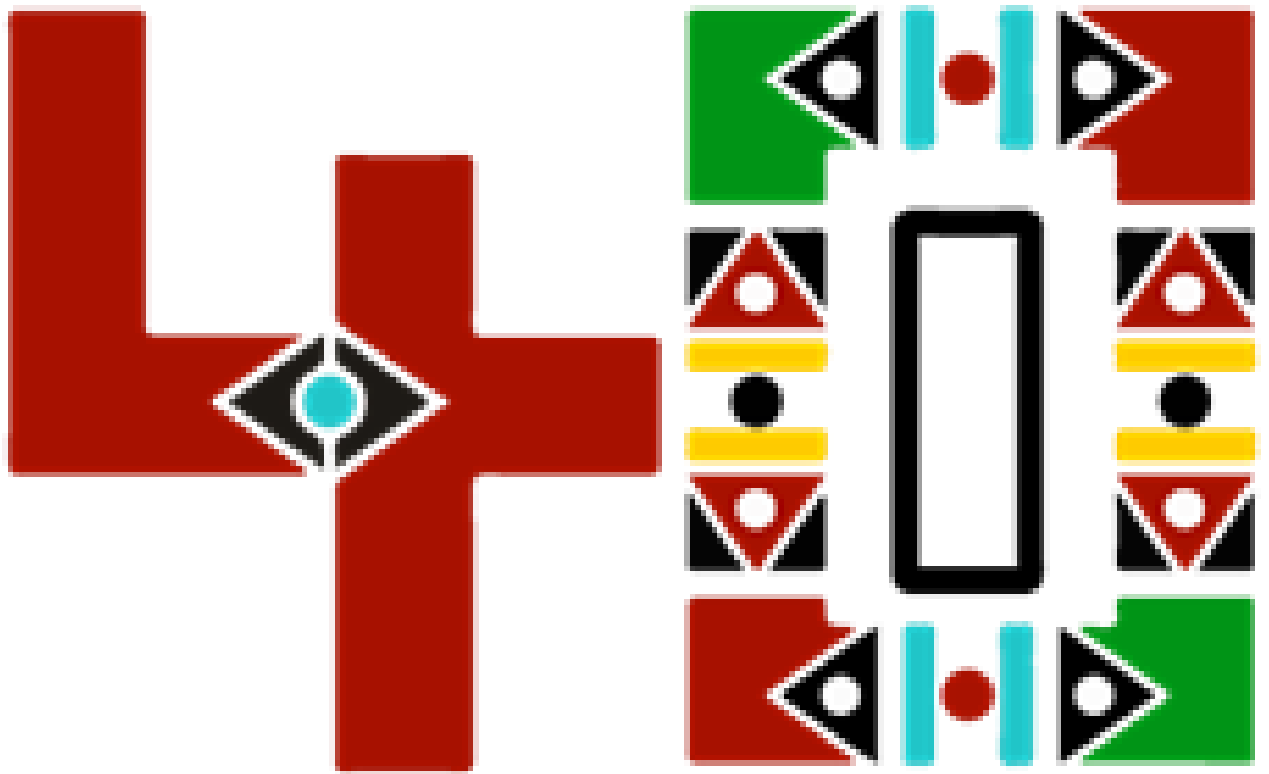


ORAP ANNUAL REPORT

2020



YEARS OF ZENZELE
#ZIQHENYE

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Abbreviations

NEW	Nutrition Enterprise Wellness
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
ZRBF	Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund
AGRITEX	Agricultural Technical and Extension Services
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
DCA	DanChurchAid
ECHO	European Commission Humanitarian Office
WFP	World Food Program
FFA	Food For Assets
COVID 19	Corona Virus Disease 2019
USAID	United State Agency for International Development
WWF	World Wide Fund
IGA	Income Generation Activity
VS&L	Village Savings and Lending
ZIMVAC	Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
WBF	World Bicycle Relief
CGV	Care Group Volunteer
ZCA	Zimbabwe Christian Alliance
CPMRT	Conflict Prevention Management Resolution and Transformation
ECLF	Ecumenical Church Leaders Forum
GBV	Gender Based Violence
ECD	Early Child Development
USACF	United States African Children's Foundation
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
CHC	Community Health Club

