

JUNE, 2025

# ORANT CHARITIES AFRICA MONTHLY PROGRAM REPORT



Compiled by:

**Gabriel Kapanda**

**Country Director**

Orant Charities Africa, P/bag

365, Lilongwe

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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 June, 2025 in our WASH program, Education, Agriculture, Business Development, Energy and Environmental Programs.

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Program



### 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;

- Borehole drilling in Zindo and Kachala villages
- Water point maintenance (Service/preventive: 35; Reactive maintenance: 3 )

## DETAILED NARRATION OF MONTHLY ACHIEVEMENTS

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

### Borehole drilling and installation of Afridev pumps



*Afridev pump installations on newly drilled boreholes in Zindo and Kachala villages during the month*

To improve access to potable water supply for the people of Kasese OCA WASH program drill boreholes in areas with limited access. These boreholes are fitted with Afridev pumps which is a standard hand pump in Malawi. During the month, the program drilled two boreholes in Zindo and Kachala villages. Before OCA interventions the two communities were accessing water from neighboring villages. The two boreholes are expected to benefit 200 people in Kachala village and 220 people in Zindo village. Currently, construction of the two boreholes has been completed and boreholes are now in use.



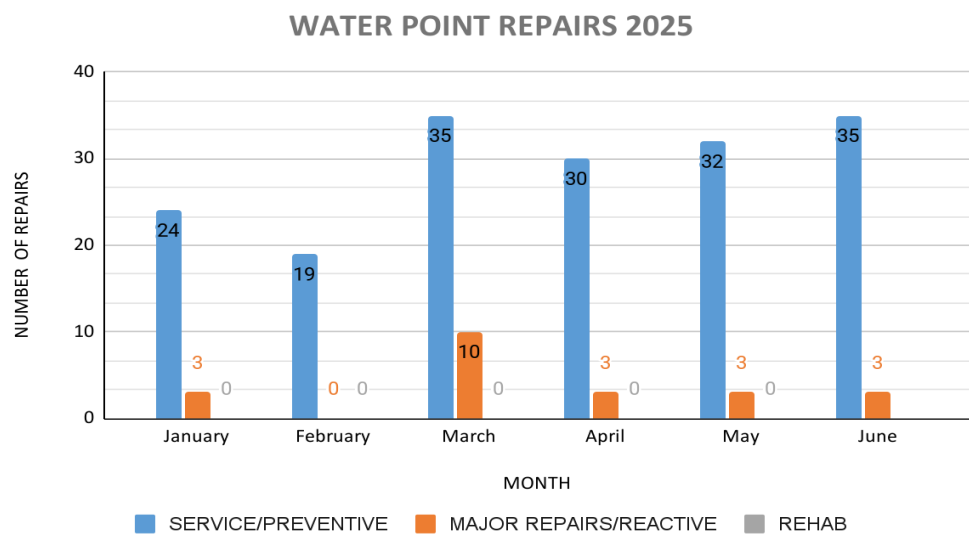
## Water Point Operation and Maintenance



*Preventive maintenance sessions in Ndeka and Tazona villages (Left to Right) during the month*

To ensure the sustainability of water points in the Kasese catchment, the OCA WASH program conducts reactive and preventive maintenance of Afridev hand pumps. In these initiatives the program works with Area Mechanics (AM) and Water Point Committees (WPCs). AM are local artisans responsible for conducting maintenance of the hand pumps. On the other hand, WPCs are representatives of community members and responsible for mobilising resources for maintenance of hand pumps. WPCs are also responsible for maintaining good hygiene practices at the hand pump. This month, the program supported **35** preventive and **3** reactive maintenance for hand pumps. Cumulatively, the program has conducted **175** preventive and **22** reactive maintenance in 2025. By the end of month **47%** boreholes out of the total **367** in Kasese catchment have adopted preventive maintenance approach. This is also a slight drop from the **50%** adoption rate registered in the first quarter of 2025 in March. This means there is a lot of work to be done to improve adoption of preventive maintenance by WPCs. On the other hand, **96%** of boreholes are functional in Kasese catchment area by the end of the month

of June 2025. This means the program has managed to maintain a good functionality rate of boreholes in the past 6 months. Below is a graph showing the progress of hand pump maintenance in Kasese catchment;



