

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
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 (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene), Education, Agriculture, Business Development, Energy and Environment. This monthly report outlines milestones from the month of September , 2025 in our Water & Sanitation program, Education, Agriculture, Business Development, Energy and Environmental Programs.

Water and Sanitation Program



Executive Summary

The Water and Sanitation Program implementation mainly focuses on water supply, operation and maintenance of Water and Sanitation infrastructure, advocating for sanitation in communities and schools, and collaborating with stakeholders. The program conducted several activities aligned with these key implementation areas as detailed below;

Summary of Monthly Achievements

The following milestones were achieved during the month;

- Water point maintenance (Service/preventive: **58**; Reactive maintenance: **5**)
- Conducted Community Based Management (CBM) training for Makonola and Tsambewu Water Point Committee (WPC).

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- Monitoring Sanitation Entrepreneurs
- Technical assessment of water supply systems at Moving Windmills

Detailed Narration of Monthly Achievements

Water Point Operation and Maintenance

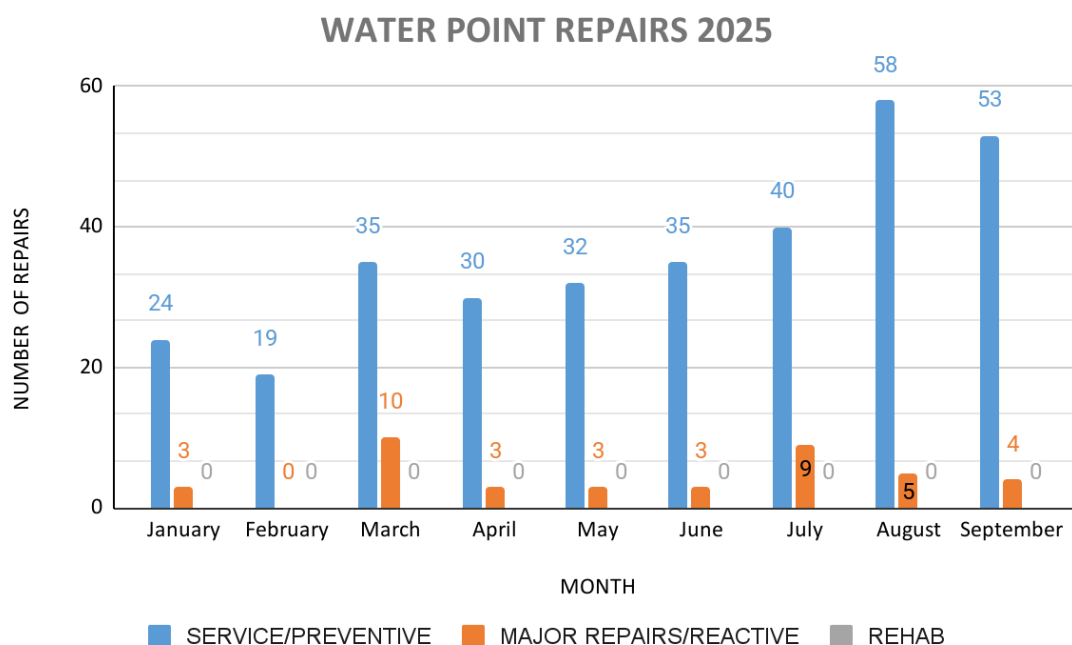


Afridev pump preventive maintenance session in Tchesa village

One of the key initiatives of the Water and Sanitation program is the operation and maintenance of hand pumps. Currently, the program is working with **372** Afridev hand pumps in Kasese catchment. Recent data indicates that functionality of these hand pumps is at **97%**. In September 2025, the program conducted **53** preventive maintenance sessions as well as **4** reactive maintenance sessions. Maintenance data (January to September 2025) indicates that **326** preventive maintenance sessions were conducted while **40** reactive maintenance sessions were done. This means that for every reactive maintenance session, the program is conducting **8** preventive maintenance sessions. This is a desirable outcome since it is in line with the maintenance strategy of reducing reactive maintenance sessions.

