

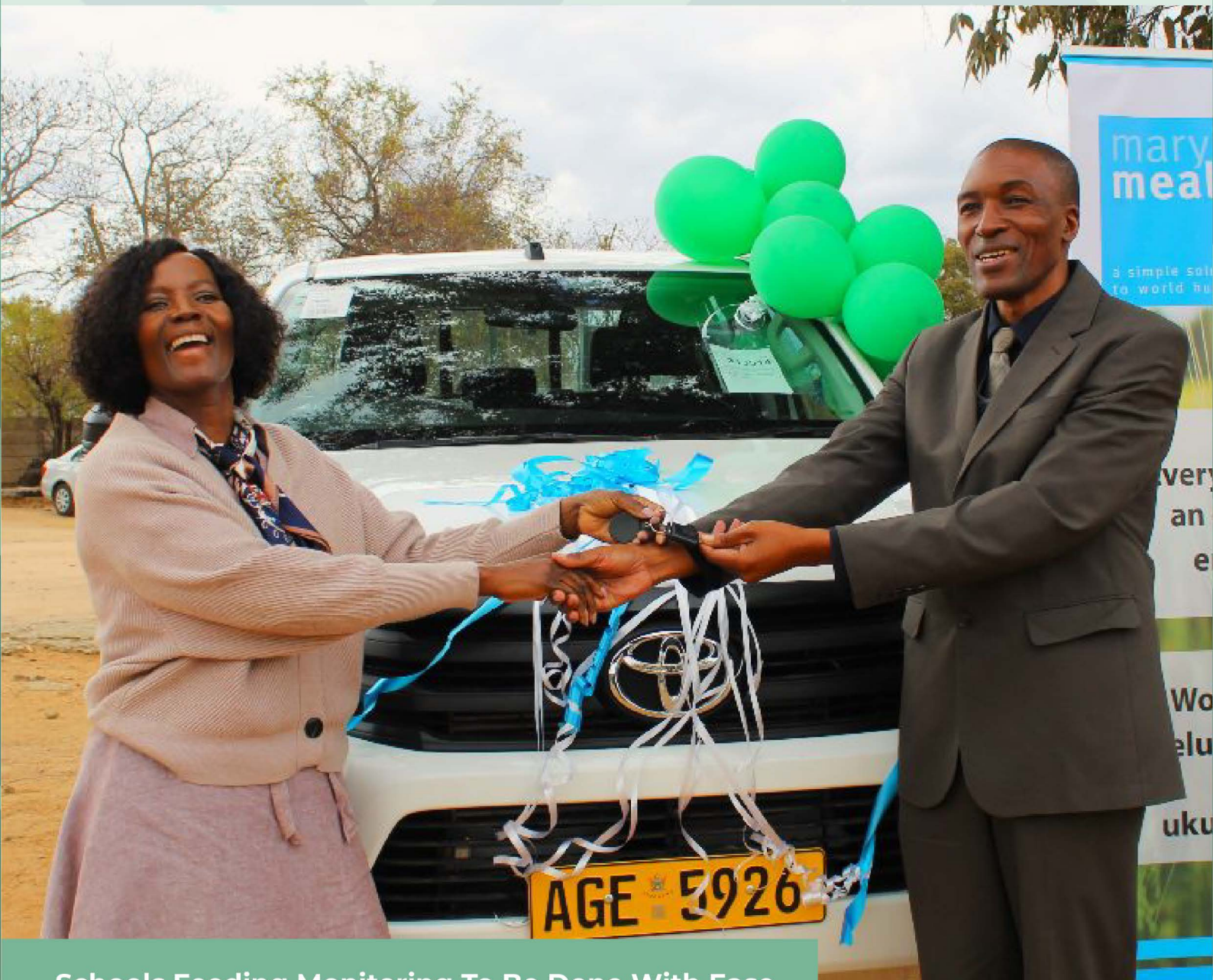


## INTRO

We hope this newsletter finds you well. As we approach the end of the year, we would like to take a moment to reflect on some of the most significant events that have taken place in our community over the past few months.

However, we must not forget that there are still many challenges that our community face. As ORAP we will continue to work together with various stakeholders to find sustainable solutions to these challenges. We believe that by coming together as a community, we can make a huge difference in the lives of those in need.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to sharing more updates with you in our upcoming newsletters.