**Theft of a Solar Submersible Pump for Kabuluzi Project**



*Left - A hole dug by the thieves to pull out the pump, Right - Abandoned raising pipe after the theft*

During the month the WASH program received sad news about the theft of a solar submersible pump for the recently commissioned Kabuluzi solar piped water project. This incident has left over 2000 people without access to potable water. Following the incident, the Water Users Association (WUA) Committee for Kabuluzi reported the

incident to Madisi police who are currently investigating the case. Two suspects were arrested and currently have been released on bail. So far OCA has conducted a series of meetings with Chiefs and community members to understand how the incident happened and plan on the way forward of the project. From the meetings community members promised to assist the police with the investigations. Furthermore, community members and Chiefs have decided to contribute money to purchase a new pump to replace the one stolen. Recently, the WUA committee reported to the program that they have managed to raise money amounting to MK 1,185,000 (683 USD). The WUA is continuing to raise funds for the new pump through an agreed MK5000 (2.88 USD) per household contribution. The new pump is currently valued at MK 2,500,000 (1442 USD).

## **Conclusion**

The past month has seen steady progress in our WASH initiative, with notable achievements in borehole drilling and hand pump repairs. Going forward, the WASH program continues with borehole drilling and repairing hand pumps to ensure sustainable access to potable water supply for the people of Kasese.



# **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 both irrigation and rainfed farming, including the provision of farm inputs as micro-loans. The following are the details of the activities conducted;

### **Training on Tree Nursery Management**

The Agriculture program in collaboration with the Energy and Environment program organized a training on tree nursery management aimed at equipping lead farmers (LF) and OCA groundskeepers with knowledge and skills for raising seedlings for various crops. The training was part of ongoing capacity-building initiatives to promote sustainable agricultural practices and improve crop productivity among smallholder farmers. The training covered topics which include site selection, bed preparation, seed selection, sowing techniques, watering, pests and disease management, transplanting and record keeping. The propagation methods used to reproduce fruit plants were done

practically such as grafting, budding, cuttings and air layering. The training was delivered through a combination of classroom sessions, practical demonstrations and group work.

Participants gained practical skills in nursery establishment and management. Participants expressed confidence to establish nurseries at households and group level for business purposes. It is expected that the knowledge and skills shared will contribute to improved seedling production and improve productivity in the next planting season.



*Lead Farmers and OCA groundskeepers being trained in tree nursery management*

## **Harvest festival**

The Harvest festival was held to celebrate the successful completion of the 2024/2025 farming season and to recognize the work and achievements of our farmers. The event was organised with the support of Bayer Malawi who is a committed OCA partner in Agriculture. The objective of the harvest festival was to showcase the produce and share the experience with farmers. Farmers had the chance to see results of the techniques being promoted. Participants observed how other farmers, who adopted the methods, achieved higher yields and better harvests. The festival was well attended by over 150 farmers including the smallholder farmers and youths. Government officials such as AEDO and AEDC also attended the event. The harvest festival was a memorable and impactful event that brought together farmers, stakeholders and partners.



*Farmers attending to harvest festival*

## **OCA farm irrigation farming feasibility study**

In an effort to boost productivity on commercial farmland, the OCA agriculture program conducted a feasibility study to explore the development of an irrigation system. The study aimed at identifying a suitable irrigation system and water source that would enable all year-round crop production especially during dry season. Based on the findings from the study, it was recommended to go for drip system for the following reasons,

- It uses significant less water compared to sprinkler system
- It requires lower pressure and is more compatible with solar powered pumping systems
- Delivers water directly to the root zone hence minimizing evaporation.