On the financial side, recent data shows that **MK9,857,581.50 (\$5,687)** has been spent on preventive maintenance in the year so far. On the other hand, **MK6,252,667.50 (\$3,607)** has been spent on reactive maintenance. The data also shows that on average it cost **MK30,238.00 (\$17)** to conduct preventive maintenance while it also cost **MK156,317.00 (\$90)** to conduct reactive maintenance. This means reactive maintenance costs **5** times more than preventive maintenance. It is important to note that, the cost for preventive maintenance is covered by community members who are using the hand pump while the cost of reactive is covered by OCA as an incentive for communities who have signed a preventive maintenance contract with their Area Mechanic. Currently, **50%** of hand pumps in Kasese catchment are on preventive maintenance contracts. This means

OCA has achieved the annual target for adoption of preventive maintenance. The aim now should be to maintain this positive trend and eventually exceed this target as the year ends. Below is a graph showing the number of preventive and reactive maintenance sessions conducted in the year so far.



Community Based Management training for Makonola and Tsambewu



Right - A classroom session during the CBM training for Makonola WPC, Left - Practical session during the CBM training for Tsambewu WPC

To ensure sustainable management of water points/ boreholes, the Water and Sanitation 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 Water and Sanitation program trained **11** WPC members from Makonola and Tsambewu village. Makonola and Tsambewu boreholes were drilled by OCA in August 2025.

Monitoring Sanitation Entrepreneurs



One of the corbelled latrine pits dug in Sewule village pending construction of a corbelled latrine

The Water and Sanitation visited sanitation entrepreneurs from the area of Mkombwa 1 and Makombwa 2 Village Development Committees (VDCs). In Mkombwa 1 village it was observed that the sanitation entrepreneur had just constructed and sold two pit latrine slabs in the quarter. This low uptake of pit latrine slabs was attributed to the rising cost of cement resulting from Malawi's economic challenges. Similarly, in Makombwa 2, the sanitation entrepreneur also made similar sentiments in regards to construction of pit latrine slabs. Despite this, the sanitation entrepreneur in Makombwa 2 VDC has initiated a Corbelled latrine construction campaign in Sewule village in which over **10** households have already committed to corbelled latrines. Currently, the households from Sewule village have already managed dig pits pending the Sanitation entrepreneurs assistance in construction of the latrines.

Technical assessment of water supply systems at Moving Windmills

OCA was invited to conduct a technical assessment of water supply services at Moving Windmills in Kasungu. This invite was part of a preliminary activity towards the impending signing of partnership agreement between OCA and Moving Windmills. During the visit, OCA assessed the water supply system at the Grace House and Mtunthama hub which are being managed by Moving Windmills. The assessment showed that there is a need for a new borehole to be drilled at Grace house and the plumbing system needs rehabilitation. On the other hand, the system at Mtunthama only needs some maintenance, especially the plumbing system.



OCA and Windmill members of staff making an assessment of the water well at Grace House

Conclusion

In September, the Water and Sanitation program conducted borehole repairs, CBM training, monitoring of sanitation entrepreneurs and technical assessment of water supply systems at Moving windmills. All these are key ingredients towards ensuring sustainable access to Water and Sanitation services thereby achieving the overall goal of the OCA Water and Sanitation program.

Agriculture and Business Development Programs

Agriculture Program

Executive Summary



Farming plays a crucial role in building the economy of Malawi. OCA supports these farmers by providing them with knowledge and skills in commercial farming. This improves food security and helps the farmers to be economically empowered. Activities were carried out in both irrigation and OCA farms as detailed below;

Macadamia production

As part of OCA's strategy to diversify crop production and promote high value perennial crops, the macadamia production initiative has been launched. The project aims to establish a sustainable macadamia plantation that will serve both as a commercial enterprise and a demonstration site for farmers interested in tree crop farming. Currently the project is at an early phase where land preparation and establishment of suitable planting sites for macadamia seedlings is being done. Hole gigging has been currently done as part of pre-planting operations. Standard spacing and hole dimensions of 8m x 4m were followed to ensure proper root development and ease of management once planting begins. Each hole is being prepared with care to facilitate mixing of topsoil with organic manure at the time of planting. The macadamia production project is progressing well with land preparation and hole digging successfully initiated. The exercise sets a strong foundation for the upcoming planting phase.





