

JULY, 2025

# ORANT CHARITIES AFRICA MONTHLY PROGRAM REPORT



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## **Acronyms & Abbreviations**

ADC	-	Area Development Committee
AM	-	Area Mechanic
AEDO	-	Agricultural Extension Development Officer
CBM	-	Community Based Management
CDSS	-	Community Day Secondary School
CONGOMA	-	Council for Non-Governmental Organizations in Malawi
EDO	-	Environmental District Officer
FDGs	-	Focus Group Discussions
FEM	-	Financial Empowerment Microloan
JCE	-	Junior Certificate of Education
MSCE	-	Malawi School Certificate of Education
NGO	-	Non-Governmental Organization
NGORA	-	Non-Governmental Organization Regulatory Authority
OCA	-	Orant Charities Africa
SDGs	-	Sustainable Development Goals
TA	-	Traditional Authority
VSL	-	Village Savings and Loans
WASH	-	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WPC	-	Water Point Committees

## Introduction

Orant Charities Africa (OCA) is a non-governmental organization serving in rural communities of Malawi. It was registered as an NGO in Malawi in 2014. OCA is registered under the Trustees Act and also with both NGORA and CONGOMA governing institutions. OCA serves in Malawi through Healthcare and implementing other development programs such as Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Education, Agriculture, Business Development, Energy and Environment. This monthly report outlines milestones from the month of July, 2025 in our WASH program, Education, Agriculture, Business Development, Energy and Environmental Programs.

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Program



*Water point maintenance in progress*

## Executive Summary

The OCA WASH program aims to reduce morbidity and mortality caused by WASH-related diseases for the people of Kasese. This goal is achieved through the provision of WASH infrastructure and extension services. The WASH program implementation mainly focuses on water supply, operation and maintenance of WASH infrastructure, advocating for sanitation in communities and schools, and collaborating with stakeholders. This month, the program conducted several activities aligned with these

key implementation areas. Therefore, this report outlines the monthly progress, beginning with a summary and then a detailed description of accomplishments.

## **Summary of Monthly Achievements**

The following milestones were achieved during the month;

- Water point maintenance (Service/preventive: 40; Reactive maintenance: 9 )
- Orientation and monitoring of Borehole Village Savings Loans (VSLs) groups
- Community Based Management (CBM) training for Kachala Water Point Committee (WPC)

## **Detailed Narration of Monthly Achievements**

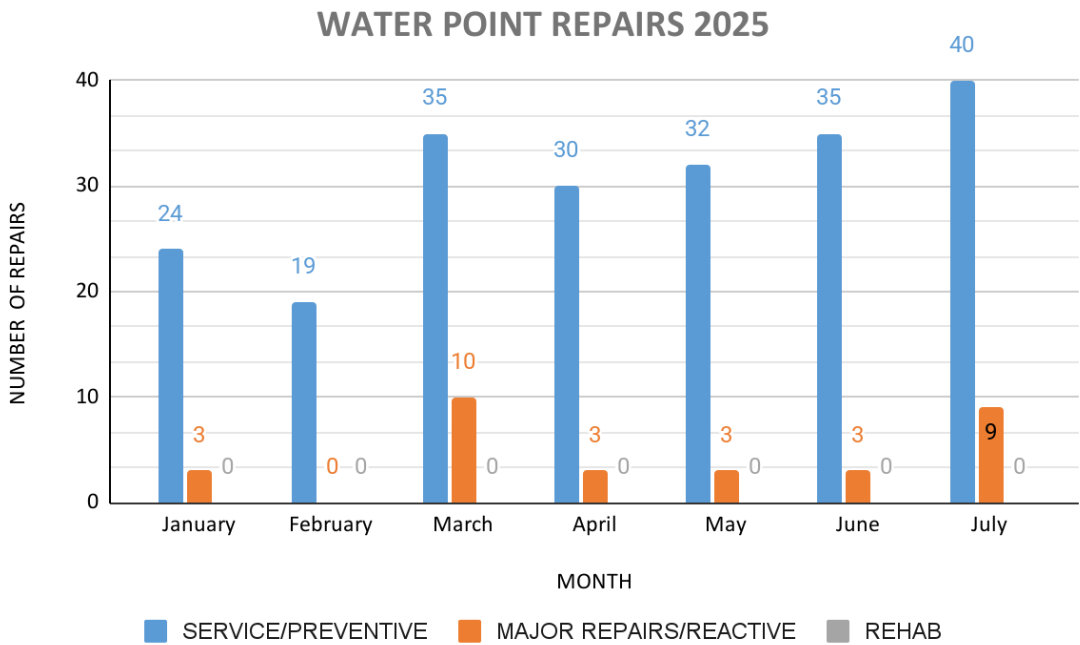
The WASH program carried out the following key activities in the month;

