

ORAP ANNUAL REPORT

2019



Zihluze. Ziqoqe. Zimisele. Ziqhatshe. Zenzele. Zimele. Ziqhenye.

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Who We Are

ORAP is a registered local NGO in Zimbabwe with registration number is W.O. 26/81. The objective of the organisation are to promote rural development based on rural associations through which rural people can cooperatively realize their aspirations for self-improvement and self-reliance and to provide such associations with financial, informational and technical support.

ORAP Vision: ORAP envisions empowered grassroots communities of disadvantaged men, women and youth free of hunger and poverty.

ORAP Mission Statement: ORAP exists to fight all forms of poverty among the rural and urban grassroots communities of disadvantaged women, men and youth through the empowerment of people by facilitating their development in their diverse cultural contexts.

ORAP Strategic Objectives

1. To see communities where ORAP works free from hunger and poverty.
2. To empower ORAP members and communities to attain financial security.
3. To build within the ORAP system and in the communities where ORAP operates, the capacity to deal with external shocks and stresses that negatively affect people's abilities to have sustainable livelihoods.
4. To further develop and strengthen the physical, emotional and mental well-being of people in the communities where ORAP works.
5. To see self-reliant, community-led Rural Associations of ORAP members at all levels.

ORAP Guiding Principles: The ORAP development philosophy is derived from values and principles rooted in the culture of the Ndebele people who occupy most of the areas where ORAP works. These values have been articulated in the Ndebele language and can be captured as “7 Zs and a Q”:

Zihluze	examine yourself
Ziqoqe	organise yourself
Zimisele	commit yourself
Ziqhatshe	employ yourself
Zenzele	do it for yourself
Zimele	be self-reliant
Ziqhenye achievements	be proud of yourself and celebrate your achievements
Qogelega	save, invest, collaborate

The philosophy revolves around the core concept of Zenzele, which stems from the African saying *Akusimuntu ongasimuntu walutho* (“there is no human being who has no purpose”). Zenzele is thus a development process of self-discovery and self-mobilization administered by the self - not solely for the benefit of self but also for the development of others. This concept guides and threads through all that ORAP does and is evident everywhere that ORAP operates

