

## Q1 2024 NEWSLETTER

After a well-deserved festive season break, ORAP officially resumed normal operations on January 8, 2024.

Remember, a balance between work and play is essential to keep things exciting and productive!

### Welcome ORAP's New Governing Board

ORAP begins the new year by welcoming a new Governing Board. The new ORAP Governing Board chaired by Mr. M.T Nyoni was introduced during the ORAP General Assembly of Associations (GAA). Other members of new governing board include Midard Khumalo - Vice Chairperson, Sithembile Ncube - Board Secretary, Sylvia Khumalo - Board Member, Dumisani Nyoni - Board Member, Newman Ncube - Board Member, Milton Nkomo - Board Member, Thabani Matshakaile - Board Member. The new Board Chairperson emphasized that ORAP should go back to its original mandate which involves the organisation's members being an integral part of programs ORAP brings to the communities. Their term is from March 2024 to February 2027. We wish them all the best in steering the ORAP ship during their term.

### Bubi Association Members Lead a Field Day



ORAP members in Bubi District in Matabeleland North held their first field day event of the year and invited the ORAP HQ team. The main aim of the field day was to show and sensitize fellow community members to the advantage of small grains in climate change-induced dry spells compared to maize. What was proven on the day was that small grains are drought tolerant as the side of the field with small grains was still green compared to the maize sections. ORAP took the opportunity to invite input suppliers Agriseeds and ZIMPLOW to be a part of the day. ZIMPLOW brought plow parts and a walking tractor as a sample to showcase and demonstrate and interested individuals were able to place orders. Farmers showed interest in the walking tractor and several members placed orders. AGRITEX Officers expressed appreciation to the work done by ORAP in that it makes their work easier.

### GAA Meeting



What's the beginning of the year for ORAP without a General Assembly of Associations (GAA)? Representatives of different ORAP associations gathered in Bulawayo for the first quarter's meeting. The reports that came through were mostly concerning the impacts of the El Niño drought which members were already experiencing. The worry was especially for livestock which is suffering from lack of water, a situation which has the potential of affecting their agro-based livelihoods. ORAP Community Visioning technical teams facilitated the dialogue with members on the best ways of dealing with the prevailing drought situation. This dialogue and information was to be cascaded down to other members on the ground whose representatives had attended the GAA.

## Feedback Sessions



ORAP in partnership with WWF Zimbabwe and AGRITEX presented results of the Socio-Economic survey to communities in week-long feedback sessions in Binga District. The survey is part of the livelihoods monitoring initiative done under the Food Security and Habitat Protection program in the Kavango Zambezi (KAZA) region (KAZA Arise project). In Binga the program is promoting Agro-ecology through the Farmer Field School Approach. The annual survey is meant to monitor livelihoods and ensure natural resource conservation in the KAZA region. Participants in the sessions validated the survey results. and the feedback sessions provided a platform for discussions and solutions to the challenges they are facing as a district. Traditional leaders, councilors, lead farmers, government extension workers and other key stakeholders participated and agreed to cascade the information to members of their communities through more upcoming dialogues.