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
Qogelela	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

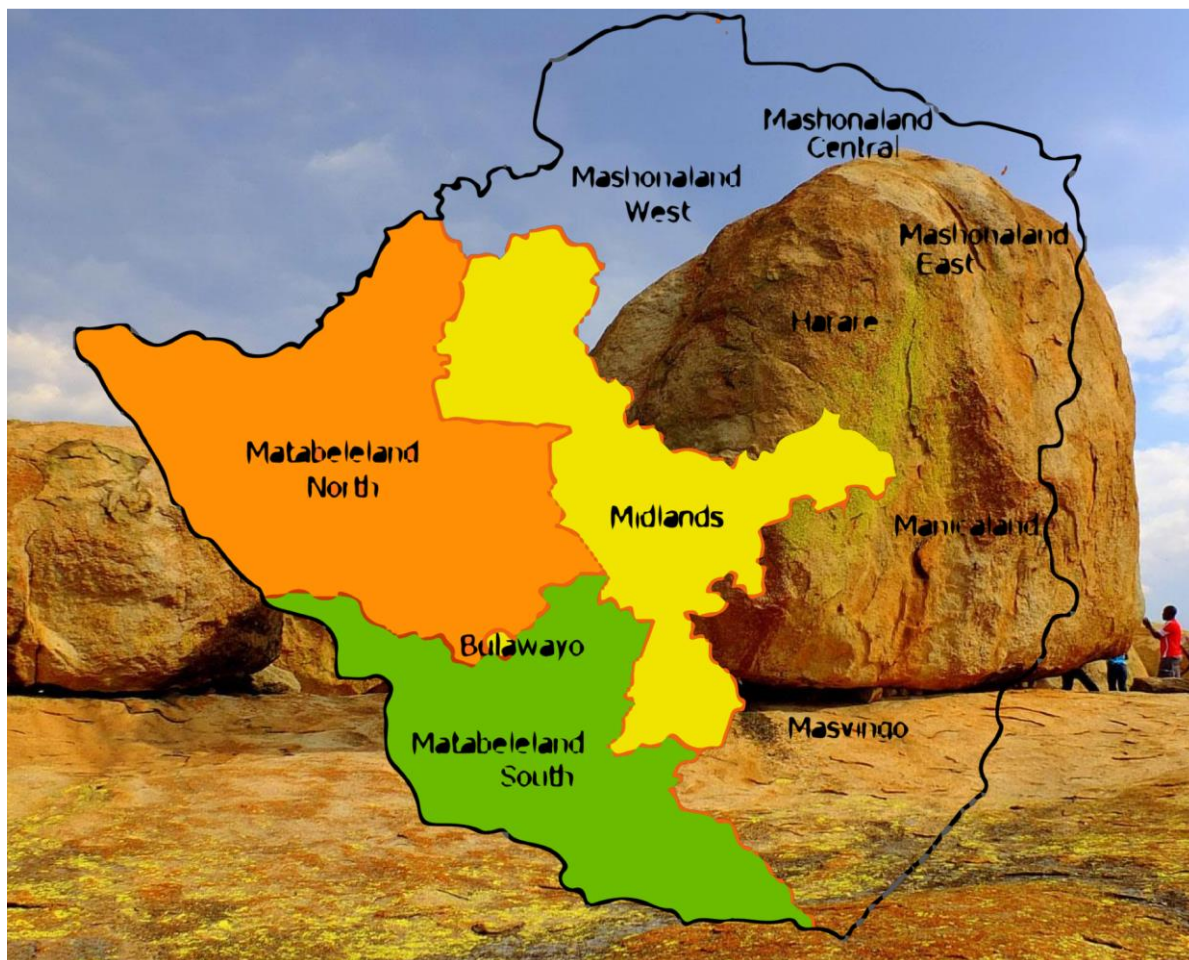
WHAT WE DO

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

2020 Special Features

From Amalima To Amalima Loko

Following the successful implementation of the 7 year (2013 – 2020) USAID funded Amalima program in Gwanda, Bulilima, Magwe and Tsholotsho districts, the CNFA led consortium which includes ORAP made a successful bid for the implementation of the next DFAP program focusing in Matabeleland North. Amalima, the Ndebele word for a group of people coming together to achieve a common goal, and Loko meaning “genuine” or “authentic” in Tonga join to form Amalima Loko – a five-year (2020-2025) USAID funded Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance program designed to improve food security in Zimbabwe through increased food access and sustainable watershed management. Amalima Loko builds on the legacy of its predecessor Amalima, a Resilience Food Security Activity also implemented by the same consortium and worked to sustainably improve food security and nutrition for vulnerable Zimbabwean households. The \$75 million Amalima Loko program seeks to elevate the livelihoods of more than 67,000 vulnerable households across five districts of Zimbabwe’s Matabeleland North: Binga, Hwagne, Lupane, Nkayi, and Tsholotsho. To accomplish this, the program utilizes a unique Community Visioning approach designed to strengthen community and household-level resilience, promotes nutrition-sensitive initiatives including a blanket food distribution program, and improves watershed infrastructure and practices that provide long-term foundations for improved resilience and agriculture-based livelihoods. Other members of the consortium are Dabane Trust, International Medical Corps (IMC), The Mannof Group, and Mercy Corps.

Amalima Loko has three major purposes which are:

1. Enhance inclusive local ownership over food security and resilience planning and development,
2. Advance health and availability of soil, water and plant resources within the watershed,
3. Improve human health and livelihoods

ORAP Board members mingle with communities

The ORAP Board members visited Tshongokwe irrigation scheme in Lupane District and applauded the farmers for the good work and encouraged them to continue working on the land to avoid relying on food handouts. They toured the scheme together with the AGRITEX officer for the scheme where they had a chance to see the climate smart equipment that the farmers were supported with under the UNDP funded ZRBF project called Sizimele. The objective of the project is to build community resilience to common shocks like drought. The equipment included an

