

MICHAEL JACKSON LEGACY JANUARY 2021 REPORT

MICHAEL JACKSON LEGACY END OF YEAR REPORT FOR DECEMBER

2020

MICHAEL JACKSON LEGACY ORCHARD 2021 REPORT

The Michael Jackson Legacy Ngolowindo Orchard was established to help children at Glad Tidings Orphan Care to supplement the nutritional needs for the children at the centre. Furthermore, the orchard was established to help children at the neighbouring Ngolowindo Primary School as a platform to learn and experience how things grow and the nutritional values that the fruits provide.

Starfish employ a gardener to care for the orchard and welcome the children and staff. In the orchard there are different trees that are growing well, as they are native to Malawi and grow in the local communities. These are mangoes, guavas, and the granadilla vines. Guavas and mangoes take a bit of time to bear fruit depending on the climate and the type of trees planted.



Photo 1 guava section

We anticipate having many guavas to provide enough for the children at Glad Tidings. There are two big guava trees in the orchard that have been producing fruits, however not enough for all children at the nursery school at once. Guavas are seasonal therefore the supply does not continue throughout the year.

The rainy seasons have been generally good for the growth of the orchard. As indicated in last year's report, some fruit trees take some 5 to 6 years to bear fruit. This means that the children at Ngolowindo will have to wait a year or two to have a variety of fruits.

The orchard has had some maintenance issues due to the poor perimeter fencing. Bamboos were fixed to avoid goats from entering the orchard. Goats are the main threat that cause havoc to the plants once they get through the perimeter. Due to this maintenance, the few moringa trees that were grown during the dry season have survived. Moringa trees play a vital role due to their high nutritional and medicinal value. 40 saplings were added last year to increase the moringa trees. Richard, the gardener hopes to plant the moringa saplings as soon as the rainy season ends to increase their survival rate by avoiding the periods of heavy rains that see some part of the orchard water-logged.

CHALLENGES



Last year the numbers of granadilla vines were reduced due to goats roaming around, during the time that the perimeter fence was not fixed, especially on Sundays!

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, there have been no educational activities in the orchard, as all extra-curricular school activities were banned as a preventive measure to contain the spread of the virus. This has impacted the children at Ngolowindo that usually use the orchard as their learning space. They come to help manage the orchard and observe how various fruit trees grow.

Photo 2 Mango section

However, overall, as you can see from the photos, the orchard is now growing well. In typical villages in Malawi, various fruits are seasonal giving a variety over the year. Most families are unable to have access to fresh fruit of their own and the fruit sold in the local markets can be beyond family budgets. The main reason for the establishment of the orchard is to continually provide a valuable food balance to children's food at the Glad Tidings centre.



Photo 3 Children eating Grandilla fruit.