## **Shelling of OCA Maize Harvest**

During the reporting period, a postharvest handling operation aimed at preparing maize for storage and marketing was done. Maize shelling exercise was carried out for 2024/2025 season where a total of 311 bags of 50 kilograms were recorded. The season was significantly affected by poor rainfall patterns including prolonged dry spell and high temperature during the critical crop development stage. These factors negatively impacted maize growth and yield, leading to lower yields than expected. The shelling process was done mechanically using a maize sheller which Orant owns. Despite the environmental challenges that adversely affected the maize crop during the 2024/2025 season, shelling was successfully carried out. The shelling process was essential in ensuring the available maize was processed and preserved effectively.





*Shelling of OCA maize in progress*

## **Irrigation Club Review Meeting**

The irrigation clubs review meeting was convened to assess the process, challenges and achievements of irrigation farming activities. The meeting brought together all farmers from irrigation clubs of Kambalame, Chigona, Tchale and Madzimayela to share experiences, evaluate performance and strategize for improved production. The representatives from clubs provided updates on their current activities, which include land preparation, planting status, and irrigation methods. The crops under production across clubs include watermelon, beans, leaf vegetables, onions and tomatoes. The irrigation clubs review meeting showed efforts being made by club members, as well as the need for continued technical support.



*Irrigation club members attending to review meeting*

# Business Development Program

## Executive Summary

Through the Business Development program, OCA consistently empowers women entrepreneurs by providing microloans, business development support, and digital financial literacy training. These initiatives play a crucial role in breaking the cycles of poverty that persist within our communities. As a result of these program activities, numerous lives have been transformed, contributing significantly to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals, particularly goals one and eight.

## Activities planned and Implemented

### Feedback Meetings with FEM Groups



*Mtambalika FEM groups during review meeting session*

Meetings with all the six FEM groups were conducted to review the repayment processes and document the challenges and opportunities encountered during the December, 2024 to June 2025 loan period. Four groups, out of the six FEM groups, were supposed to have finalized their loan repayments awaiting another disbursement in July, 2025. From the feedback sessions, it was noted that only Sapeya and Kachigamba FEM groups had completed their repayments. The Mtambalika FEM groups on the other hand, were still making their repayments. For the Kasese groups, only a few members had started making payments towards servicing their annual loans.



Macroeconomic instability was recorded as the highly ranked challenge that affected most of the women entrepreneurs' businesses. The Kwacha instability has caused an increased price of goods and services for essential commodities hence affecting business owners. Scarcity of financial resources in the communities has also affected businesses as people have little or no income to spend on consumables hence affecting the purchase patterns. This has really contributed to slowed progression of businesses thereby making it hard for the women entrepreneurs to keep up with their monthly repayments. The persistent hunger issues also worsened the situation resulting in women entrepreneurs spending business capital on food items bringing some of the businesses to a halt.

The harvest season has however created opportunities for agribusiness ventures. With some women entrepreneurs who had invested some of the proceeds into agriculture, they are now able to sell their produce and settle their outstanding loans. While some members are diversifying into buying the produce at fair prices and keeping them to resell at a later date after prices have picked.



*Sapeya (L) and Kachigamba (R) during group review sessions*

## **Kasese FEM Group projects**

As part of the sustainability strategy, the business development program encourages FEM groups to set up a group business so they can have stable group funds from which they can continue to source loans after graduating from the FEM program. Kasese 1 and 2 are the oldest groups in the program and they ventured into knitting and crocheting baby hats that they supply to the maternity ward. The proceeds from that business are reinvested into agribusiness projects. During one of the review meetings, it was agreed that the groups develop a vision calendar which will help keep them on track and prepare

in advance for what they would do next. Some of the group projects they are planning on venturing to help multiply their group funds is to cultivate maize and ground nuts this coming season. The groups are also planning on developing a business plan that will help them secure funding for their group business.