Automated weather station for recording rainfall, temperatures and wind direction which helps them for planning purposes. They also saw the Chameleon and Full stop tool which is used by farmers to measure the moisture content as well as nutrients in the soil. The irrigation members have received various trainings ranging from production and marketing to asset maintenance and management from ORAP and its partners. The Board members also had an opportunity to visit the Lupane Abattoir, which is a joint venture between the Lupane Community Trust and a private sector player, supported by the ZRBF funded Sizimele project. The communities were encouraged to put the assets into god use and ensure their maintenance for sustainability.



Above: Functioning of moisture meters being demonstrated to ORAP board members and CEO.

2020 FOCUS ON NUTRITION

ORAP Continues to Expand Urban Programming

Due to the continuous increase in urban poverty and vulnerability, ORAP has in recent years ventured into the urban space to respond to the dynamic needs of the urban populace. The year 2020 saw a further expansion of the organisation's presence in Bulawayo urban through provision of cash transfers and other resilience building activities in Mzilikazi District and other hotspots in the city. ORAP is partnering with DanChurchAid (DCA) with funding from WFP and ECHO to reach out to over 56000 vulnerable individuals through an e-voucher system redeemable in selected shops in the city with individuals in a household getting up to USD12.00 per month. Cash assistance is most appropriate since urban related needs vary from household to household. The ECHO fund also saw the drilling and solarization of 3 boreholes as part of the resilience building initiatives in Magwegwe, Pumula and Nkulumane suburbs working with the Bulawayo municipal authorities. Over 800 individuals were trained and supported with equipment, material and startup capital for various resilience building income generating activities including detergent making, vending, sewing amongst many others.

Thousands Receive Food Aid in Rural Districts During Lean Season

The 2019/20 cropping season was not a good one with many households in rural districts where ORAP operates plunged into early food insecurity in 2020. ORAP partnered with WFP under the Lean Season Assistance project to assist 150 815 food insecure people in Matobo, Bubi, Lupane and Insiza districts giving a monthly ration of 7.5kg cereal, 1.5kg pulses and 0.75kg veg. oil per person assisted for the first half of the year up to June. In the



second half of the year, the organization continued its partnership with WFP to assist 39942 food insecure people in Insiza District distributing over **800MT** of cereals, pulses (beans) and Veg oil.

Under the ZRBF funded Sizimele Crisis Modifier intervention, a total of 2461 households in Insiza district were assisted through Food for Assets (FFA) receiving 10kgs mealie meal, 1.5kgs beans, 750ml cooking oil and 1 bar of soap per person.