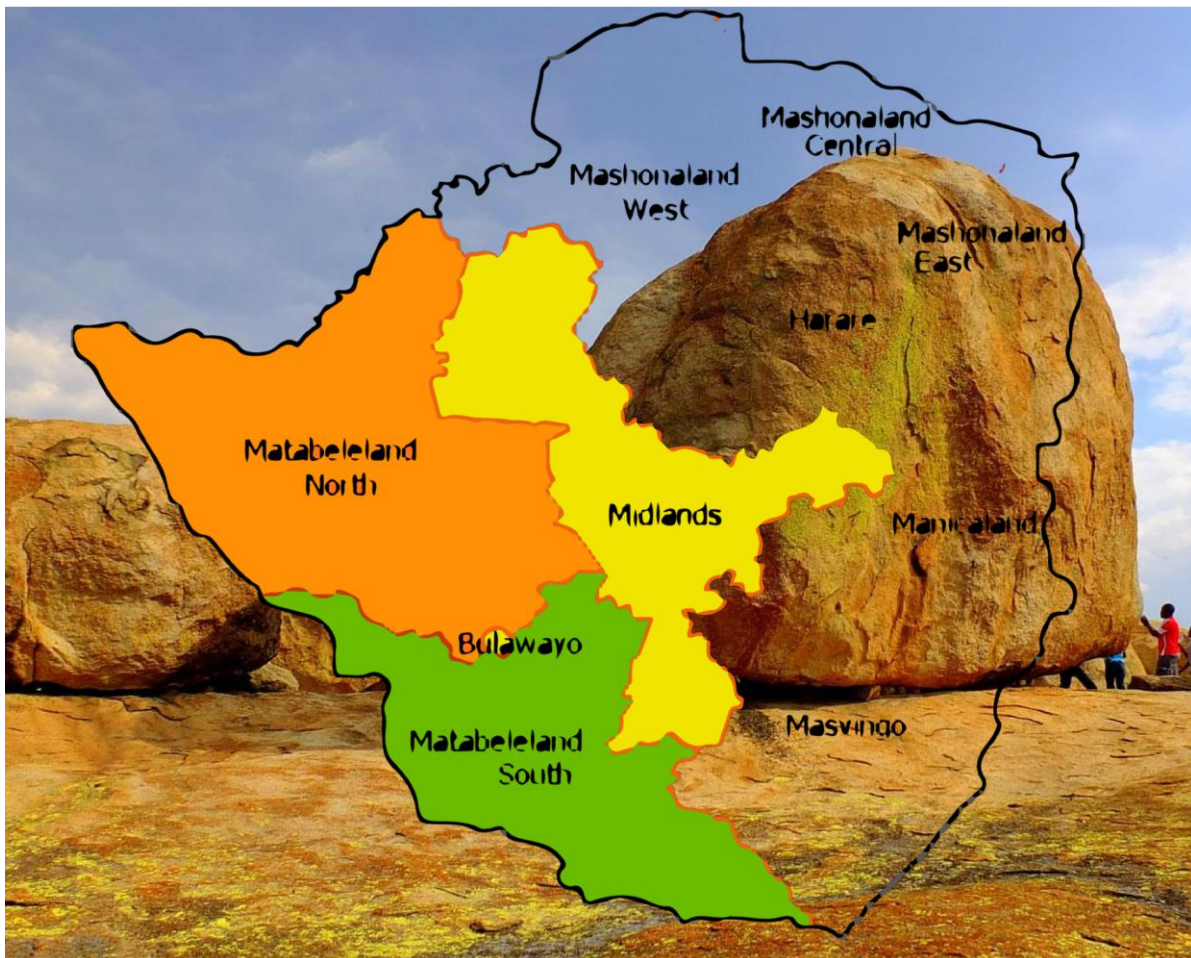
WHAT WE DO

ORAP completed its second year of implementing the 'NEW' (Nutrition, Enterprise, Wellness) Strategic Plan with vast of aligned activities and positive outcomes.

1. **Nutrition**, we build and strengthen the capacity of all women, men and youth that we engage to effectively and sustainably be assured of suitable nutrition and to be free from hunger. This is done through various Emergency Relief as well as Food and Nutrition security interventions implemented by the organisation. It Includes activities like food assistance to vulnerable members of the communities and promotion of improved practices and technologies in food production, processing, preservation, preparation right up to consumption.
2. **Enterprise**, we facilitate for all women, men and youth that we engage to have the ability, resources, and self belief to successfully undertake entrepreneurial activity, or be fairly employed so as to contribute to the productivity, income generation, wealth and asset creation and overall (economic, social, environmental) empowerment of their households, communities and societies. This done through capacity building, value chain development and market linkages amongst a vast of other activities aimed at promoting an entrepreneurial mindset amongst our targeted communities.
3. **Wellness** is clearly defined and articulated as a developmental focus area rooted in ORAP values, history and the culture of our people and that its place in poverty eradication is given the appropriate levels of import. Our work will see women, men and youth that we engage, though connection, affirmation, and collaboration with other people find themselves to be a whole human being, at peace with oneself, others, and the wholeness of the world around them. We strive to ensure that they are able to realise all forms of health, wellness, happiness and love.

WHERE WE WORK

ORAP works mostly in four (4) Provinces of Zimbabwe, namely Matabeleland South, Matabeleland North, Midlands and Bulawayo. ORAP implements various donor-funded projects in the various districts, and mobilizes members to form development associations through its structures of family units, groups, umbrellas and associations. The map below shows the areas of operation. ORAP has operations in the districts of Matabeleland South, Matabeleland North, Midlands and Bulawayo Province.