Digging of holes for Macadamia plantation

Kasese Cooperative Planning Meeting

The members of the Kasese Producers and Marketing cooperative conducted a meeting on preparation for the upcoming rainy season. The meeting aimed at reviewing the previous season's performance, identifying key challenges and developing a clear plan for the 2025/2026 cropping season to ensure improved production and profitability among cooperative members. Members reflected on the achievement and challenges in the last season. The cooperative successfully repaid its outstanding loan to OCA and managed to market most of its produce collectively. However delayed access to inputs and unpredictable rainfall affected some yields.

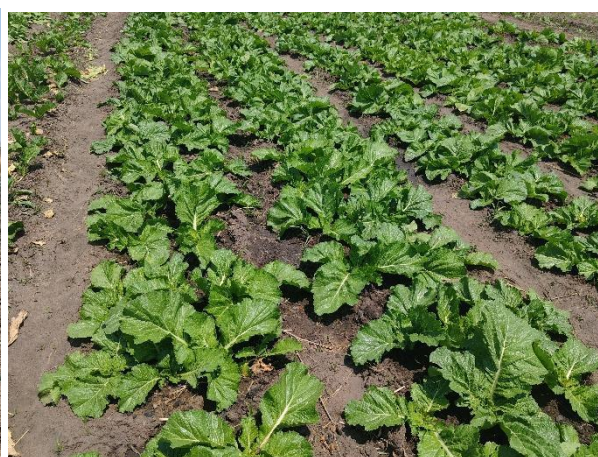
For the growing season 2025/2026, cooperative members agreed to focus on Maize, Soya, Sunflower and Groundnuts. OCA will help the cooperative in coordinating the procurement of quality seeds and fertilizers which are given as Micro-loans. The OCA team will also continue providing technical support on good agronomic practices, pest management and post-harvest handling. The members also proposed training sessions on record keeping and cooperative governance. The meeting was successful and demonstrated strong commitment from the Kasese cooperative towards improving productivity in the coming rainy season.



Cooperative members attending to meeting

Monitoring Irrigation Clubs

The main crops under cultivation in irrigation clubs include onions, beans, vegetables and maize. The crops are showing good growth due to consistent irrigation and pest control measures. The harvesting of vegetables is ongoing where it provides both household food and market supply. Despite some challenges, the club members recorded good progress across all crops being cultivated. The sustained production of onions, beans, vegetables, tomatoes and maize under irrigation farming has improved food security, nutrition and household income among club members.



Some onions and vegetables being cultivated in irrigation clubs

In improving maize crop growth and improving yield potential through proper nutrient management, top dressing fertilizer (Urea) application exercise was conducted at Tchale irrigation club. The exercise was successfully implemented and will contribute significantly to improving maize crop performance. Continued follow up and proper irrigation systems will also help in bringing higher yields during harvesting period.



Top dressing Maize crops with Urea fertilizer

Attending DAEECC Meeting

The Decentralized Agriculture Extension Coordination Committee (DAEECC) meeting was held at Mponela agriculture offices with representatives from government and non-governmental officers. The aim of the meeting was a presentation from Plan International



Malawi on a new project. The project is planned to be implanted within the Dzaleka refugee camp which aims at increasing the resilience and income of young people. The project activities include promoting climate-smart agriculture and livestock production, training and supporting sustainable agriculture, procurement of seedlings and distribution of farm inputs, and supporting

mushroom production. The project presented was seen as a vital opportunity to strengthen youth empowerment and livelihoods in Dowa and surrounding communities. Such meetings provide networking opportunities for OCA and also to learn from like-minded organizations.

OCA Agroecology Farm

The OCA Agroecology farm continues to serve as a demonstration site for promoting sustainable environmentally friendly farming practices. Currently the farm is focusing on organic cabbage production aimed at showcasing the benefits of agroecological methods in improving fertility, crop health and profitability without dependence on synthetic inputs. Several farmers from the surrounding communities have visited the farm to learn about organic production techniques. The demonstration has attracted interest due to the visibly

healthy crop growth and reduced cost of inputs compared to synthetic methods of production. Agroecology farming practice on cabbage production is progressing successfully. The initiative demonstrates OCAs commitment to promoting sustainable, climate-smart and environmentally friendly farming practices that improve food quality and farmer livelihoods.