Supplementary feeding of pregnant and lactating women as well as children under the age of 2 that has been taking place under Amalima project was concluded early in the year as the project

came to an end. This is expected to resume in the new Amalima Loko districts (Nkayi, Lupane, Hwange, Binga) next year.

Uptake of sustainable production practices and technologies improved.

The USAID funded Amalima project and the UNDP/ZRBF funded Sizimele projects have greatly contributed to improved uptake of the promoted crop and livestock production practices and technologies through various trainings, demonstrations and input support schemes.

According to Amalima project's final evaluation report, it managed to raise the percentage of farmers using at least five sustainable agriculture (crop and livestock) practices and technologies by 11 %. Some examples of the practices promoted by the projects include conservation agriculture, early planting, use of climate appropriate varieties, integrated pest management, deworming, dehorning, vaccinating, dosing etc.

In Lupane district, farmers' uptake of small grain production has increased from 50% to 80% especially in Gomoza, Jibajiba and Menyezwa wards according to an assessment conducted by Sizimele early this year. Although the year was generally not good, farmers who cultivated small grains managed to harvest yields lasting them between 3 to 6 months unlike farmers who cultivated maize and harvested enough for 1 to 2 months.



We Are One Movement support vulnerable families during COVID 19 Lockdown

ORAP is part of **The We Are One Movement**, a collaboration of efforts between organisations, individuals, companies and communities. National coordination is driven by the Eat Out Movement, with technical support from ORAP, Feed The City Zimbabwe, the Ministry of Labour and Social Services. Through this initiative, over 1267 Vulnerable families in Bulawayo, Binga, Plumtree have received food assistance during the lockdown period. These include the following:

- ✚ Displaced families in Kensington,
- ✚ Informal settlers at Mahatshula and Ngozi Mine (a community that is situated at Bulawayo's main landfill site),
- ✚ Children's clubs that support families hosting orphans and other vulnerable children,
- ✚ Families with a member with Down Syndrome,
- ✚ Tertiary students who failed to travel home, at NUST and Solusi Universities,
- ✚ Homeless children housed at Jairos Jiri,
- ✚ Individuals living with disabilities identified by the Gwabalanda Disability Association and
- ✚ Vulnerable families and individuals living with blindness supported by Bulawayo based Pastor Mangwende
- ✚ Families affected by flooding in Binga.

Crop Production at ORAP Development Centres

ORAP partnered with Agriseeds and AGRITEX to embark on crop production as an internal fundraising strategy for the organisation. A total of 3.4 hectares were planted following the Intwasa/Pfumvudza concept in the development centres of Tsholotsho (0.4ha), Galaupole (0.4ha), Siganda (0.25ha) Lupane (0.4ha), Vusisizwe (0.8ha) and Umzingwane (0.8ha).



The maize production project aims at selling green mealies to optimize on income generation for

the organisation, but this year's produce is likely to be in the form of grain due to timing issues. Going forward, the crop is expected to follow the green mealies seasons. The expected yield is around 8 tons of grain if conditions remain favourable. Plans are underway to also venture into sugar beans, tomatoes, cabbages and poultry production in the next quarter.

A Huge boost to Insiza Livestock Farmers

The Insiza Trust received equipment for sustainable fodder harvesting from the ZRBF funded Sizimele project. The Trust draw its membership from various Agricultural Development Associations representing all the farmers in Insiza district with stakeholders from government departments and other skilled personnel forming the Advisory Council for the Trust. The equipment which includes a tractor and a baler is expected to go a long way in reducing livestock poverty deaths that have been associated with the district during the lean seasons.



Above & Left: ***Part of the equipment received by Insiza Trust from Sizimele project (A Tractor & Baler)***

2020 FOCUS ON ENTERPRISE

ORAP Promoting Farming as a Business

ORAP and partners under different programs worked hard in 2020 to transform the predominantly subsistence rural farming model into business models. This was achieved through various interventions aimed at promoting farming as a business especially in irrigation schemes in our operational areas. Support given to farmers included trainings on the appropriate high value crops, linkages to viable markets, financial literacy and timing of operations. Under Sizimele

project, 24 farmers were linked with Life Brand Agricultural Services where they grew castor bean under contract farming. The farmers received inputs and training from the company and the crop did very well.