### Schools Feeding Monitoring To Be Done With Ease

We are excited to announce the arrival of a new vehicle for our Schools Feeding Program (SFP). The new vehicle will help in ensuring more effective monitoring and support to the SFP in Bubi and Umguza districts. This will help improve the program's overall effectiveness in ensuring that every child gets the nutrition needed to thrive in their academics and extracurricular activities. . The ORAP Governing Board's Chairperson Mrs P.S Nkomazana is seen in the picture handing the car keys over to ORAP's Acting Chief Executive Officer, Mr S Mantula at the official handover ceremony.



## Mental Health And Basic Counselling Capacity Building For ORAP Supervisory Staff.

Mental health awareness and response has emerged as a critical element in ensuring tranquil workplaces and societies nowadays. In this regard, ORAP arranged a two-day training program for management and supervisory staff in mental health and basic counselling skills at the ORAP headquarters this quarter. The purpose of this event was to capacitate and raise awareness about mental health issues, provide a platform for information sharing, and build a supportive community for employees within the organisation itself. This is in line with Workplace and Community Wellness, one of the pillars in ORAP's Strategy for the years 2023-2025. This training program was seen as necessary to encourage workers to look after their mental health and that of their colleagues and be proactive about it regularly. Employees and employers can recognize the signs of poor mental health and take action to improve it. Miss M Ndlovu and Mr F Nkomo (Human Resources Officer and Human Capacity Development Officer respectively) are proudly displaying one of the certificates awarded to participants after the training, pictured together with the Contact Family Counselling Center facilitators



## Community Visioning Process Bears Fruit Through Collective Actions

The Community Visioning Process (CVP) conducted under the USAID funded and CNFA led Amalima Loko project continues to bear fruit. The process saw communities coming together to identify their problems and crafting solutions to their problems through transformational planning. A good example is Tshino Secondary School's construction that is currently underway in Hlalahahle Village in Ward 5, Tsholotsho District. This came about after two villages in the same ward had prioritized the activity during the Community Visioning Process. The school is meant to assist their children who have to walk 18km+ to the nearest school. The community has been celebrating every weekday ever since the activity started on a rotational basis with support from Ministry of Defence. Another good example is a school under construction in Mabhalabhala Village in Ward 8 of Nkayi District, where the nearest school has been Ngwaladi Primary, 13 km away, a distance that is very unfriendly to children, especially the youngest in ECD. The community therefore prioritised the activity during the CVP and started constructing the school in the village to save their children from the punitive distances they had to walk to school. The activity will mean the end of open-air classes which were posing a challenge to teaching and learning in harsh weather conditions.

Celebrating World Breastfeeding Day

## Asiqakathekiseni ukumunyisa lanxa silemisebenzi esiyenzayo.

### Okukhuthazwayo ngokumunyisa:

1. Nika umntwana uchago lwebele kuphela kusukela ezalwa aze abe lenyanga eziyisithupha. Kulelibanga, uchago lwebele lulakho konke okufunakalayo ukuze umntwana akhule kuhle.
2. Nxa umama elemisebenzi ezamehlukana lomntwana okwamahola, kasengele uchago enkomitshini ehlanzekileyo umntwana aphiwe ngesikhathi engekho.
3. Ukumunyisa akumelanga kube ngumlandu wabomama kuphela. Omama badinga ukusekelwa ngabanye emulini ukuze bathole isikhathi eseneleyo sokumunyisa ukuze ukumunyisa kubelula kibo. Asibaphathiseni emisebenzini yabo ukuze bathole kuhle amathuba okumunyisa aneleyo njengokukhuthazwa ngabezempilakahle.

## Qhubeka umunyisa umntwana aze abe leminyaka emibili. Asiphakameleni ukumunyisa. World Breastfeeding Week

### Celebrating World Breastfeeding Week

Nkayi District Hospital hosted the 2023 internationally commemorated World Breastfeeding Week celebrations with support from ORAP and partners. The USAID funded and CNFA-led Amalima Loko Consortium together with the Ministry of Health and the Government of Zimbabwe, put importance on families and communities at large to help breastfeeding mothers by assisting in some of the duties so that they have ample time to breastfeed their young ones. It takes a village to raise a child literally.