Cabbage vegetables being cultivated on OCA agroecology garden

Business Development Program

Executive Summary

The Business Development program at OCA is actively breaking cycles of poverty by equipping women entrepreneurs with essential tools for success, including microloans, business development support, and digital financial literacy training. Currently supporting 80 entrepreneurs across the market centres of Kasese, Kachigamba, Sapeya, and Mtambalika, these initiatives have demonstrably transformed lives and fostered inclusive economic growth. This work directly contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth). The following are the activities implemented in September;

Verification Exercise for FEM members

OCA recently completed a thorough verification process to select and recruit the sixth cohort of the Financially Empowering Microloan (FEM) program. This multi-stage selection began with 181 applicants. Last month, we narrowed this pool down to a shortlist of 48 promising women entrepreneurs. To ensure the integrity of the selection, our team then conducted in-person, door-to-door visits with each of these 48 shortlisted

candidates. The primary goal of this due diligence was to physically verify and validate the business information the applicants had provided in their initial application forms.



Interviews with some of the shortlisted entrepreneurs

Finally, from the shortlist of 48, a total of 20 women entrepreneurs has been selected to receive comprehensive microloan support for the next three years. A key and strategic feature of this cohort is its diversity. The 20 selected entrepreneurs operate in distinct trades or business sectors. This intentional approach aligns with the program's core principle of fostering collaboration over competition. By ensuring that no two women in the same cohort are in direct competition with one another, the program aims to create a supportive and synergistic network where the entrepreneurs can thrive without conflict and learn from each other's varied experiences.

Business/ Entrepreneurship training

Business management and entrepreneurial skills are pertinent to successful management of business. In ensuring stable and sustainable businesses for the women entrepreneurs we work with, OCA through the Business development puts in more effort and resources to achieve that end. A four-day training session was conducted for our two graduate FEM groups of Kasese. The sessions mainly focused on enhancing the capacity of women entrepreneurs in two key areas: Leadership and group dynamics.



The choice of topics was made in line with the belief that leadership has the ability in fostering decision-making skills and conflict resolution. Hence stirring the group towards achieving shared goals. Group dynamics on the other hand, mainly focused on building

good communication and collaboration skills which will ensure inclusivity and unity in the group. All these topics are essential in ensuring longevity of the groups beyond the program's lifespan.

The training was co-facilitated with valuable support from Ms. Julie Maliro, the District Community Development Officer from the Mponela office, whose expertise added depth to the sessions.



Kasese one and two members during a training session

Group Monitoring meetings

As a direct outcome of the leadership and group dynamics training session, the members of Kasese 1 and Kasese 2 FEM groups recognized the importance of establishing a formal governance framework to guide their operations and ensure sustainability. Motivated by the insights gained during the training particularly around teamwork, accountability, and organizational structure, they convened a joint meeting to initiate the development of a constitution.

This constitution is intended to serve as a foundational document that will govern their activities, define roles and responsibilities, and outline decision-making processes once they transition into an independent cooperative. It reflects their shared vision, values, and commitment to democratic principles, transparency, and member participation. By proactively crafting this document, Kasese 1 and 2 are laying the groundwork for a resilient and self-sustaining cooperative that can effectively serve its members and adapt to future challenges.



Women entrepreneurs during group meeting proceedings

Conclusion

The September 2025 Business Development Program report highlights the transformative impact of OCA's initiatives in empowering women entrepreneurs across Kasese, Kachigamba, Sapeya, and Mtambalika. The successful verification and onboarding of the sixth FEM cohort, with its emphasis on diversity and collaboration, demonstrates OCA's commitment to building resilient entrepreneurial ecosystems. Meanwhile, the leadership and group dynamics training for Kasese 1 and 2 not only strengthened individual and collective capacities but also resulted in the development of a constitution, marking a pivotal step toward cooperative independence and long-term sustainability. All these activities reflect a deepening of impact, a strengthening of community structures, and a clear trajectory toward self-reliance and empowerment for women entrepreneurs.

Education Support Program

Executive Summary

The Orant Education program continues to support needy students and schools to improve education in the Kasese catchment area, Dowa District. These are the activities conducted in September, 2025;

Orant Ulemu Scholarship Selection



The selection committee reviewing applications

The Orant Education program had a thorough review of applications for the 4th cohort of the Orant Ulemu University Scholarship. A total of **142** applications were received for the 2025/2026 academic year and **65** applications were shortlisted for verification. The shortlisted had to be needy students without any other scholarships or university loans and near Dowa district. From the 65 shortlisted applications, **Seven** (7) students were finally selected for the 2025/2026 scholarship.