### **Water Point Operation and Maintenance**



*Afridev pump repair session during the month of July 2025*

This month, the program supported **40** preventive and **9** reactive maintenance for hand pumps. Cumulatively, the program has conducted **215** preventive and **31** reactive maintenances in 2025. This means the program has achieved **54%** of the annual target for preventive maintenance. The program expects to conduct a total of **400** preventive maintenance by the end of year. On the other hand, through preventive maintenance the program expects to reduce the reactive maintenance of boreholes from **50** in 2024 to **40** in 2025.





## Orientation and monitoring of Borehole Village Savings Loans (VSLs) groups



*Borehole VSL review meeting during VSL monitoring in Soko village*

The WASH and Business program conducted Orientation sessions for new Borehole VSL groups for Soko and Mphongole. Apart from orienting new borehole VSLs, the WASH program also monitored two existing borehole VSLs in Mzimuwakana and Kuliyani villages. Borehole VSLs were introduced in 2024 with the aim of increasing borehole maintenance funds by loaning the excess of it to community members with a small interest rather than just keeping them idle. Borehole VSLs reduce the risk of keeping a lot of cash in committee's hands. Furthermore, Borehole VSL's also helps in improving people's lives through soft loans which are readily available in their communities.

At Soko and Mphongole the orientation focused on introducing the concept of borehole VSLs and how important it is in borehole maintenance and improving livelihoods of communities. Following the orientation the two communities welcomed the idea of having borehole VSLs and adopted the approach.

At Mzimuwakana and Kuliyani, the WASH and Business Development program distributed VSL membership books and also conducted a progress review of the VSL groups. During the review it was observed that both VSLs are going well.

## Community Based Management (CBM) Training for Kachala



*Left -A group discussion during the CBM training for Kachala WPC. Right- A practical session during the CBM training for Kachala WPC during the month*

To ensure sustainable management of water points/ boreholes, the WASH program trains Water Point Committee (WPCs) members in Community Based Management of their facilities. This training comprises theoretical knowledge in water management, sanitation, hygiene, as well as borehole maintenance fund-raising and management. Furthermore, the training also tackles practical aspects of minor borehole maintenance. During the month the WASH program trained 11 WPC members from Kachala borehole. Kachala borehole was drilled in June 2025 and is currently supplying water to over 200 people.

### **Conclusion**

The month of July marks the end of the second quarter of 2025. So far in the year the WASH program has made significant progress in capacity building, stakeholder engagement, and borehole drilling. The program is very optimistic for the third quarter which promises to be another exciting period in project implementation.



# Agriculture and Business Development Programs

## Agriculture Program

### Executive Summary

During the reporting period, a series of key activities were implemented aimed at strengthening sustainable agriculture practices, enhancing farmer capacity and fostering collaboration among stakeholders within the district. These activities were carried out in irrigation farming, including the provision of farm inputs as micro-loans. The following are the details of the activities conducted;



### Cooperative Training in Kasese



A training session was conducted with members of the Kasese Producers and Marketing Cooperative (KPMC) to strengthen their understanding of cooperative governance and financial sustainability. The main focus areas were shareholding, record keeping and resource mobilization. The training aimed to build the members capacity in managing cooperative resources effectively, ensuring transparency and promoting long-term growth. The cooperative

members were trained about the benefits of being a shareholder in the cooperative, rights and responsibilities of the shareholders, procedures for buying shares and how shareholders contribute to the cooperative's financial stability and growth.

On record keeping farmers were taught the importance of maintaining accurate and up-to-date records, types of records required in a cooperative and the role of proper records in audits, planning and accessing external funding.

Lastly on resource mobilization, farmers were taught on how to identify potential internal and external funding resources, partnership building with NGOs, private sector and government, income generating activities for financial sustainability and proposal writing basics for funding opportunities.

Through the training conducted with cooperative members, farmers were able to gain a better understanding of their role as shareholders and benefits of increasing share capital. It is envisaged that knowledge and skills in shareholding, record keeping and resource mobilization among Cooperative members has improved.