Matabeleland North Province: Nkayi, Bubi, Lupane, Hwange, Umguza, Tsholotsho, Binga Districts

Matabeleland South: Umzingwane, Insiza, Matobo, Bulilima, Mangwe, Gwanda Districts

Midlands: Gweru, Kwekwe Districts

Bulawayo: Central, Khami, Imbizo, Reigate, Mzilikazi Districts

2019 Highlights

NUTRITION

218 217 people received food relief during the lean season

49 508 mothers and children received supplementary feed to boost their nutrition and prevent stunting.

169 984 received production and nutrition related sensitisations and trainings with demonstrations.

ENTERPRISE

7078 people participated in savings and lending groups with a savings value of **US\$314 536-00**

4 groups received Matching Grants for growing their Income Generating activities.

12 Producers groups were linked to viable input and produce markets

100 youth participated in the youth challenge fund to boost their income generating activities.

WELLNESS

Annual Staff Wellness Day commemorated

29961 individuals improved their quality of life through care groups and health club activities

Talented children from 8 schools got exposure through the ORAP ZENZELE Chevrolet Champions Cup (OZCCC) soccer tournament

Youth and Community dialogues sessions boost developmental goals

2019 FOCUS ON NUTRITION

Our Response to drought - LSA project *bridges the food gap*

The year 2019 emerged as one of the worst years with food insecurity reaching alarming levels in both rural and urban areas of Mat. North and South. This was revealed through various assessment exercises that include ZIMVAC, AGRITEX Crop Assessments and other ORAP internal assessments conducted. In light of this ORAP partnered with WFP to complement government in providing food relief to the affected populations through the Lean Season Assistance (LSA) project. The major objective of the project was to provide food/cash assistance to vulnerable members of the community and negative coping strategies usually associated with the Lean Season. The project saw people receiving food aid from January to March in Lupane District while people were assisted in Matobo district from December continuing to 2020. The food basket generally comprised of Cereal (7.5kgs/person), Beans (1.5kgs/person), cooking oil (0.75kgs/person) with Super cereal for children under 5 years at 3kgs/person. Communities greatly appreciated the assistance as it protected their productive assets from stress disposal to buy food. The program also saw non-labour constrained beneficiaries participating in complimentary activities like dam and road rehabilitations and agriculture trainings to boost their resilience.

Amalima wins fight against stunting

The prevalence of stunting amongst children has been on the rise in recent years owing to years of successive drought and food insecurity. ORAP and partners under the USAID funded Amalima project have been, among other interventions, providing supplementary feeding to Pregnant and lactating women as well as children under the age of 2 (focusing on the 1000 days approach) to fight stunting. Recipients are getting Corn Soyablend porridge (CSB) and vegetable oil on a monthly basis. On top of the food rations, the caregivers under the leadership of Lead Mothers and Care Group Volunteers (CGVs) received lessons in Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF), Health Harvest and cooking classes through the care group approach.

As a result of these and other interventions the operational districts of Tsholotsho, Bulilima, Mangwe and Gwanda recorded a significant drop in the prevalence of stunting from 31.7% to 24.5% according to the Amalima Endline evaluation at the end of 2019. The prevalence of underweight children also reduced from 14.6% to 6.5%.

Feed The City - ORAP is part of this monthly intervention where it sponsors the purchasing of vegetables and assist with packaging and distribution of the food in some of the centres like Burombo, Nkulumane, cowdry park and Killarney.

New Crops - Two more new crops (quinoa and dragon fruit) were introduced under the Sizimele project after series of trials by technical partners in the program. Sensitisations about the new crops were with regulatory approval to propagate them obtained. The new crops are expected to add on the already introduced Amaranth crop and improve farmer resilience through diversification and commercialisation. 50% of the Amaranth (new crop) was affected by moisture stress across the Sizimele districts with approximately 2000kg harvested