Out of 65 shortlisted applications, 12 students are the OCA former students and 53 students are non-OCA students (those not previously supported in secondary school by OCA). During the selection process, students with an MSCE score of 25 below, the OCA former students and students around Dowa district were prioritized under the scholarship. From the 7 selected students, Four (4) are the former students and three (3) are non-OCA students and some students were not given the scholarship because they are already under Malawi government loans.

It should be noted that we only managed to select Seven students because of funding constraints. In future we plan to select more students in the program to ensure that students are not dropping out of school because of financial constraints.

Students Selected for the 2025/2026 University scholarship

	Name of Student	Gender	Name of School	Name of program	Course duration	Academic year
1	Yamikani Lowole	F	LUANAR (City Campus)	Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Extension	4 years	1 st year
2	Ellah Luhanga	F	LUANAR (Bunda Campus)	Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness Management	4 years	1 st year
3	Stayness Malinga	F	MUBAS	Bachelor of Science in Commerce (Entrepreneurship)	4 years	1 st year
4	Stiweza Kanyanda	F	MUBAS	Bachelor of Science in Arts & Business Communication	4 years	1st year
5	Alick Bandawe	M	LUANAR (City campus)	Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness Management	4 years	1st year
6	Philip David	M	MZUNI	Bachelor of Science in Irrigation Engineering	4 years	1 st year
7	Mark Chisale	M	MZUNI	Bachelor of Water Engineering & Management	4 years	1st year

This scholarship is only provided to the deserving students to help them continue with their education so that they become self-reliant in future and contribute positively to the development of Malawi. The scholarship includes provision of tuition, upkeep and moral support as required.

Collection of Books from Moving Windmills

The Orant Education program collected a donation of 37 cartons of books from Moving Windmills Mtunthama storage site in Kasungu. This donation followed a series of productive meetings where we shared experiences and explored ways to collaborate and support each other. The books will be used to establish a library and distributed to primary and secondary schools. This will enhance the learning environment, fostering a reading culture and ultimately improving academic performances of students in their studies.



2025 Malawi School Certificate of Examination (MSCE) Results



The Orant Education program had a total of 31 secondary students (24 girls & 7 boys) who sat for the 2025 MSCE exams. 25 students passed which represents 80.6% **pass rate** and 6 students failed. From the 25 students passed, 20 students are qualified to apply for enrollment in the public universities, representing **80%**. The highest score is a girl with **11** points and lowest score is a boy with **29** points.

2025 MSCE results

	#	Boarding students	Day Schooling students	Total
Number of students who wrote MSCE	31	29	2	31
Passed	25	24	1	25
Failed	6	5	1	6

Energy and Environment Program



Executive Summary

The Energy and Environment Program continues to play a crucial role in promoting sustainable development through focused interventions, policy advocacy, and community involvement. In its first year, the Energy and Environment Program is carrying out pilot projects at GVH M'biya, working with 11 villages. Accordingly, in September, 2025, the office undertook the following activities:

- 1) Collecting Solar Donations and Collaboration with Moving Windmills
- 2) Tree Nursery Managements

Overview Of Program's Activities

The activities were carried out in collaboration with community leaders, government agencies, and partner organizations, ensuring inclusive participation and long-term impact. This section outlines the key interventions, achievements, and lessons learned across our operational areas, highlighting progress toward our strategic goals.

Collecting Solar Donations and Collaboration with Moving Windmills

The Moving Windmill Project, founded by Malawian Innovator William Kamkwamba, focuses on empowering rural communities through Renewable energy, Education, and Sustainable farming. Inspired by Kamkwamba's story of building a windmill from scrap materials to generate electricity for his village, the organization supports grassroots innovation and infrastructure development across Malawi.

In 2025, OCA and Moving Windmill are working on formalizing a partnership to advance clean energy access in underserved communities. The collaboration will center on the technical support, donation and distribution of solar panels to rural schools, and community hubs.