## Farewell to the DCOP

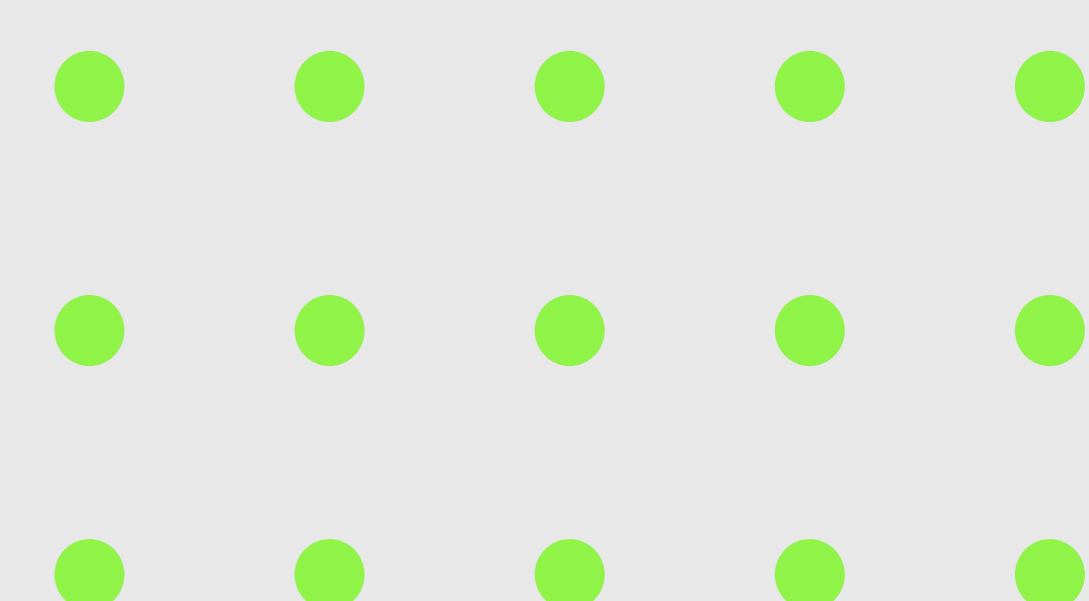


We bade a fond farewell to one of our esteemed colleagues, Dr. Nqobile Ncube, who served as the Deputy Chief of Party for the Amalima Loko Program in March. His departure marks the end of an era, but also the beginning of an exciting new chapter in his journey. During his tenure, DR. Ncube exemplified dedication, leadership, and unwavering commitment. His encouragement to fellow staff members was to embrace growth, seek new challenges, and not shy away from positions that may seem beyond their reach, has left an indelible mark. As he departed, we remember his words: "Experience gained today will pave the way for tomorrow's success." We extend our heartfelt gratitude to ORAP for fostering an environment where Dr. Ncube thrived. The unwavering support and guidance allowed him to excel in his role, and for that, we are truly thankful. As you embark on the next phase of your journey, know that your legacy remains woven into the fabric of our organization. May your path be filled with continued growth, fulfillment, and success. Wishing you all the best!

## Women's Month's Celebrations



Amalima Loko took the women's month celebrations literally as the program celebrated women and the excellent development work they do in the different districts of operation. The USAID funded program is active in Lupane, Binga, Hwange, Nkayi and Tsholotsho districts. Featured Images from the commemoration of International Women's Day Celebrations which was held under the theme: Empowering Women Entrepreneurs Creates Job Opportunities and Boosts Local Economies, for the Benefit of EVERYONE! Amongst the dignitaries were representatives from the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises, Zimbabwe Republic Police, Local Government, and other supporting government ministries who made the events spectacular. Speeches on the different celebrations highlighted that the role of women especially in rural areas is belittled but in essence, they are the drivers of economic and societal development, which is what the Zimbabwean communities need. Amalima Loko consortium partners were present which include CNFA, Mannoff Group, ORAP, Dabane Trust and IMC.



## Ntonjeni Garden feeding communities



One of the nutrition gardens supported by Amalima Loko's program in Nkayi District has become a local highlight due to the positive impact it has made since its establishment. Equipped with a solar water pump, two 5000-litre Jojo tanks, and multiple taps throughout the garden, the successful and evergreen garden is supervised by its chairperson, Mr. Nkululeko Sibanda. According to Mr. Sibanda, garden members benefit from the vegetables grown for their household nutrition and from sales made at various expos and within the community. To ensure smooth operations, they have established a healthy maintenance fund through monthly contributions, which are also loaned out to group members for other business ventures. This garden has become the envy of surrounding villages, showcasing what communities can achieve when they work together to combat poverty. This is a huge milestone towards achieving the program's goal of improving food and nutrition security in the targeted communities.

## 20 Health facilities benefit from 20 Nutrition Corners

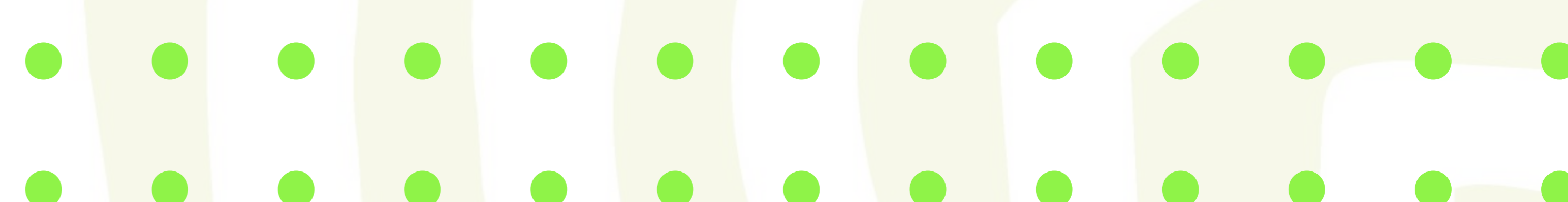


Through our partnership with Save the Children Zimbabwe and Ministry of Health and Child Care (MOHCC), 20 Health facilities from Mangwe and Bulilima Districts benefitted from Nutrition Corners set up in their facilities. Items donated for each nutrition corner under the Integrated Nutrition, WASH and Protection Program included a table, a chair, a height board and a baby scale. The items were purchased and delivered to the health facilities. This has been a welcome initiative from mothers in the community as these corners, outside of the equipment donated, they serve as rich information centers with nutrition booklets, scale reading explanation posters amongst other charts and pamphlets which helps them quickly understand and explain the measures of what constitutes a healthy baby. The nutrition corners are always manned by either clinic staff or Village Health Workers who are always ready to give women and caregivers valuable health and nutrition advice. These are part of many other program's efforts of promoting growth monitoring and routine screening of children for malnutrition.