Asset Creation and Rehabilitation takes centre stage in 2019

Productive assets creation and rehabilitation has proven to be a major driver for sustainable community development. In 2019 ORAP and partners in different projects stepped up efforts in building community capacity and resilience through constructing and rehabilitating both community and individual owned assets. In 2019 ORAP and partners under the USAID funded Amalima project completed 33 assets including protecting the area around assets from erosion in Tsholotsho, Gwanda, Bulilima and Mangwe districts. The assets portfolio comprised of 6 new dams, 13 dam rehabilitations, 8 dip tank rehabilitations, and 6 new irrigation schemes. ORAP and partners under the UNDP funded Sizimele (ZRBF) rehabilitated and constructed a wide range of assets that included solarisation of water sources for both livestock production and irrigation purposes, dam and borehole rehabilitations as well as irrigation schemes. The assets are intended to mitigate the impact of future droughts on livestock and crop productivity and to improve food security. Communities contributed labour and locally available material resources under the Cash for Assets (CFA) initiative.

2019 FOCUS ON ENTERPRISE

The Qogelela (VS&L) Spring Board

Despite the currency crisis and liquidity challenges experienced throughout the year, over 1000 qogelela groups continued saving their moneys with new ones being formed across the districts. Due to the continued volatility of the bond/RTGS, groups have been following recommendations to switch to saving in foreign currency, and where that is not feasible to quickly convert their VS&L fund into productive assets such as livestock.. To expand their funds, groups have intensified fund-raising events. A total of 118 groups (48 from Lupane, 25 from Insiza and 45 from Matobo) were identified as mature groups with an economic focus rather than social thrust using the Group Maturity Index Tool (GMI). Field Staff under Amalima and Sizimele continue to phase off their support as Cluster Facilitators are now able to organise events such as the look and learn visits and fund-raising events with minimum support from staff. Cluster Facilitators in some districts have created WhatsApp groups to communicate across the district and share ideas amongst themselves, thereby promoting cross learning.

The months of October to December, marked the end of the saving cycles for most qogelela/VS&L groups with groups having saved over USD 280 000. However, due to the anticipated drought in 2020, most of the groups reviewed their objectives and bought more food (groceries) and stock feed for their livestock from their share outs.

Viable Poultry Farming in Gwanda

Over 50 poultry farmers in Gwanda district were linked to Metbank through the Amalima project where they received a loan to start Boschveld Chicken production. The Boschveld breed is crossbreed from different varieties of indigenous chickens to create an improved breed that has good egg laying potential, higher weights at maturity than most indigenous chickens, and meat with a good flavour. The farmers are now selling the chicken locally and have started repaying the Metbank loans. Even though National Organic Produce, the supplier who provided chicks, had offered to purchase all fully grown chickens from the farmers, the farmers determined that they could make more money by selling to the local market. National Organic Produce was offering to purchase hens for \$7 RTGS and cocks for \$9 RTGS, however farmers have been able to sell their chickens for an average price of \$12 RTGS at the local markets. Despite economic challenges in the country, there is a strong market for Boschveld chickens within the local communities. All the 50 farmers sold between 33 to 36 chickens each at the average price of \$12 RTGS at their local markets, for a total amount of \$396-\$432 RTGS which was enough to pay off their Metbank loan of \$395 RTGS and gain a small profit. Success by the 50 farmers has inspired others in the district to start raising Boschveld chickens for sale.

Based on enthusiasm of this activity, ORAP is looking at opportunities to expand this activity to other operational areas. In Gwanda district, Amalima project has been helping the 50 farmers keep some of their chickens as breeding stock and then selling the improved breeds to nearby farmers. This resulted in the activity scaled up to 10 villages across Gwanda with farmers from 19 different groups.



Above: Poultry farmers in Gwanda District

Garden Enterprises

ORAP through its various projects and partnerships has invested in many community gardens through trainings, infrastructure development and rehabilitation. Supported gardens demonstrated improvement in production planning, resulting in good crop selection, correct timing, and understanding seasonal market demand as exhibited by high revenues from the sales of crops such as tomatoes, kale, butternuts and fresh maize cobs.