Gardens

supported by Amalima continue to do well in generating income with recorded sales for crops like tomatoes, sugar beans, kale and butternuts showing significant growth. Such gardens include Paswana garden (Gwanda), Mbengwa garden (Bulilima), Didela garden (Tsholotsho), Manzimahle garden (Tsholotsho) amongst many others.

Farmers from the Sizimele supported Tshongokwe Irrigation scheme in Lupane managed to produce approximately 33000 heads of good cabbage crop and onions utilizing the solarised portion (2ha) where the ZRBF funded project facilitated installation of drip and solar water conveyance. Using profits from the previous crops the farmers managed to raise USD 660 to deposit a Hammer-Mill for Bushmeal production.

Ten groups in Tsholotsho were supported with bee keeping equipment and trainings in bee keeping with support from WWF while seven groups in Insiza were also supported in apiculture by Sizimele project with 3 hives already colonized.



Above: Insiza youths being trained in Bee baiting.

The two post-harvest threshing groups from Tsholotsho (Izenzo Kungemazwi and Zilungiselele) that benefitted from the matching grant initiative under the just ended USAID funded Amalima project started offering threshing services to the community during the months of May. Despite the low yields, the groups managed to provide threshing services to 33 households from five wards, processing over 14MT of grain. The groups earned gross income of over USD860.

Six groups from Insiza, Matobo and Lupane districts contributed over \$660usd towards purchase of Hammer meal grinding mills with support from the ZRBF funded Sizimele project. The groups are now producing stock feed using locally available material and selling at 50 rands per 50kg bag on average.

Zenzele feedlot group in Matobo has ventured into butchery operations as a value addition initiative. The group was supported by ORAP and partners under Sizimele with the feedlot

infrastructure, bush mill, water reticulation system as well as training on feedlotting, marketing and entrepreneurship development.

Mushroom production has contributed towards building resilience of the communities in Matobo District through enhanced nutrition and boosting of household income.

Beneficiaries under the ECHO funded cash transfer project in Bulawayo's Mzilikazi District were trained in various entrepreneurship activities as a way of building their resilience. These are detergents making (610 trained) as well as sewing and tailoring (100 trained). Participants were taken through the process of making of various household detergents which included floor polish, dish washing liquid, sanitizer, pine gel, toilet cleaner, fabric softener, car engine cleaner, form bath, and car and hair shampoo as well as sewing of face masks.

VS&L Resilience under COVID 19 threat

Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, the Village Savings and Lending (VS&L) groups continued to save while observing the guidelines and requirements. A notable challenge that the groups are facing across all the districts is the reduction in demand for loans since Income Generating Activities (IGAs) especially petty trade activities are affected by COVID-19 restrictions that resulted in the closure of the country's borders affecting the sourcing of wares. Some groups have opted to sharing part of their savings to help members access basic commodities under the difficult times of lockdown restrictions. The groups have been advised to reduce their cycles and invest their savings in productive assets in situations where they are unable to loan out the money to their members.

A total of 247 participants drawn from the ECHO funded Bulawayo Urban Cash Transfer project were trained and integrated into VS&L to strengthen their resilience. Groups have been formed so far with some of them having already started doing their savings immediately after completing their modules. Cluster facilitators have been identified during the trainings and these will assist in monitoring of existing groups working hand in hand with project staff.

Lupane Abattoir set to promote livestock production as a business

According to various studies, including ZIMVAC, one of the major problems faced by farmers in region is unavailability of ready and viable market for their livestock leading to loss of value when it comes to selling. To build livestock farmers' resilience to this and other related challenges, ORAP and partners under the ZRBF supported Sizimele project facilitated the construction of an abattoir to ensure a ready market for livestock and facilitate value addition and beneficiation.

The abattoir initiative is a joint venture between a private sector player and the local farmers. Farmers were assisted to set up a Community Trust including opening of a bank account. . Other Partner organizations supporting the abattoir beside Sizimele, include SAT, who have since constructed feedlots in Lupane to ensure consistent supply of cattle to the abattoir. Trial slaughter was done in October 2020. This acted as part of licensing requirement wherein the whole slaughtering processing was successfully assessed for certification.