## Lead Mothers Taking a Lead



The BHA-funded Integrated Nutrition, WASH and Protection project in Bulilima and Mangwe districts trained lead mothers how to monitor children's growth through the use of Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) tapes and active edema screening for malnutrition. The trained Lead Mothers successfully identified and addressed malnutrition cases, contributing to improved health outcomes and increased community awareness. Active screening led to the early identification of malnutrition cases, allowing for timely intervention and support. Malnourished individuals were connected with appropriate nutrition support services, including supplementary feeding programs and medical care. The project implemented in partnership with Save the Children facilitated better allocation of resources to areas with higher rates of malnutrition. Educational campaigns and workshops increased community understanding of malnutrition, its causes, and prevention strategies involved in growth monitoring fortnightly. It is stipulating that; growth monitoring should be conducted on a monthly basis as that is when growth anomalies can be tracked and identified for successful treatment or management.



## Male Champion Beating the Drum for Gender Equality



Thankful to the USAID BHA funding in Sanzukwe Ward 6, Mangwe District, a revolutionary movement has been born. A group of men acknowledged that men are perpetrators of gender-based violence. They have channeled their energy into being passionate advocates for gender equality. Given that many males hold decision-making roles within their households and serve as primary financial providers, it was crucial that the Integrated Nutrition, WASH and Protection Program conduct a male-focused dialogue to secure their endorsement and active participation in the initiatives. This approach aimed to empower men to facilitate and encourage their spouses' involvement in project activities or engage directly themselves. Through the Male Champion Approach, they discovered the value of shared responsibilities, empathy, and support. This has gone a long way toward ensuring that breastfeeding mothers have ample time and rest to nurse their babies while the men in their lives take up the other responsibilities that otherwise would have fallen in the hands of the breastfeeding mothers.

## Africa day of Schools Feeding Commemoration



The Government of Zimbabwe commemorated the 9th edition of the Africa Day of School Feeding this year. The commemorations ran with a localized theme "Strengthening the role of devolution structures for sustainable investment in homegrown school feeding to transform education systems for inclusive quality learning, nutrition and livelihood outcomes and a prosperous Zimbabwe". ORAP was invited to be Guest of Honor at the event in Bubi district because of the role and impact the organization is making in both Bubi and Umguza Districts through its Schools Feeding Program being implemented in partnership with Mary's Meals International and Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education. On the day, the focus was on celebrating locally sourced delicacies readily available within their community. These included small grains commonly cultivated by households, as well as some indigenous fruits and vegetables. The host Lukala Primary School, is one of the 104 Schools in the 2 districts benefiting from the ORAP and Mary's Meals International Schools Feeding Program where children receive a daily meal of fortified Corn Soya Blend (CSB) porridge.

## Schools feeding Program promotes stakeholder involvement in Bubi and Umguza District.

The Schools Feeding Program in Bubi and Umguza districts has brought communities closer to their schools through its community centered approach. Our Monitoring and Evaluation initiatives have recorded quite a number of improvements that have taken place in the schools as a result of this community-led feeding program. Starting from community involvement in clearing roads to make their schools accessible for field officers and supply trucks to deliver the food items, to kitchens that ensure adequate air circulation for the volunteer cooks. Some communities have also gone as far as carving benches so that students do not have to sit down during their meal times, promoting cleanliness. All the schools in the program have School Feeding Committees in place to ensure round-the-clock offloading of supplies, and timely feeding times for school children which does not disrupt the normal school timetables. This is a good sustainability aspect associated with the program as communities take ownership of the crucial initiative.

## Stakeholder Appreciation

As we wrap up this quarter, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our stakeholders for your continued support and engagement. Your contributions and feedback is invaluable to our ongoing success and growth. Looking forward, we remain committed to all the programs ORAP is implementing and we believe that with your continued partnership, we can achieve even greater heights. Thank you once again for being an integral part of ORAP's journey. We look forward to sharing more updates and successes with you in the next quarter.

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](mailto:ORAPmail@ORAPzenzele.Org)  
Website: [www.ORAPzenzele.Org](http://www.ORAPzenzele.Org)  
Follow Us On Facebook: [www.Facebook.Com/ORAPzenzele](http://www.Facebook.Com/ORAPzenzele)  
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