Revenues generated by some of the supported gardens		
Name of Garden	District	Revenue generated
Paswana	Gwanda	USD 6,809.00
Khulumsenza	Mangwe	USD 1,417.00
Siyabalandela	Mangwe	USD 1,156.00
Mbengwa	Bulilima	USD 615.00
Didela	Tsholotsho	USD 816.00



Above: Paswani garden in Gwanda (ward 17)

Youth Entrepreneurship

ORAP's youth mobilisation strategy utilised entrepreneurship as a major centre of attraction for youth. A total of 430 young entrepreneurs trained under UNDP funded Sizimele project with 90 of them awarded with grants for seed capital (Approx. USD\$500 each) and technical assistance to start or strengthen their business ideas. Youths were trained on beadworks and jewellery in Jotsholo in Lupane. A local youth entrepreneur who owns Black Emeralds Jewellery shop at Jotsholo Centre was engaged to train others on beadworks as a way of empowering local youths. The products they were trained on include earrings; necklaces; bracelets; key holders. They are also selling their beadworks at Halfway along Victoria Falls road and have plans of taking them further to Victoria Falls.

Youth entrepreneurs who received capital funding expressed satisfaction in terms of support that they received from the and have witnessed growth in their individual IGAs. The only major challenge they are facing is the weakening currency. This has a negative effect of eroding their incomes as production cost continue to rise.



Above: Some of the beadworks at Jotsholo (Lupane)

2019 FOCUS ON WELLNESS

ORAP Staff Wellness Day 2019

This annual event was conducted on the 29th of July at the Heath Streak Academy in Bulawayo. This year's event was facilitated by Fidelity Life Company, the new Medical Aid Service provider for the organisation. The event provided a platform for staff to get exposed to information and services that are critical for their health and wellness. Issues addressed included spiritual wellness (in light of ending contracts for major projects), nutritional wellness as well as physical wellness. Staff had an opportunity to do BP, Blood Sugar, dental, HIV and other necessary regular checks for their bodies.

Community Nutrition Wellness

Care groups continue to be an effective vehicle in efforts to achieve nutritional wellness at community level. Trained Care Group Volunteers and Lead mothers continue to reinforce discussions through home visits and use of the counselling cards reaching out to over 2000 care givers a month. For sustainability reasons the Amalima project Field Officers have reduced their facilitation role and handed over to Ward Nutrition Coordinators under the Ministry of Health and Child Care.

In addition, Care Groups conduct cooking classes with a focus around continuously promoting the consumption of nutritious locally available foods, even during the height of the lean season period. Communities mobilise working with Lead Mothers mobilise local foods like squash, pumpkin, mealie meal, dried vegetables for the cooking class.

Community Health Wellness

Working with cadres from the Ministry of Health and Child Care ORAP and partners under the USAID funded Amalima projects continue to use Community Health Clubs (CHCs) to enhance health wellness. Numerous Community Health Clubs across all Amalima districts took part in the national clean-up campaigns, which took place on the first Fridays of the months. The campaigns were led by EMA and attended by various stakeholders including the RDC, MOHCC staff and local leadership across the operational districts. CHC members encouraged the community to avoid leaving open pits after carrying out activities such as brick moulding as these pits collect water during the rainy season and became breeding grounds for malaria causing mosquitoes.

Various CHC groups graduated this year with most of them using the qogelela model to construct self supply latrines. Under Sizimele project the organisation worked with partners to support the construction of 112 latrines in Lupane and Insiza districts

Commemorations were done across the operational areas for the Global hand washing day (October 15) under the theme 'Clean hands for all' and the World Toilet day (November 19) under the theme 'Leaving no-one behind'. These saw huge participation of CHC groups in sending health messages to the communities.

Sport Wellness

ORAP Zenzele Isuzu Champions Cup -This year's edition was held on the 7th to the 8th of June. Most significant improvement was an equal number of girls schools and boys. Tongwe High from Beitbridge lifted the Girls' championship with Zwangendaba as runners up. Mosi-OA-Tunya High from Victoria Falls were Boys' champions and Tsholotsho High were the runners up.