Above: Cattle awaiting slaughter at the Abattoir, meat quarters and stakeholders inside the Cold-room



2020 FOCUS ON WELLNESS

Our Response to Covid 19

The Covid 19 pandemic has left the communities with great stress and panic in 2020. The country entered a 21 day lockdown in the beginning of the year which was constantly revised throughout the year to manage the spread of the covid pandemic. Community meetings of over 100 people were banned and then numbers were reduced to not more than 50 people making it very difficult to do activities that need gatherings across all operational areas. ORAP worked with the wide array of its partners to respond to the covid 19 pandemic through information dissemination, food rations distributions and provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs). ORAP and partners under Amalima also supported Village Health workers with bicycles to increase their mobility as frontline workers in the Covid 19 outbreak. ORAP and partners under Amalima project received a donation of 300 bicycles from World Bicycle Relief (WBR), which were dispatched to the districts

(Gwanda, Bulilima, Mangwe and Tsholotsho).

Each district received 75 bicycles which were given to Village Health Workers who served under the Amalima Program as Care Group Volunteers (CGVs).



Right: VHWs receive bicycles at Hingwe clinic in Plumtree

Working with the Ministry of Health and Child Care, ORAP and partners under the Amalilima consortium produced and disseminated COVID -19 information materials (posters and fliers). Fliers were distributed to community members in the Amalima districts and posters were displayed at public centers such as shopping centers, boreholes and project sites such as gardens.

ORAP also conducted a rapid survey to assess the impact of Covid 19 and the subsequent lockdown on the Bulawayo urban dwellers with more emphasis on Mzilikazi district where the organisation is implementing the Urban Social Assistance project. The survey revealed that the lockdown has negatively affected people's livelihoods with most households having difficulties in making ends meet. Unavailability and unaffordability of basic commodities, water shortages and lack of access to Personal Protective Equipment were some of the issues highlighted that are making it difficult for urban households to cope with the situation.

ORAP working with DCA under the ECHO funded Urban project distributed masks (1026), hand sanitisers (1512 litres) and dishwashing liquid (1464 litres), Themoguns (15), hand washing buckets (105) and footbaths (10) to 10 primary schools in Mzilikazi District. The Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education through various authorities appreciated the donation which came at a time of need.

Under the ZRBF funded Sizimele project, Covid-19 Sensitive Tippy-Taps Competitions were held in Matobo, Insiza and Lupane with beneficiaries from 64 boreholes taking part. The objectives of the competition were to construct a tippy tap that would dispense water and provide soap whilst exhibiting durability for consistent use in hand washing to reduce the transmission of Covid-19. The tippy taps competition would also raise community awareness on the importance of hand washing in the Covid-19 era. Winners in the 3 districts have been given their prizes during ceremonies.

Amalima Improves Water Sanitation and Hygiene in the Rural Communities

The low prevalence of good WASH practices, according to recent surveys, has been cited as a major health challenge resulting in the spread of WASH related illnesses in the communities where we operate. The USAID funded Amalima project however made a significant impact in improving the adoption of good wash practices in Tsholotsho, Bulilima, Mangwe and Gwanda districts. According to the project's final evaluation report, the percentage of households using improved sanitation facilities (Blair toilets) increased by 13% to 53.6% while households with handwashing stations near a sanitation facility increased by 10% to reach the 13% mark. Households practicing safe storage of drinking water recorded a massive increase of 48.7% to reach 98%. The project used the Community Health Club (CHC) approach to reach out to thousands of households with Participatory Health and Hygiene Education trainings. This was also fused with Village Savings and Lending (VS&L) which provided the communities with a source of capital to fund their WASH initiatives like construction of improved sanitation facilities.

Healing and Peace Building Key for the success of initiatives

ORAP and partners under Sizimele have collaborated with Zimbabwe Christian Alliance (ZCA) and National Peace Reconciliation Commission (NPCR) to assist Makhovula irrigation farmers on peace building in relation to increasing production. The engagement covered issues to do with leadership skills, conflict resolution and diversification with an objective to capacitate the garden committee on Conflict Prevention Management Resolution and Transformation (CPMRT).

