfully done
4	Basikolo	Chikwangula	Service	8 Rod centralizer, 3 pipe centralizer	Successfully done
5	Makonola	Chimamba	Service	4 Rod centralizer	Successfully done
6	Kamtoma	Kamtoma	Service	2 Bush bearing, Hanger pin	Successfully done
7	Chiwoza	Chikamphula	Service	1 Rubber flap	Successfully done
8	Mankhaka	Mankhaka	Service	1 Rubber flap	Successfully done
9	Kamphata	Kamphata	Major	9 Rod centralizer, Fulcrum pin, Foot valve, 2 Pipes, 2 Bush bearing, 6 double end socket, 3 pipe centralizers	Successfully done
10	Kasangadzi	Kawelawela	Service	8 Rod centralizers, fulcrum pin, 1 cup seal, 1 Bobbin	Successfully done
11	Chikwangula	Chikwangula	Service	4 Rod centralizers, 2 Bush bearing	Successfully done
12	Chimbayo	Chimbayo	Service	7 Rod centralizers, 4 bush bearing, 1 bobbin, 1 cup seal	Successfully done
13	Katalima	Katalima	Major	1 Cylinder complete, 7 Double-end sockets, 1 solvent cement, 3 pipe centralizers	Successfully done
14	Makonola 1	Chimamba	Service	4 Rod centralizers,	Successfully done
15	Chinkha	Chibisa	Service	4 Rod centralizers	Successfully done
16	Kapundu	Buza	Service	11 Rod centralizer	Successfully done
17	Katsuka	Mkwinya	Service	Headcover, Handle, fulcrum pin, 4 bush bearings	Successfully done
18	Inje 1	Inje	Service	Bush bearing, 4 Rod centralizer, cup seal, bobbin	Successfully done

19	Kapapa		Service	4 Bush bearing, Rod centralizer, cup seal, Bobbin	Successfully done
20	Inje I	Inje	Service	Rod centralizer, 4 bush bearing, cup seal, O-ring	Successfully done
21	Mwainga	Kachala	Major	1 Plunger, 5 double end socket, 1 solvent cement, 3 pipe centralizers, 4 Bolt and nuts	Successfully done
22	Mphaluka	Mphaluka	Major	15 Rod centralizers, 7 Double-end socket, 1 solvent cement, 2 cup seal, 2 bobbins	Successfully done



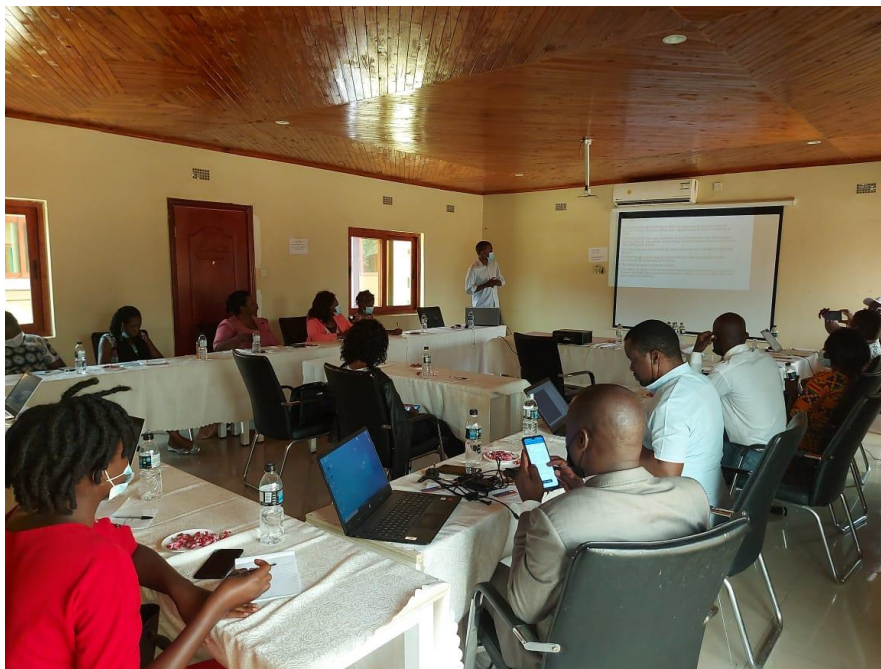
A graphical representation of the number of water points repaired in 2021 (January to December) by the OCA water program



Borehole repair session during the month

2. Presentation of Water Program Annual Progress

In December the water program was invited by the Dowa district council WASH cluster to present an annual progress report for 2021. In attendance during the meeting were the heads of relevant district Government departments and representatives of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). During the meeting, the OCA water program manager presented water program progress for 2021 and tentative plans for 2022. Following the presentation, stakeholders acknowledged the OCA effort in the promotion of WASH in the Kasese Health Centre catchment. Stakeholders during the meeting also pledged to continue supporting the water program in the coming year.