A netball tournament was conducted in Mangwe district with care groups competing against each other. The netball tournament which was conducted at ward level, saw heightened enthusiasm amongst the care group members which strengthened social cohesion for the group

Community Mobilisation

Community dialogues – Community Dialogues have become a major tool in ORAP's community mobilisation activities. Off late the focus has been on the producer group model, an approach that is aimed at generating valuable information to facilitate community transformation from being just producer groups to entrepreneurs. Community dialogues were conducted in various districts including Umzingwane, Lower Gwelo and Lupane districts. During the dialogue sessions it was discovered that some communities are very rich in small livestock such as goats and indigenous chickens as community local resources which are being underutilized. Communities were also challenged to work towards coming up with grassroot structures that will lead to their integration into association to coordinate activities around them. Farmers expressed interest in getting proper and improved breeds for goats and indigenous chickens, so that they are able to get access to the right markets and compete with other commercial farmers. Groups felt that the producer group model will help them to start working hard as it promotes entrepreneurship and has a potential of bringing money into their pockets. There is an Ndebele saying that goes like "Insimbi itshaywa isatshisa ungayiyekela iqande ayisatshayeki".

Topics covered during the dialogue meetings this quarter included conflict management, value chains development, Group formation, Community philanthropy and youth mobilisation.



Some of the challenges raised by farmers included low adoption of newly introduced technologies and improved crop varieties, market competition, transportation of produce as well as human wildlife conflicts.

ORAP Zenzele Youth Dialogue - ORAP hosted the annual two-day Youth Dialogue at the Bulawayo National Art Gallery on the 22nd and 23rd of May 2019 under the theme, 'The Right Time to Start is now'. This year's dialogue was characterised by discussions that were more solution based to help participants develop their project or business ideas without focusing on the negatives

Youth Mobilisation: ORAP Youth Mobilizer Officer attended Young African Leaders Summit in Accra Ghana. Also attended Women Institute on Leadership and Disability workshop.

GENDER

Gender messaging by the various ORAP programs over the years has culminated in improved gender awareness and improved capacities of beneficiaries. With commemorations of important gender days now largely community led, communities took the responsibility to prepare for and commemorate the 16 days



Male champions playing soccer in Bulilima district

of activism against Gender-based violence (GBV) with minimum assistance from projects. Pre distribution messaging against GBV were shared at community gatherings such as Food-Distribution Points (FDP's) and during various community dialogues conducted. This was done

through song, drama and poetry covering physical abuse, child marriages, sexual abuse including marital rape, economic abuse, emotional abuse and psychological abuse.

EDUCATION

ORAP Online Reading Festival – ORAP conducted its first reading competition that is meant to promote the organisation’s education function. The competition was hosted on the organisation’s YouTube channel and facebook pages. Various primary school we work with under the USACF supported Education program from Nkayi, Mguza, Bubi, Lupane and Tsholotsho sent in videos of their students reading the same short passage. Dimpamiwa Primary school from Nkayi emerged victorious from the competition and were awarded an assortment of library books, soccer balls and kits. Other participating students got diaries as tokens of appreciation.

ORAP conducted trainings for school librarians for the schools supported under the same educational foundations programme. Three clusters were established for the trainings and these are Bulawayo, Nkayi and Tsholotsho. The trainings followed an assessment which revealed lack of library management skills in schools which resulted in improper handling of the donated books and low utilisation of the resources.

Shipment number 23 was received in July under the USACF project and a total of 32 schools and 5 other institutions benefitted through books and other equipment for their libraries. The other institutions that also benefitted include children’s homes and sport academies within Bulawayo. ORAP partnered with Do It For The Kids (DIFTK), a youth centred organisation, in the selection of beneficiary institutions in Bulawayo. Beneficiary schools have been included in a reading competition where excelling schools in the management and utilisation of the educational resources will be rewarded as a way of motivating them.

PARTNER WITH US

ORAP can be contacted as shown here:

ORAP, 16 Boone Avenue, Richmond, P. O. Box 877. Bulawayo. Zimbabwe

Phone: +263 9 208588/208538

Email: ORAPMail@orapzenzele.org

Website: www.orapzenzele.org

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/orapzenzele

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