Trainings in conflict management were also conducted in Matobo district, facilitated by Ecumenical Church Leaders Forum (ECLF). The trainings targeted infrastructure committees with the aim of improving asset management in response to hazards and disasters.

Jerusalema Challenge

As part of the ORAP 40th anniversary celebrations, ORAP staff took part in the Jerusalema Challenge by recording a beautiful video that was circulated on social media platforms. The following was the rationale behind ORAP participating in the challenge:

- ✚ ORAP Brand marketing – by posting the video in the multiple social media platforms and website for the organisation.
- ✚ ORAP's 40TH Anniversary celebration – To mark the beginning of a series of events to celebrate the organisation's 40 years of delivering development work to the communities.
- ✚ Staff motivation – Taking a break from busy schedules to do the refreshing challenge/dance i motivated and re-energised staff members in their various work stations.
- ✚ It was an opportunity for staff and communities to celebrate the gift of life and thank God at a time when we are navigating the Covid 19 pandemic.
- ✚ Show casing our Covid 19 response achievements and our commitment as frontline humanitarian champions i.e conducting informative research, ensuring food security etc (Being relevant when it counts)

Community Mobilisation

With the country not spared in the ongoing COVID 19 induced lockdowns and subsequent restrictions, ORAP's community mobilization activities suffered a huge blow due to difficulties in bringing people together for dialoguing purposes. Officers and mobilisers have resorted to the use of social media platforms like WhatsApp to promote dialogue. Community mobilisers are still linking up with current members and soliciting for those who are interested in ORAP activities. They continue to participate in mobilisation of communities in areas where there are active projects, where funding has ceased, they continue to monitor group activities. The WhatsApp platform continues to be effective as a way of keeping in touch with communities.

Under the World Wide Fund (WWF) supported project entitled 'Strengthening Civil Society Through Organisational Development', ORAP was able to reach communities in Nkayi, Lupane, Binga and Hwange reaching 4387 members and 1688 youths as part of reviving the membership drive. The target population was the Amalima Loko districts (Nkayi, Binga, Lupane and Hwange in Matabeleland North Province) where ORAP will be working directly with communities, the aim is to optimize ORAP influence to the communities and recruit as many new members as possible from both the adult and the youth populations. Community dialogues were conducted to mobilize community members into formation of producer groups and identification of Community Mobilisers.

Basic guidance in participating in Amalima Loko were given. ORAP /Aspirant Members were encouraged to actively participate in all program activities, taking some leading roles as well as being the early adopters of all the new technologies on offer. ORAP' expectations of having its members taking up community volunteer positions, hoisting of field days as well as being the best adopters to be showcased to the Donors was discussed.

GENDER

ORAP and partners under Amalima project monitored gender issues during COVID-19 with a view to checking whether communities in operational areas were experiencing increased cases of Gender Based Violence (GBV) as reported by the media. Through the WhatsApp chat groups for the different districts, communities were periodically being asked if GBV was an issue in their communities, and what actions they were taking to tackle the issues. In all the operational districts, community volunteers reported zero GBV cases. However, reports from the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises pointed to a marked increase in the number of GBV cases with the most common types of abuse being physical, sexual and economic abuse. The difference in reported figures may be a result of the culture of silence and the fear of being accused of "washing the community's dirty linen" in public. This makes it difficult for communities to talk openly on the chat groups about cases of abuse in the communities.

ORAP working with DCA under the ECHO funded Urban Cash Transfers conducted a training for 46 Junior Parliamentarians and Junior Council members on Child Protection and GBV in Bulawayo. The Junior Parliamentarians and Junior Council members are expected to then assist in the reviving of Child Lead or Child Protection Committees in schools and in cascading child protection and GBV information in their respective communities and constituencies.

EDUCATION

ORAP, with support from the United States African Children's Foundation (USACF) continued to receive consignments of school equipment and learning material. This year ORAP distributed primary and secondary books including ECD materials and stationery to over 20 schools which had requested for books. The programme has for years been assisting schools to develop libraries and improve the reading culture within school children. The problem faced by most schools authorities is transportation of books to their respective rural schools.

PARTNER WITH US

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