

ORAP

NEWSLETTER
FIRST QUARTER 2023



Welcome to our 2023 first quarter newsletter!!!! This comes an effort to keep all our current and prospective stakeholders informed of all the good work that we are doing with all our hardworking partners where we operate. In as much as the Zimbabwean operational environment has been tough from the economic to the social aspect, it did not stop or derail ORAP from performing its mandated duties. This is evident from the milestones depicted in this first quarter newsletter. Let's dive into it.

The end of 2022 saw the conclusion of the Nutrition, Enterprise and Wellness Strategic Plan that ran from 2017 to 2022. For the strategic period 2023 to 2025, ORAP shifted focus to the thematic areas of Community Mobilisation, Institutional Development, Enterprise Development, Food and Nutrition Security, and Workplace and Community Wellness. This presents an opportunity to invite you all to engage and collaborate with us in any of these 5 thematic areas.



Our Focus on Organisational Development

The ORAP team hosted a Partners Breakfast Meeting in Harare with the aim of unpacking our new strategic pillars mentioned above. This was an opportunity to secure opportunities for funding and collaboration. The meeting is one of many more to come meant to increase visibility and engage partners to walk with us in the new strategic period. We had a good turnout and got some really good and constructive feedback about our work and forged good synergies with many partners who attended. If you did not get the opportunity to attend the last one, feel free to get in touch with ORAP and get the content and find opportunities for collaboration.

We would like to express our profound gratitude for the Organizational Development Project, funded by BMZ Germany, led by WWF Zimbabwe. This project is meant to enhance ORAP's capacity to integrate environmental conservation in the areas where we operate. In this quarter, the project helped us facilitate the management planning retreat, CBO Capacity building, ORAP Partners Breakfast meeting, GAA meetings and community mobilisation trips and the Strategic review and planning process. ORAP's capacity as an organisation has surely improved because of this support and this has trickledown effects to the various CBOs we work with.

Binga Farmers appreciate the agroecology approach



In partnership with WWF and AGRITEX, ORAP is promoting agroecology in Binga district under the Bengo GP - Food Security and habitat protection initiative in the KAZA Region. . This quarter the main focus was in conducting Farmer Field School (FFS) Field Days to allow for participating farmers and the community at large to learn from the various demonstrations of agroecological practices. Farmers greatly appreciated the importance and effectiveness of practices like minimum tillage, mulching, intercropping, composting and organic manure, natural pest control and hand weeding. Seeing is Believing is the motto in adult learning. The FFSs and the field days will enhance the adoption of the agroecological practices and improve yields and ultimately contribute to food security in the district.