Stakeholders during OCA Water program annual progress report presentation in Mponera

3. Pit Latrine Construction at Madzo Primary School



Rear and front view of a boys' latrine during construction in the month

During the month OCA started construction of a boy's latrine block at Madzo primary school following completion of the girl's latrine in November. Similar to the girls' latrine, the boys' latrine under construction has four latrine rooms and is expected to serve a total of 195 boys at Madzo school. The boys' latrine is expected to be completed early in January 2022. Madzo primary school covers standards 1 to 5 and has a total enrolment of 415 learners (Girls: 220; Boys: 195). The school has a learners age range between 6 to 15. The latrines are expected to ease the burden of diarrhea diseases among learners through improved sanitation thereby promoting education.

CONCLUSION

The water program is happy to have achieved major targets for borehole drilling as well as a target for pump repairs for the year 2021. The water program is very optimistic for the new month of 2022. Merry Christmas and Happy New year to all OCA stakeholders and donors.

AGRICULTURE PROGRAM



Mature maize from irrigation club

Introduction

For December 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 and rain-fed farming. Below are activities that were carried out during the reporting period.

OCA Farm cooperative program and Demonstration plots

Training of smallholder farmers in commercial farming has begun with good results as farmers can follow and do the farming operations effectively. In December, Cooperative members and demonstration plots were ready for planting and were just waiting for good rains as the area mostly receives good rains within November and December. For the growing season of 2021 to 2022 the situation has been different from the past as December has elapsed without rains which is worrisome to the farmers if the area is going to receive enough rains up to the time of Harvesting. The area was going through dry spell condition which has affected the operations on the OCA farm including the Kasese catchment area. The farmers waited for planting rains within January which was worrisome to farmers. This growing season will likely put farmers at risk of low crop yield.

A prolonged dry spell.

The condition of the prolonged dry period has affected irrigation farming due to heavy sunlight which has resulted in the drying of wells. During November to December, the sun has been overheating which resulted in the drying of wells and small rivers hence a short supply of water to the crops. Due to a shortage of water, the crops started drying up to critical conditions which is worrisome if the farmers are going to get a good harvest in their fields. The condition has affected irrigation clubs of Ndalusa, Timvave, Mantchedza, and Madzimayela.



Effects of a prolonged dry spell

Harvesting and Marketing

Chigona and Matchedza irrigation clubs are producing maize and are about to commence harvesting. The marketing process is also in progress whereby the products will be sold while fresh (green maize). The crop in these irrigation clubs has been highly affected by heavy sunlight which has resulted in the pollination of immature pollen hence poor grains in cobs which will bring some challenges in the market prices. The income to get from the harvest will help farmers to buy farm inputs for rain fed farming, pay school fees and food for their homes.



Maize crop which is about to be harvested

Pests and disease control

One of the major pests attacking Maize crops is the fall armyworm. This pest has to be controlled in all stages starting with early-stage due to the high percentage of damage it causes to the crops. The Pest easily reduces the quantity and quality of the crops to be harvested. During the time of harvesting, the pests mostly attack the fruits which will result in reduced quality of the fruit hence resulting in reduced demand by buyers. To maintain and increase demand from the buyers, control measures have to be followed and were done at Madzimayela club to attain good prices from buyers.



Maize plant affected with fall armyworm

Pruning and staking

Pruning and staking are continuous activities that are done at different stages of tomato crops as they grow. Mantchedza irrigation club was involved in pruning and staking activities during the reporting month. Pruning is a more important activity in the process of tomato production as it improves 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 the 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 the 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 activities during morning hours on a sunny day so that the wounds can dry quickly.



Tomato plants well staked and pruned

Manure/Fertilizer application

Mantchedza and Madzimayela Irrigation clubs were involved in manure and fertilizer application for a better harvest. The addition of manure and fertilizer in crop production is of more benefits for a 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. The application of manure in the field also reduces the rate of fertilizer application.



Vigorous tomato plants supplied with Manure and fertilizer

Weed control

Control of weeds is very important in crop production since weeds compete with the main crops for light, water, and nutrients. They also provide shelter for organisms that can cause diseases to plants and reduce yield. Madzimayela Irrigation club members were taught on benefits of keeping the field free from weeds and the activity was monitored to make sure that the Tomato field has been kept free from any weeds that can bring losses in crop production activity.

