

ZENZELE NEWSLETTER | VUKA UZENZELE

Welcome

Hello and thank you for your continued support of our mission to empower communities and protect the environment. We are excited to share with you some of the highlights and achievements of the past three months of 2023 (April to June), as well as some of the challenges and opportunities we face in the upcoming quarter.

ORAP AT ZITF 2023



ORAP's display in this year's addition of the ZITF resonated well with the exhibition's theme: Transformative Innovation, Global Competitiveness, through the launch of a new organisational strategy which will run from 2023 to 2025. The strategy involves transformation from the previous 3 to current 5 priority areas that are guided by the innovative Zenzele philosophy and new membership model that enhances the competitiveness and viability of the different ORAP associations (Producer Group Model). Like in all other years we have participated in the fair, we continued to showcase Zenzele produce from members in from different associations. This year's innovative and competitive produce came from Nkayi, Lupane, Binga, and Hwange associations. This is paramount to the organisation and its members as it is an opportunity to showcase our community work and expose our members into viable markets and networks. It is no doubt that Lupane Association stole the limelight with its exhibitor Clyde Gwangwava, a youth entrepreneur empowered under the previous Sizimele program who does beadwork and makes decorated bags, keychains, and bracelets amongst other products. His artwork was turning heads the duration of the exhibition and he made a killing from the sales. Well done Clyde!.

ORAP members elect new GAA leadership

The ORAP Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held this quarter with a special purpose of electing new leadership of the General Assembly of Associations (GAA). As a membership driven organization ORAP values these platforms where members interact to exchange ideas, discuss various development issues and map the organization's way forward. The outgoing GAA Interim Committee expressed its gratitude towards all the members present and absent for the support they received during their tenure and highlighted strides made towards targets set at the beginning of their term in office. The newly elected committee was inaugurated by the ORAP President during the AGM in line with the organisation's constitution. It is our hope that the new and youthful GAA executive will take the organization to even greater heights. All the best!!!!



Schools Feeding Program makes significant impact

ORAP conducted a Post Baseline Impact Assessment of the Schools Feeding Program in Umguzu district. The survey had critical questions for children aimed at measuring the effects of the feeding program in variables such as concentration in class, happiness, attendance rates, frequency of worrying about hunger and leaving school early amongst other questions were asked. The post-baseline results showed a significant improvement in all variables which were being measured. The rise in portion of students no longer worrying about being hungry at school from 21% in the baseline to 92% in the post baseline survey is of particular note. Also, the rise of those who never miss school from 35% at baseline to the 75% at impact assessment shows the great contribution of the feeding program in improving school attendance. Reports about more children participating in other extracurricular activities such as ball games also buttress the significant role played by the program in energizing children and improving educational outcomes. ORAP continues to appreciate the significant role played by all stakeholders involved in making the program a huge success and we still strive to reach more children with a meal a day.



Integration of Schools Feeding and Education Support projects commendable

The Education Support project funded by the United States of African Children's Foundation and the Mary's Meals International supported Schools Feeding Project (SFP) are complementing each other very well in improving educational outcomes in targeted schools. The Education Support project which has a core mandate of establishing and supporting libraries to enhance literacy and numeracy levels has expanded its coverage with the introduction of the Schools Feeding Program. This has seen more schools under the SFP receiving books to either start or boost their libraries. On the other hand, the initiation of feeding in schools has enhanced the utilization of library books since children now have the energy to spend hours in school and have afternoon reading sessions. This is yet another example of how ORAP integrate programs and interventions for the benefit of the communities we serve.



Staff Engagements

Since March 2023, the Human Resources team has been travelling to different districts to engage in dialogues with staff members. The purpose was to promote staff engagement, build trust and support within teams and to promote mental health. In addition, the HR team got first-hand information on matters that affect staff in their day to day work environment, addressed the challenges faced in the work environment and reiterated on the importance of communication channels to improve internal problem solving systems. On the same note, there was a Works Council meeting during the month of May between the Workers' Committee and management representatives. This engagement is in line with one of our strategic pillars, Workplace and Community Wellness.