*Cooperative members attending to training*

## **Irrigation farming**

In ensuring all year-round crop production with an aim of improving household incomes and ensuring food security, Tidalilainu Irrigation club is producing Irish potatoes, Beans and Onions. The club members' target for producing these crops is for both for profit and household consumption for nutrition improvement. The club has planted improved varieties suitable for irrigation. Currently the crops are in good vegetative growth stages with harvesting expected in October. The Irrigation club is progressing well in the production of Irish potatoes, Onions and Beans. With continued support in agricultural input access, market linkages and technical guidance, the club has potential to significantly increase their incomes and contribute to food security in the community.



*Club members working on their irrigation field*

## **Compost Manure Production**

In promoting organic farming, improving soil fertility and reducing reliance on costly inorganic fertilizers, Compost manure was produced on OCA agroecology farm using locally available materials. The compost manure production was carried out using locally available materials which include, animal dung, crop residues, green leaves and grass, and water for moisture regulation. Currently a total of 9 compost hips have been produced. The manure is rich in essential nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium which helps in improving soil structure and fertility. The compost manure production initiative has been successful in promoting organic soil fertility management and reducing input costs for farmers.



*Composite heaps to be used on OCA agroecology farm.*



## Ploughing OCA farm

Ploughing on OCA farm is in progress which is part of farm land preparation. The activity is aimed at ensuring timely planting and improved soil structure. Ploughing helps in incorporating crop residues and organic matter into the soil. It also helps in improving soil condition for root penetration and seed germination. Ploughing activities at OCA Farm are progressing well and are on track for completion before the onset of the planting season. With proper follow-up, the farm will be well-prepared to achieve optimal yields in the upcoming production cycle.

## Lime experiment plot

Ploughing and harrowing has been done on the potential plot for the lime experiment plot where we intend to assess the effects of agricultural lime application on soil pH, nutrient availability and crop performance. The activities of ploughing and harrowing help in creating suitable soil conditions for testing lime application effects. The plot is about to undergo lime application process while waiting for the installation of an irrigation system. With timely follow-up on the next phases, the experiment is well-positioned to produce reliable results on the benefits of liming for soil health and crop productivity.

## Agroecology farm



*Crops under OCA agroecology farm*

Agroecology farming emphasizes soil health, minimal use of synthetic inputs and ensuring sustainable food production and improved farmer livelihoods. Currently on OCA agroecology farm, crops such as garlic, tomatoes and beans are being produced. This type of farming system promotes sustainable agricultural practices that protect the environment and improve soil fertility. These crops are grown using organic manure and mulching to retain soil moisture and suppress weeds. The system achieves successful application of agroecological principles such as organic soil fertility management, mulching and crop rotation. The agroecology farming initiative is progressing well, with garlic, tomatoes, and beans showing good performance under sustainable production practices.



# Business Development Program

## Executive Summary

Women entrepreneurs in the Kasese catchment area continue to receive financial and literacy support from the Business Development program. The primary goal of this initiative is to ensure the economic empowerment of local women. Financially empowered women are better equipped to make sound financial decisions that can enhance their personal well-being and contribute to the overall prosperity of the community. This report outlines the various activities that the Business Development program planned and executed in July.

## Monitoring Visits



During the reporting month, follow-up monitoring visits to individual businesses were conducted to evaluate loan investments, record achievements from the previous loan period, and assess current business performance. With the unstable economy, small and medium sized businesses continue to suffer from the economic implications. The annual inflation rate has gone up from 27.4 percent to 28.5 percent, according to the Reserve Bank of Malawi. Although such is the case, the women entrepreneurs continue to

make strides in their businesses. So far, all the 75 women entrepreneurs that are in the FEM program still have their businesses running with about 24% diversifying into other business types to cushion themselves from these economic shocks.

A fruitful group monitoring visit with Mtambalika FEM groups was also conducted to strengthen and empower group projects. In attempts to make their group more sustainable, the Mtambalika 1 and 2 FEM groups decided to make weekly contributions of one thousand Malawian Kwacha per member. The aim of the group fund is to sublease a piece of land where they can cultivate some cash crops this coming growing season. The initiative will not only help the group to have an extra source of funds but will also help members who frequently lag behind in payments to make their loan payments in time hence sustainability of the group.

## **Loan Disbursement**

One of the key objectives of the program is to provide business loans aimed at strengthening enterprises within the Kasese catchment area, ultimately enhancing the economic well-being of its residents. By injecting capital into local ventures, we aim to build a more resilient business ecosystem that creates employment opportunities and stimulates sustained growth across various sectors. During the month, we disbursed microloans to Two FEM groups: Sapeya and Kachigamba. The total amount extended to these groups amounted to MWK8,064,000 benefiting 19 individuals. Through these second disbursement of microloans, it is believed that members will be able to scale up business operations and cushion the women entrepreneurs in the hard economy.