Collecting Solar Panels

On 18th September, 2025, the Orant Charities Africa (OCA) conducted a strategic partnership visit to the Moving Windmills Organization in Kasungu as part of its ongoing efforts to expand access to clean energy solutions in underserved communities. The purpose of the visit was to formally collect a consignment of solar panels generously donated by Moving Windmills Organization to support OCA's Energy and Environment Program.

This collaboration marks a significant milestone in strengthening inter-organizational ties and promoting sustainable development through renewable energy. The collected solar panels will be deployed to priority sites including rural schools, and community hubs, where they are expected to improve learning conditions, enhance service delivery, and reduce reliance on non-renewable energy sources.

The visit included a technical inspection of the equipment, documentation of the handover process, and discussions on future areas of collaboration. Both organizations reaffirmed their shared commitment to empowering communities through innovative and environmentally responsible solutions.

Activity Summary

- A total of **129** solar panels were successfully collected from the Moving Windmills organizations.
- The panels are 34 watts, suitable for powering lighting, and basic appliances.
- Collection was coordinated through prior communication and formal agreements, ensuring transparency and accountability.
- All panels were inspected for physical condition and basic functionality before transportation.
- Transportation was arranged by OCA and panels were delivered to the central storage facility at OCA guest house.

Observations

- The Moving Windmills organization was cooperative and supportive, with timely handovers and clear documentation.
- Most panels were in good working condition, with minimal wear and no major defects.
- Inventory forms and handover receipts were completed at each collection point.
- The Moving Windmills organization expressed interest in future collaboration, including technical support.

Lessons Learnt

1. Advance coordination with the Moving Windmills organization ensures smooth logistics and clear expectations.
2. Technical inspection at the point of collection helps avoid future installation issues.
3. Proper documentation is essential for asset tracking and donor reporting.
4. Relationship-building during collection visits strengthens future collaboration and resource sharing.

Next Steps

- Conduct a full technical assessment of collected panels.
- Match panels with priority sites based on energy needs and readiness.
- Plan installation schedule in collaboration with field teams and local authorities.
- Send appreciation letters to partner organizations to reinforce engagement.



Solar panels hand overs at Mtunthama community hub

OCA's Technical Staff Assessing the Moving WindMills Project Solar System

Moving Windmills requested OCA to assess its solar system. The purpose of the visit was to conduct a thorough technical assessment of the solar energy systems installed at the Grace House, and Mtunthama community hub. This evaluation aimed to determine the suitability, functionality, and readiness of the equipment. Upon the assessment of the solar system, the following issues were identified:

- The solar system was connected to the washing machine.
- There was no proper sizing/designing of the system.

Therefore, OCA's technical staff recommended proper designing/sizing of the Moving Windmills Project solar system, and to consider also disconnecting the washing machine from the solar system.



OCA staff leading solar systems assessment at Mtunthama

Tree Nursery Management

The tree nursery program plays a critical role in supporting landscape restoration, promoting agroforestry, and enhancing community resilience to climate change. The nurseries serve as vital hubs for the propagation of agroecological, and economically valuable tree species, which are later distributed for planting in degraded areas, schools, farms, and community woodlots. Through collaborative efforts involving local communities, OCA support staff, and other program managers, the program continues to build capacity, generate income, and contribute to environmental sustainability. This report continues to outline tree nursery management with the scope of nursery operations; supervising the filling of soil in polythene tubes, and tree seedlings pricking out.

Supervising the Filling of Soil in Polythene Tubes

The filling of polythene tubes with soil was supervised in order to ensure proper filling of polythene tubes with quality soil mixture for seedling propagation, in preparation for the

upcoming tree planting season. A total of 8360 polythene tubes were filled during the session.



Soil filling at VH Kaondo.

Tree Seedlings Pricking Out

Tree seedlings pricking out were supervised in order to transplant healthy seedlings from germination beds into polythene tubes to promote root development and prepare them for field planting. A total of 3555 seedlings were pricked out during the session.



Tree seedlings pricking out at VH Sewule

Conclusion and Recommendations

The Energy and Environment program in September, 2025 focused much on collection of solar panels from the Moving Windmills Project, and assessing the Moving Windmills project solar system, supervising filling soil in polythene tubes and supervising tree seedlings pricking out. All activities were successfully implemented with support from community committee members, other program managers, supporting staff, administration, and the Moving Windmills Project staff.