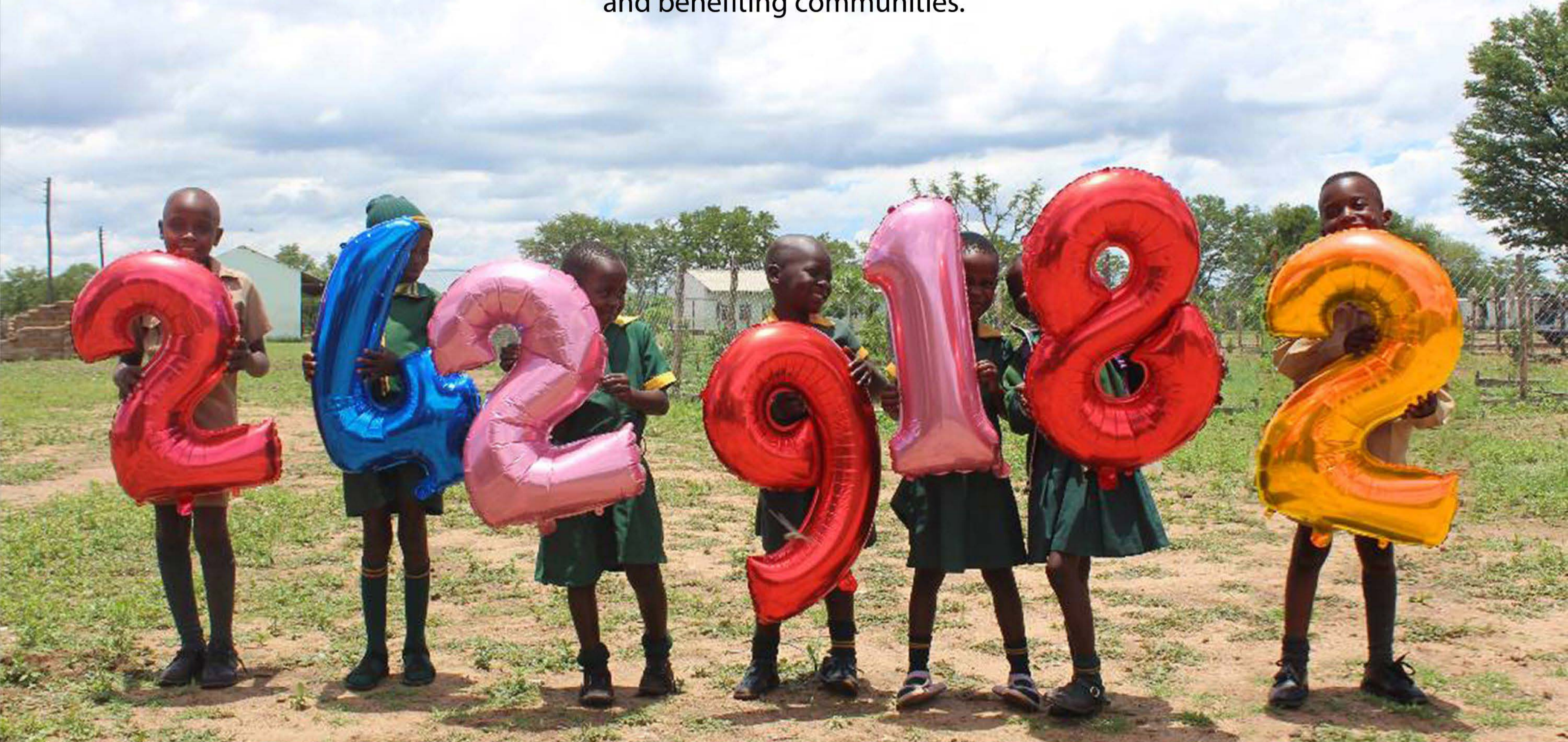


Communities engage in collective actions

It is indeed good to see the Community Visioning Process (CVP) conducted under the USAID funded Amalima Loko programme starting to bear fruits. The 5-year programme which is implemented by ORAP and partners under the leadership of CNFA is operational in Nkayi, Lupane, Tsholotsho, Hwange and Binga districts with the aim of improving food security through watershed management. Other partners are IMC, Dabane Trust, Mercy Corps and The Mannof Group. The CVP involves communities examining themselves (Zihluze) and mobilising themselves (Ziqoqe) resulting in them crafting their transformational plans (Zimisele) which they further go on to implement (Ziqhatshhe, Zenzele) to enhance their resilience (Zimele) and pride (Ziqhenye). This is a good example ORAP philosophy of 7Zs and a Q in practice. Communities have started engaging in more collective actions while implementing their transformational plans born out of the Community Visioning process. These collective actions include clearing of invasive species, construction of community nutrition gardens, gulley reclamation, rehabilitation of roads, schools and clinics amongst many other activities. This quarter we had over 10500 households involved in collective actions across the 5 districts. It is also worth noting that Amalima Loko program hosted a Community Visioning learning Summit during the quarter which was a platform for all other USAID Resilience Food Security Activities in Southern Africa region to learn from the program. The program showcased collective action in four sites of Hwange district. The philosophy is our theory of change and you can apply it in whatever you are doing and see the difference it always makes. Try it!!!

ORAP expands Schools Feeding Program

As ORAP we are excited to have further expanded our schools feeding project to cover the whole of Umguza and Bubi districts. The period also saw our funding partner in the project Mary's Meals International (MMI) achieving a great milestone in terms of the number of school children they are now feeding, a whopping 2,429,182 worldwide reach!! We are glad and proud to be part of this amazing milestone as ORAP. The expansion saw the program reaching 104 schools up from 69 there by reaching out to 30918 learners with a meal every day at their place of education. The programme is targeting primary school children with fortified Corn Soya Blend (CSB) prepared on site. The testimonial feedback stories that we are getting are amazing and we are proud of the positive impact we are having on the school children in terms of improvements in enrolments, attendance and concentration in class (SIYAZIQHENYA). The smiles on the children's faces say it all as we receive great appreciation from the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education and benefiting communities.



Video Proposals, A new normal

One of our most vibrant events this quarter was the Video Proposal Making Workshop we conducted with youths from around Richmond (Bulawayo) and some from the disabled community. One thing about youths is that when they show up, they show out. This made the workshop lively and exciting as they took part presented their own versions of Video Proposals and had their fellow youth constructively critic them. With the era of written proposals getting out of fashion, this workshop was critical and was facilitated in partnership with Trust Africa under the Humanity United funded Gateway Zimbabwe project., ed. This funding mainly focuses on citizen engagement, community and youth dialogues.



Education Support

Our Education Support program which is supported by the United States African Children's Fellowship (USACF) continues to work towards establishing and supporting school libraries, both primary and secondary, with text-books and reading materials such as novels. This has been commended by many stakeholders and headmasters especially those who head schools which are in the rural areas to be positively contributing to improvements in literacy levels and ushering in a positive reading culture amongst children. These are important ingredients in the quest for improving pass rates in our schools.

The first quarter of year 2023 has been very busy and developmental in all aspects and we believe and know that with all the projects that we are implementing, there is a form of poverty that we are contributing towards its eradication. We are proud of all the work that we do in both urban and rural Zimbabwe and having a platform to share this with our stakeholders is a cherry on top.

Please do visit and follow us on our social media pages (Twitter, Instagram and Facebook), YouTube and our website for more information. If you think there are areas of collaboration in the activities highlighted or any other thematic area, do contact us on any platform as we would like to explore those options with you and hear from you. Until next quarter.