## **Village Savings and Loans Groups Training**

In an effort to ensure longevity and sustainability of initiatives, the Business Development program continues to expand its Village Savings and loan Groups (VSL) education offerings to other programs. In July, VSL training was conducted for Soko and Mphongole Water Point Committees. The training was conducted in collaboration with the WASH program. The objective of the training program was to foster contribution among households for borehole maintenance. Additionally, assessments from other WPC VSL groups have indicated that these meetings enhance group cohesion and simplify the borehole user fee collection process.

Mzimuwakana and Kuliyani WPC VSL groups were also monitored to assess progress, document successes and challenges encountered, and provide support accordingly. These two WPC VSL groups were established towards the end of 2024. Below are the successes and challenges documented

### **Successes**

- VSL meetings have simplified borehole user fee collections
- Increased access to microfinancing: through the borehole fund, WPC VSL members can access small business loans.
- Ability to pay borehole partnerships with area mechanics in advance
- Grow the WPC group fund within a short period of time

## Challenges

- They had difficulties in recording transactions in the booklets
- They lacked some business/financial skills



*Kuliyani (L) and Mzimuwakana (R) WPC during a VSL monitoring visit*

## Profiling of Women entrepreneurs

In attempts to keep accurate program records, the business development program in collaboration with the Communications and Marketing department, embarked on a profiling exercise for all the women entrepreneurs. By creating individual profiles of the participants' backgrounds, business types and progress, it will help us in understanding the unique characteristics, needs, and behaviors of individuals. Hence the programs can be designed and implemented in a way that maximizes impact and ensures equitable access to support.



# Education Support Program

## Executive Summary

The Orant Education program continues to support needy students and local schools in the Kasese catchment area. Orant aims to inspire and motivate students in their learning. By supporting students, the Education program contributes to reducing illiteracy levels in the community and foster positive social change. The following are the activities that conducted in the month of July,2025;

## Monitoring Donated Books

The Orant Education program had a school visit at Nyagara primary school where we had time to monitor the use of donated books and how the books are motivating the students. During the visit, we found out that more students are utilizing the books to learn new words and they are requesting for new more books since the students use the books in their academic referencing.



*OCA monitoring donated books at Nyagara primary school*

## The Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE) Students

Thirty-one Orant Education students out of 76 students sat for their Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE) exams. Additionally, throughout the month, our program took the opportunity to encourage and motivate the students as they prepared for their exams, and we anticipate excellent results from them. The Orant Education



program is committed to continuing its support, ensuring students reach their full potential in education. We are proud of our student's perseverance and look forward to celebrating their exam achievements.



*The MSCE students*

## **Application For Orant Ulemu Scholarship**

The Orant Education program launched the Orant Ulemu scholarship applications this month. The scholarship offers students an opportunity to secure sponsorship for university or college education. This merit-based scholarship typically targets students who have excelled in their Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE) examinations. Selection for the scholarship is based on academic excellence and also financial need, providing a chance for high-achieving students to receive support from Orant Education for their higher education pursuits.

## **Conclusion;**

As we move forward, the Orant Education program remains committed to supporting students in rural communities. We will continue to identify and provide educational support to those in need, fostering a path to excellence and a brighter future for our students.



## Energy and Environment Program



*Establishing OCA nursery (seed sowing).*

The Energy and Environment Program continues to play a pivotal role in advancing sustainable development through targeted interventions, policy advocacy, and community engagement. This monthly report provides a comprehensive overview of the program's activities, achievements, and challenges encountered during the reporting period. It highlights progress toward our strategic objectives, including promoting renewable energy adoption, enhancing environmental awareness, and supporting climate resilience initiatives. In its inception year, the Energy and Environment program is implementing pilot activities at GVH M'biya where we are working with 11 villages. Therefore, the Program in July, 2025 conducted the following activities:

- 1) Sowing of eucalyptus grandis seeds.
- 2) Formulating Village Forest Management Committee & Distribution of working materials (watering canes, slashers, and hoes).
- 3) Installation of solar system at the Mission Guesthouse.

### Overview of Program's Activities

#### Sowing of Eucalyptus Grandis seeds.

This report outlines the procedures and considerations involved in sowing *Eucalyptus grandis* for nursery establishment. The species is favored for its rapid growth, adaptability, and high-quality wood, making it a key player in forestry programs across tropical and subtropical regions.