FEM PROGRESS REPORT

Introduction

The agriculture and business department through the Financial empowering microloan program continually provides financial and literacy support to women entrepreneurs around the Kasese catchment area to ensure that women are economically empowered at a local level. So far, the program is supporting twenty-eight women entrepreneurs. In December, the FEM program had planned and conducted a series of activities as narrated below.

Activities planned and achieved

1. Loan Disbursement

In December, OCA successfully disbursed loans amounting to MK2,750,000 and MK 1,795,000 for Tikondane and **Tiyamike** FEM groups respectively. This marked the first loan period for the Tiyanjane FEM group and the second for the Tikondane FEM group.

Table 1 Tikondane Fem group loans

Account Name	Amount (MK)
Alinet Machisawo	250,000.00
Rabecca Maleta	250,000.00
Mary Mndolo	150,000.00
Maligelita Nkhoma Tobias	170,000.00
Patricia Simbi	250,000.00
Edilina Jonathan	250,000.00
Gloria Chidzanja	250,000.00
Dorothy Jelao	200,000.00
Ezinet Lewo	100,000.00
Mauagule Kaingolo	100,000.00
Olipa Chagomerana	50,000.00
Mary Mphonde	250,000.00
Rachea Lemishati	100,000.00
Miguel Mpango	300,000.00
Lonily Lameck	80,000.00
Total	2,750,000.00

Table 2 Tiyanjane Fem group

Account Name	Amount (MK)
Ndazona Mchonjo	250,000.00
Editta Mtsitsa	150,000.00
Dorothy Makuta	100,000.00
Sophlet Manjawila	100,000.00
Maness Nkhoma	100,000.00
Malita Banda	250,000.00
Tamale Kachingwe	150,000.00
Emily Dambuleni	300,000.00
Ireen Hendreson	100,000.00
Gradys Chiodzalo	70,000.00
Patricia Banda	125,000.00
Stella Kalimbakatha	100,000.00
Total	1,795,000.00

Challenges encountered

Initially, we had planned to disburse funds amounting to MK **2,115,000** for the Tiyanjane FEM group. As the loan disbursement processes were underway, we had learned that two of the women whom we had prequalified to be in the group had relocated. From the information OCA gathered, Mary Theulo who was supposed to receive Mk 250,000 as a loan for her small business enterprise, has found a permanent job in Mponera. The other beneficiary who goes by the name Loveness Yakobe and was supposed to receive Mk 70, 000 moved to Mulanje following her husband.

Not all loans were disbursed electronically as Lonely Lameck a member of Tikondane FEM group and Stella kalimbakatha, a member of Tiyanjane FEM group are still having challenges to opening a bank account due to lack of National ID's with hence their loans were given in cash.

2. Monitoring/ profiling of new members

As a means of verification of program impact, monitoring visits were conducted for all the women entrepreneurs. The visit aimed to ascertain the current business situations for the women entrepreneurs before disbursement of loans. We also took advantage of these visits to do profiling for Tiyanjane FEM group members. The information which was collected will also help in developing the women's business plans.



Figure 1 Maness(L) showing off her Thobwa (maize drink)



Figure 2 Dorothy saving a customer at her business post



*Figure 3 Tamale preparing food for a customer
was plaiting a customer's hair*



*Figure 4 Pic of Stella taken whilst she
was plaiting a customer's hair*

3. Feedback session with Hey sister! Champions

An end-of-year evaluation with the Hey sister champions was organized to document the program successes and challenges throughout the program cycle as we believe that this will help us in planning for future programs.

Successes documented

- The ability of the Facilitators/Champions to mobilize communities and train them (as witnessed by OCA's ability to meet the target)
- Good linkage with some of the implementing partners (YAD & Mudziwathu radio) as we believe there will be continued networking even beyond the project implementation period
- People are now aware of how to protect themselves from mobile/ online fraud/ scams
- Mindset change (people especially men are now opening up to the idea of women owning and using phones, transacting digitally something which would not have been possible if not for the project)

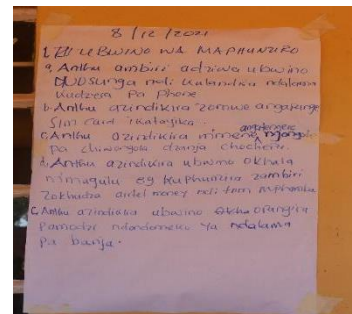
Challenges recorded

- Men preventing their wives from attending meetings
- Most of our target population had no mobile phones
- People were expecting to receive incentives for attending sessions
- Even though the recordings were in Chichewa, the guides were in English hence required to be translated as most of our facilitators were not that exposed.