Amalima Loko makes huge strides and expands into new areas

The USAID funded and CNFA led Amalima Loko project successfully expanded into the new areas of Hwange and Binga districts by adding more wards and clusters. As per program approach, the preceding Community Visioning Process has been conducted with all the outstanding Ward Transformation Plans concluded and submitted to the RDCs while Watershed Cluster Steering Committees continued to meet and contribute to the development and implementation of watershed management activities. Over 330 villages began implementing collective actions, based on their defined priorities in action plans, such as the construction of dip tanks, dams, schools, clinics, and the protection of grazing lands. Amalima Loko made significant progress in watershed infrastructure improvement, by completing the preliminary works on drilling and rehabilitation of boreholes, assessment of conservation works at 42 sites, assessment of irrigation sites, and installation of Solar PV systems on water points. Supplementary Feeding Program for pregnant and lactating females and children under 2 years continued in all program areas reaching 35,184 participants with fortified corn soya blend and vegetable oil

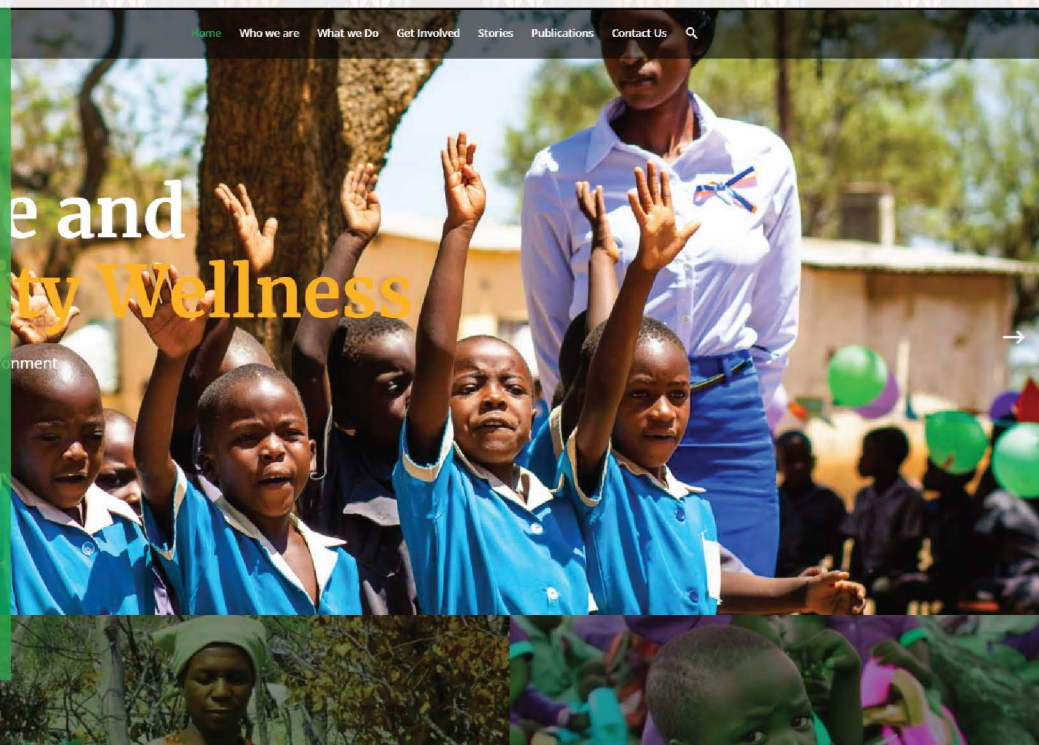


Binga Agro-Ecology farmers celebrate their achievements

Farmer Field School (FFS) participants under the agroecology promoting Food Security and Habitat Protection project in the Kavango Zambezi (KAZA) region held an award ceremony to celebrate their achievements and lessons learnt. The program implemented by ORAP in partnership with WWF Zimbabwe and AGRITEX has seen farmers adopting many conservation techniques promoted following the FFS approach. Excelling project participants scooped prizes for Best FFS, Best Farmer, and the respective runners-up, amid pomp and funfair. This gives motivation to other FFS and the individual to work even harder in the next season. Participants also harvested honey from hives supported by the project as a pilot during day. The. It is also pleasing as this project saw more women participating in beekeeping, which is not the norm. ORAP strives for women empowerment and emancipation.

Say Hello to our new look Website

We are excited to inform you that the organization's website has been upgraded and is up again. Although it is still work in progress with more publications and stories still being uploaded, be sure to visit it and have a feel of the interface. We hope to make it more and more informative to our valued stakeholders every day. Enjoy it!!!!



Signing up for our ZENZELE Newsletter

If you would want to keep up with news and updates on the great work ORAP is doing in the communities, be sure to subscribe for our newsletter or download editions from our website www.orapzenzele.org