## Site and Seed Selection

- **Seed source:** Certified seeds were obtained from a reputable supplier to ensure genetic quality and disease resistance.
- **Timing:** Sowing was done in winter to give it enough time for establishment before transplanting to the planting stations in summer for natural irrigation.
- **Method:** Seeds were sown directly on the surface and lightly covered with a thin layer of sand and glass to control the amount of sunlight radiation heating the seedbeds.



*Seed sowing at Ngoma and Mntandaza village*

## Election of Village Forest Management Committee and Distribution of Materials

The program through villages elected forest management committees which will be helping in managing tree planting activities and taking a lead role in all activities. Electing a **Village Forest Management Committee** is a vital step in community-based forest governance. It ensures that local stakeholders have a say in how forest resources are protected, used, and sustained. The following are the Steps in Electing a Forest Management Committee

### 1. Community Mobilization

- Identify all forest user groups and stakeholders in the community.
- Conduct awareness meetings to explain the purpose and benefits of forming a committee.

### 2. General Assembly

- Organize a village-wide meeting with broad representation, including women and marginalized groups.

- Discuss and adopt a constitution outlining roles, responsibilities, and election procedures.

### **3. Nomination of Candidates**

- Community members nominated candidates for executive positions (e.g., Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer).
- Nominations were verbal, with justification and seconding by others.

### **4. Election Process**

- Transparent and democratic methods were used, such as secret ballot voting.
- Fair representation from different sections of the community was ensured (e.g., clans, villages, gender).

### **5. Announcement & Appeals**

- Election results were publicly shared on flip charts.
- Candidates were given time for appeals or objections, and all disputes were fairly resolved.

### **6. Recognition & Registration**

- The elected committee's details will later be submitted to the relevant forestry authority.
- Formal recognition will be obtained, often required for legal forest management rights.

### **7. Capacity Building**

- Committee members will be trained on forest laws, sustainable practices, and conflict resolution.
- Monitoring and reporting systems will be established.

Therefore, OCA through the energy and environment program distributed working materials like slashers, hoes, and watering canes to village forest management committees. These materials were distributed in order to ease the accessibility of the working materials at the nursery. The distribution was captured in pictures as below:



*EEPM handed over working materials to the Sewule and Mbwekete committee.*

## Installation of a Solar Home System at the Mission Guesthouse.

A Solar Home System (SHS) is a stand-alone photovoltaic setup designed to provide electricity for lighting, communication, and small appliances in homes. It's a cost-effective and sustainable solution for energy access. Orant Charities Africa through Energy and Environment, and Facilities departments embarked on powering the Mission guesthouse with solar systems. The facility is powered by solar with power storage capacity of 11kW for lighting and sockets to offices and a dining room.

### Objective of the installation

To provide reliable, clean, and sustainable electricity to the household through a standalone solar home system, improving access to lighting, communication, and basic appliances.

### System Specifications

Component s	Capacity (W)	Function
Solar panels	1600	Convert sunlight energy into electricity (DC)
Power storage	11000	Stores energy for use during nights, & cloudy periods.
Inverter		Convert DC to AC for household appliances.

### Recommendations

- Regular maintenance: Clean solar panels monthly, and check battery health.



- Consider upgrading to larger systems if energy needs increase.



*Power storage & distribution room and Solar system distribution board*



*A technician isolating AC from a solar system*

The system was installed as planned with all the required components available. Therefore, the energy and environment program would appreciate the facilities department, maintenance department and other programs for the support rendered on power system installation.

## **Program Achievements**

- In July, 2025, the program managed to sow seeds for the remaining 3 village nurseries (Ngoma, Mntandaza, M'biya)
- Orant Charities Africa eucalyptus grandis and casia nursery was established.



- Nursery working materials (slashers, watering cans, & hoes) were distributed to all seed sowing nurseries in 8 villages (Kawondo, Sewule, Mbwekete, Ngoma, M'biya, Mntandaza, Mano, Kammata)
- Eight nursery management committees were formulated for 8 villages.
- Installed a solar system at the Mission Guesthouse.

## **Encountered Challenge**

- Low seed germination percentages in some of the nurseries (Development of termites and ants which affected the germination percentage)

## **Conclusion And Recommendations**

The Energy and Environment program in July, 2025 focused much in sowing of eucalyptus grandis, distribution of nurseries' working materials in the designated nurseries, election of village forest management committees, and installation of solar system at the Mission Guesthouse.