- Covid-19 pandemic slowed down the progress of the campaign

Lessons learned

- Capacity building warrants sustainability of projects
- Digital Financial Literacy (DFL) enables people to make informed decisions about their finances
- Good media coverage during project implementation makes people aware of what is happening
- Networking with other organizations ensures synergy
- Use of existing structures built within the community merits receptiveness of projects



Figures 5,6 & 7 highlight the feedback session

4. Winding up of Tikondane village saving & loans (VSL) group

The village savings and loans group has proven to be beneficial as it is instilling a saving culture in the women entrepreneurs. OCA believes that these savings will help them to easily achieve their personal goals such as farming, educating their children, and buying important household assets. The VSL group was formulated in August 2021. This was a short-term result of the financial literacy training they had received in line with goal setting and savings. From the proceeds realized from the VSL, the group has made it a point that comes the year 2022, the culture of saving is going to continue as they also believe that repayment of loans will be easier at the same time, they will also be able to accomplish their dreams hence improving their lives.

Figure 2 Savings realized by Tikondane Vsl group

Name	Savings
Miguel	66,500.00
Olipa	16,500.00
Patricia	18,000.00
Gloria	33,200.00
Lonily	18,800.00
Alinet	16,300.00
Rabecca	21,100.00
Dorothy	35,900.00
Mary	24,200.00
Deborah	19,200.00
Edilina	45,200.00
Maligelita	21,800.00
Lizinet	12,700.00
Total	349,400.00

EDUCATION PROGRAM



Executive Summary

Education for any child can open the doors to a brighter future that would otherwise be locked tight. But it isn't just about the future, children who stay in school are better protected from exploitation in the present. When girls have access to education, they develop the knowledge, confidence, and life skills necessary to navigate and adapt to an ever-changing world.

In December 2021, students were home since it was the end of the academic year holiday which started in November 2021. During this period, the OCA education program had to report the following activities;

Primary School Leaving Certificate of Education (PSLCE) and Junior Certificate of Education (JCE) results

PSLCE examinations in Malawi are conducted for students who are completing their final grade at primary school. This examination is also used by the Ministry of education to select students from various public secondary schools. In the year 2021, only one OCA student sat for the Primary School Leaving Certificate of Education (PSLCE) Examinations and was selected to Mponera Community Day Secondary School (CDSS).

In the same year, a total of 13 OCA students sat for the JCE examinations. This examination is the first secondary school examination; it is written by the students after completing a junior secondary level which covers two academic years. All 13 OCA students have passed and they qualify for the award of the Junior Certificate of Education representing a 100% pass rate.

This is a great achievement for OCA. In Malawi, the competition is always high and OCA is proud that the students have passed. It has as well contributed to the success of the OCA education program.



Some OCA JCE students from Ngala CDSS

Introduction of “Orant Ulemu Scholarship” program

During the reporting period, the OCA education program planned on introducing a University sponsorship program next year (2022). The scholarship is called the “**Orant Ulemu Scholarship**”. We believe that education is a key to change and sponsorship gives a child the means to escape from poverty and to change his or her life for good. Not only does education make a difference to a young person’s life, but it has made a difference to the lives of sponsors too.

Orant Ulemu Scholarship aims to provide Tuition, accommodation, food, and books to students who cannot afford them. The assistance will prioritize students who were previously sponsored by OCA in secondary school and these students must pass their MSCE grades below 25 points and must be selected into University/college and also meet the sponsorship selection criteria.

The application form for Orant Ulemu Scholarship was designed and eligible students applied. The forms were submitted and a committee was formed to review the forms. The scholarship

will accommodate about 4 students in 2022. These students will be selected in January 2022 since it is the beginning of a new academic year in some Universities and Colleges.

Identification of new secondary school students

After the Primary School Leaving Certificate of Education (PSLCE) examination results were out, the OCA education program started identifying new students into the program to be sponsored for the next academic year (2022). These are students who have passed the PSLCE and have been selected to various secondary schools giving priority to the poorest and most vulnerable students.

Conclusion

The education of girls not only helps them achieve their potential but also helps to break intergenerational cycles of poverty and disadvantage. When a girl stays in school, she increases her income earning potential and her future is immediately brighter. Education empowers her to build a better life for herself, contributing to the health, safety, and prosperity of her family and community.