*Kasese 1 and 2 FEM groups during a meeting session*

## Education Support Program

### Executive Summary

The Orant Education program makes significant strides in supporting educational development by providing students with tuition, educational resources and support, donation of books to primary schools which enhance learning outcomes and collaborating with stakeholders such as Oplulence Malawi to utilize strengths and resources for greater impact. Our program aims to empower students, improve academic performance and foster a passion for learning. Through these efforts, we strive to create lasting positive change in the lives of our students and contribute to the growth and development of local communities. The following are the activities conducted by the Education program in the month of June, 2025.

## School Monitoring Visits

The Orant Education program team recently visited 5 secondary schools with a purpose of monitoring and mentoring our sponsored students. This visit was invaluable as it provided an opportunity for the students to share their challenges and career aspirations. During the visit, the students received their essential supplies; including sanitary pads, learning materials and other basic necessities like sugar and soap that helps them to focus more on their studies.

Additionally, we collected their school reports which indicated that many students are performing well academically while others are still showing improvement. These interactions were not only to foster a sense of community but also empower us to support their future endeavors more effectively.



*Students (Left) carrying their supplies (Dzenza sec. school) & (Lilongwe Girls sec. school)-Right*

## Review Meeting with Opulence Malawi

The Orant Education program team attended a strategic review meeting with Opulence Malawi in Lilongwe (Opulence's office). The meeting aimed to foster collaboration and develop a joint yearly plan, outlining the key activities and budget allocations to drive impactful initiatives in local communities. Through this partnership, both organizations seek to maximize their strengths and resources to create meaningful change and support educational development. This joint effort will enable us to better address community needs, enhance program effectiveness and ultimately improve educational outcomes for our program participants.





*OCA in action with Opulence Malawi: strengthening partnerships for community development*

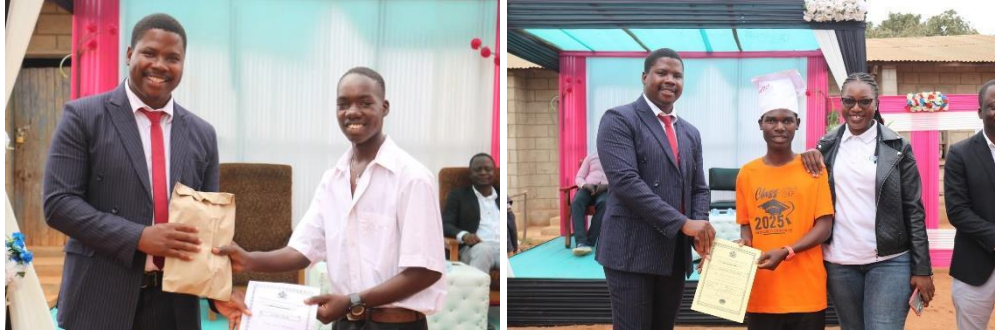
## Monitoring Donated Books



The Education program conducted a follow-up visit to 6 primary schools in the Kasese catchment area to assess use of previously donated books. The visit revealed that the books have had a profound effect on student's learning, enabling them to absorb new concepts and ideas. With the positive outcomes, we plan to continue providing more books and resources if available to the schools in order to support the student's academic progress and foster a love for reading.

## Farewell Party for Form 4 students Attendance

In June 2025, the Orant Education program attended a farewell party at Natola Community Day Secondary School for Form 4 students. Our Country Director, Mr. Gabriel Kapanda was the Guest of honor at the event. The farewell party aimed to motivate and encourage students as they were preparing for their Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE) exams. The event boosted their confidence with inspiring words and certificates acknowledging their perseverance or hard work and progress. During the farewell party, the students also received different best wishes from teachers, parents/guardians which helped them gain more energy by believing in themselves and preparing for their exams without fear.



*OCA personnels with Form 4 students at Natola Community Day Secondary School*

## **Junior Certificate Examination (JCE) Update**



*The JCE student, Omega Mcdonald*

In June, 2025, one of our sponsored students sat for the Junior Certificate Examination at St. Peter's Girls Secondary School. To support her academic pursuits, we provided her with essential tools; including a mathematical set and a scientific calculator. Given her a strong work ethic and consistent academic performance since joining the Orant Education program, we have high expectations for her exam results.