## NEW ORAP WORKERS COMMITTEE



Langton Mpfu - Secretary

ORAP's Workers' Committee for the year 2023-2024 has been elected! The Workers' Committee has a mandate to address workers' grievances and act as the middleman between employees and management. The below listed staff members who have been seconded by their respective districts to represent them in the Workers Committee; Claudius Siamayuwa, Langton Mpfu, Peter Sibanda, Vusa Mukuli, Sakhile Mpfu and Mkhululi Sibanda. Heading the Committee will be Claudius Siamayuwa as the Chairperson and Langton Mpfu as the Secretary. We would like to thank the outgoing committee for the good work in their term as we congratulate the incoming members as they await endorsement from the National Employment Council (NEC).



### **Binga Farmer Field Schools Integrate Horticulture**

The Farmer Field Schools (FFS) members in Binga district have successfully integrated horticulture in their agro-ecology promoting activities during the off-rain season. ORAP partnering with WWF and AGRITEX on the KAZA-Arise project has facilitated the establishment of 25 FFS in selected 5 wards of Binga District. Pictures from Bamsee Garden in Sinamagonde Village in Ward 21, show FFS members gathering and bringing rocks, concrete, stone, and river sand to their FFS which was selected for water point solarisation to integrate horticulture with funding from the program. All the FFS were provided with fencing and farming inputs to support the demonstration of context specific agro-ecological practices. Bamsee Garden members chipped in with locally sourced materials for the solarisation project. This goes hand in hand with the Zenzele (do it yourself) concept promoted by ORAP. Integration of horticulture will enable farmers to be productive all year round and enhance their resilience to the drought risk.



### **By Failing To Prepare, You Are Preparing To Fail. ~ Author Unknown**

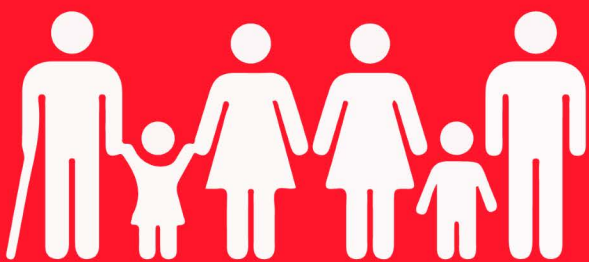
Farming inputs were distributed to every FFS in preparation for the coming rainy season. The inputs included maize, sorghum, millet, cowpeas, groundnuts, and sunflower weighing 3.5 tonnes, 3.5 tonnes, 2.1 tonnes, 3.5 tonnes, 1.4 tonnes, and 1.4 tonnes respectively. The program is excited to announce that five additional Agritex officers have been introduced to the program which means more expertise is offered and provided to the farmers. Better yields are expected from the farmers when the rainy season is done as compared to when there were only 12 Agritex officers, all things held constant.



## Water Is Life!

ORAP and partners under the USAID-funded and CNFA led Amalima Loko Program, have facilitated the rehabilitation of 11 boreholes in Binga District this quarter! This has increased access to portable water for 1,327 households in the area, 572 of which are within a 30-minute round trip of the boreholes. This is part of a big effort that has seen around 140 boreholes rehabilitated in 5 districts in the province to date. The initiative sees the local communities participating through collecting and providing local materials for the rehabilitations and Amalima Loko supplied new components and replaced all old borehole parts. Fencing and construction of new aprons, soak away, and livestock drinking troughs were done for each borehole. Appreciation goes to all members of the consortium for the continuous work in aiming to make water shortages a thing of the past in Matabeleland North Province.

# 1 NO POVERTY



## The Challenge Ahead

We must not forget that there are still many challenges that our communities continue to face. One of the most pressing issues is poverty in vulnerable communities. According to a recent report by the World Bank, global progress in reducing extreme poverty has ground to a halt. This is a worrying trend that requires immediate attention from policymakers and communities alike. Drug and substance abuse also continue to rise among the youth, robbing us of a productive future generation. This requires concerted and well-coordinated efforts from all stakeholders to find sustainable solutions to these challenges. We believe that by coming together as a community, we can make a real difference in the lives of those who need it most.

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