## Energy and Environment Program



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 June, 2025

conducted the following activities:

- 1) Distribution of solar home systems with Opulence Malawi.
- 2) Preparing village nursery fence and seedbeds.
- 3) Sowing eucalyptus seeds.

### Overview of Program's Activities

#### Distribution of solar home systems with Opulence Malawi

Solar Home Systems (SHS) are decentralized energy solutions designed to provide electricity to off-grid households. These systems typically include solar panels, rechargeable batteries, LED lights, and sometimes appliances like radios or phone chargers. Their distribution has become a key strategy in addressing energy poverty, especially in rural and underserved regions.



*Primary School going children (left) & A secondary school student (Right) were filled with joy*

Globally, SHS distribution has expanded rapidly, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. The rise of pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) financing models has made SHS more accessible to low-income households, allowing users to pay in small installments via mobile money/cash.

In Malawi, SHS adoption has grown significantly over the past decade. According to *the Malawi Solar Home System Study baseline report, June 2023*, in Lilongwe District, for example, solar device ownership rose from less than 1% in 2010 to 12% in 2020. This growth is driven by limited access to grid electricity, especially in rural areas, and the increasing availability of affordable SHS through PAYGO schemes.



*SHS distributors sharing notes at Nkhandwe village.*



*Installing the Solar Home System (Left) and Village committee members at Buza (right)*

## **Preparation of Community Nursery Fence and Seedbeds**

This report outlines the activities undertaken in establishing village tree nurseries, focusing on the construction of a protective fence and the preparation of seedbeds. The nursery aims to support local reforestation, agroforestry, and community greening initiatives.

### **Site selection and clearing**

The nursery site was selected based on accessibility, availability of water, and suitable soil conditions. The area was cleared of shrubs, grasses, and debris to create a clean working space.

### **Fence construction**

The fence was constructed to protect the nursery from livestock and unauthorized access. Community members contributed labor through a communal workday and managed to erect a perimeter fence approximately 1.5m high.

### **Seedbeds Preparation**

- **Layout:** Beds were marked out in rows, each measuring 1 meter wide and 2 meters long, with 0.3-meter paths between them.
- **Soil preparation:** The topsoil was loosened, and a mixture of forest soil and sand (1:1 ratio) was added to improve drainage and aeration, and organic manure was added to improve soil texture.
- **Shading:** Temporary shade structures were installed using grass thatch to protect seedlings from direct sunlight.





*Preparing seed beds at Mano village (left) and Lester demonstrating the preparation of seedbeds at Sewule village.*

## Sowing Eucalyptus Grandis

This report outlines the procedures and considerations involved in sowing *Eucalyptus grandis* for nursery or plantation 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 and Mixing eucalyptus grandis seeds with water for sowing*



*Completed village nursery at Mbwekete village*

## **Major Achievements**

- According to the distribution of Solar Home System activity with Opulence Malawi, 3 villages of Buza, Nkhandwe, & Mularo have been powered with 356 solar systems out of 1000 solar systems Opulence Malawi was distributing this year of 2025.
- Village nursery fences and seedbeds were prepared for the following targeted 7 villages sowing points (Mano, Kammata, Mntandaza, Kawondo, Mbwekete, Ngoma and Sewule)
- The program managed to sow seeds for 3 village nurseries (Kawondo, Mbwekete and Sewule)

## **Encountered Challenges**

- Transport was a major challenge due to competing needs with other programs.
- Failure of other participants to work on the assigned dates.
- Scarcity of the eucalyptus seeds at the selling points.

## **Conclusion**

The Energy and Environment program in June, 2025 focused much on distribution of solar home systems with Opulence Malawi, preparation of village tree nursery fence and seedbeds, and sowing of eucalyptus grandis. The distribution of SHS has improved energy access around Orant Charities Africa catchment area which is also supporting school going children to study even at late hours within their respective homes, and the preparation of village nurseries fences and seedbeds will help in protecting community nurseries from livestock and unauthorized success.