



ORANT CHARITIES AFRICA –MALAWI

2019 Annual Report



Main Programs	Healthcare, Water, Agriculture & Education
Programs Location (s)	Kasese in Dowa (T/A Chakhaza) & Kasungu (T/A Mnyanja, T/A Chulu & T/A Mphomwa), Malawi
Reporting Period	1 st January 2019-31 st December 2019
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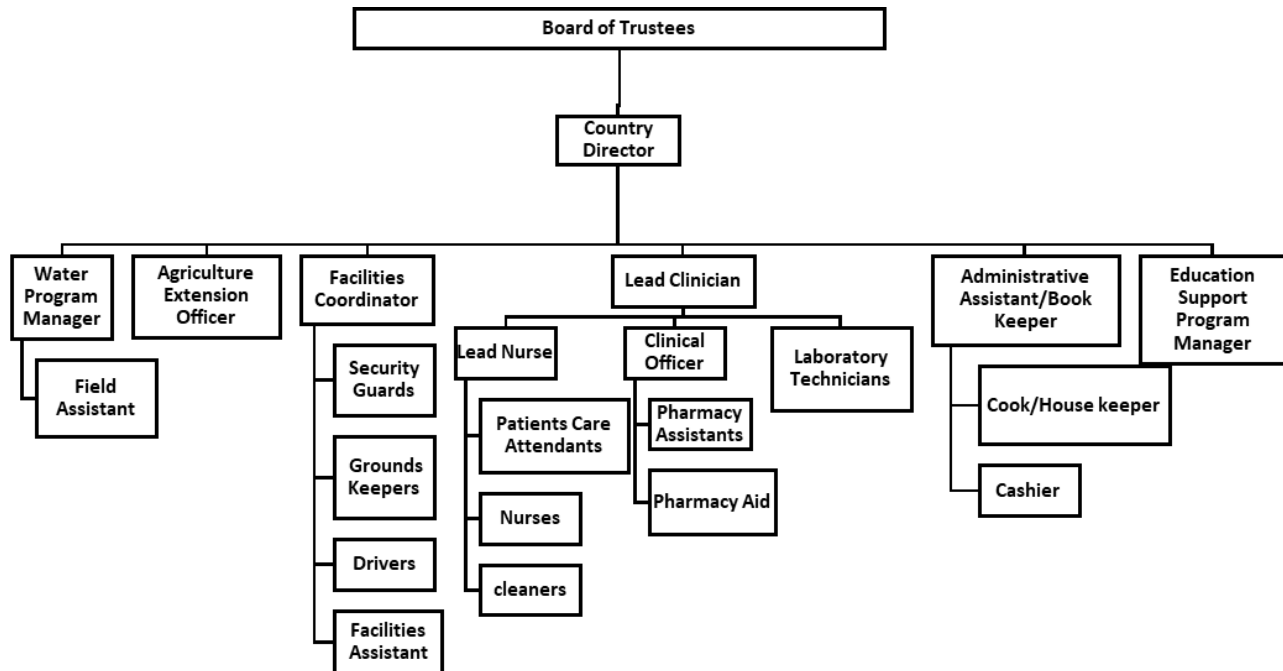
1. Introduction

Orant Charities Africa (OCA) is a Nongovernmental organization (NGO) registered with the NGO Board of Malawi, Council for Non-Governmental Organizations in Malawi (CONGOMA) and is also registered under the Trustees Incorporation Act. OCA is committed to improving lives of people in the rural areas of Malawi. OCA believes in providing assistance which will empower the people and provide opportunities to the youth. The mission of Orant Charities Africa is to Inspire Hope; Improve Lives; and Empower the Poor. OCA is committed to the part of central Malawi and the goal of OCA is to make measurable change in the lives of people. OCA offices are located in Kasese Health Centre premises, about 100m from the Lilongwe-Kasungu M1 road at the Kasese trading center, Dowa district. OCA obtains its funding from donations. Orant Charities Africa thrives to bring lasting solutions to communities through community participation and narrowed focus to fewer communities whose impact can easily be measured. Since 2014, OCA started its program implementation with Healthcare interventions by running Kasese Health Centre in T/A Chakhaza. However, looking at the needs of the community in Kasese catchment area, OCA expanded its interventions to conclude water and sanitation, agriculture and education programs. In 2019, OCA also supported communities with microloan programs and relief food items in the lean season among other charitable contribution. The main objective of OCA is development and implementation of programs that will facilitate and encourage productive practices among the people of Malawi specifically through construction and repair of water wells, operating medical clinics, sponsoring education, agricultural development programs and entrepreneurship initially in, but not limited to Dowa and Kasungu Districts.

2. Capacity of OCA to Implement Programs

OCA had a total of 49 had working and qualified employees, including seven employees who joined the team in June 2019. This team of seven includes medical personnel to operate an autonomous mobile/outreach clinic which is on the road at least 5 days a week to assist patients in hard to reach areas both in Dowa and Kasungu Districts. With stable funding from donors such as Rotary International District 5810, Geo-shack-Ultara, Orant Charities US and the Ministry of Health (MOH) through Dowa District Health Office (DHO). The funding from the MOH through Dowa DHO is mainly in-kind and includes medicines and medical equipment. OCA has been able to implement its programs. Through partnerships and collaborations, OCA has managed to make a bigger impact in the communities.

3. Organogram



4. External Context

Malawi has a population of about 18 million and is one of the poorest countries regardless of making significant economic and structural reforms and sustainable economic growth (World Bank, 2018). Furthermore, the economy is Agriculture based and is usually negatively affected by uncertainties such as droughts and floods. Most of the people in rural areas are peasant farmers who cannot afford improved social-economic services such as clean water and healthcare on their own. This calls for well-wishers, private sector or Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to partner with the Government of Malawi (GoM) to graduate the poorest people out of poverty and to develop the nation. The Malawi Government adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) whose attainment depends on the contribution of everyone. It is within this context that OCA being part of NGOs, is implementing projects in four thematic areas of developmental programs and thus Healthcare, Water, Agriculture and Education. OCA narrowed its focus to rural areas to contribute to ending poverty and provision of universal access of good health, clean water, sustainable agriculture and inclusive education with focus on girl-child support.

5. Programs Overview

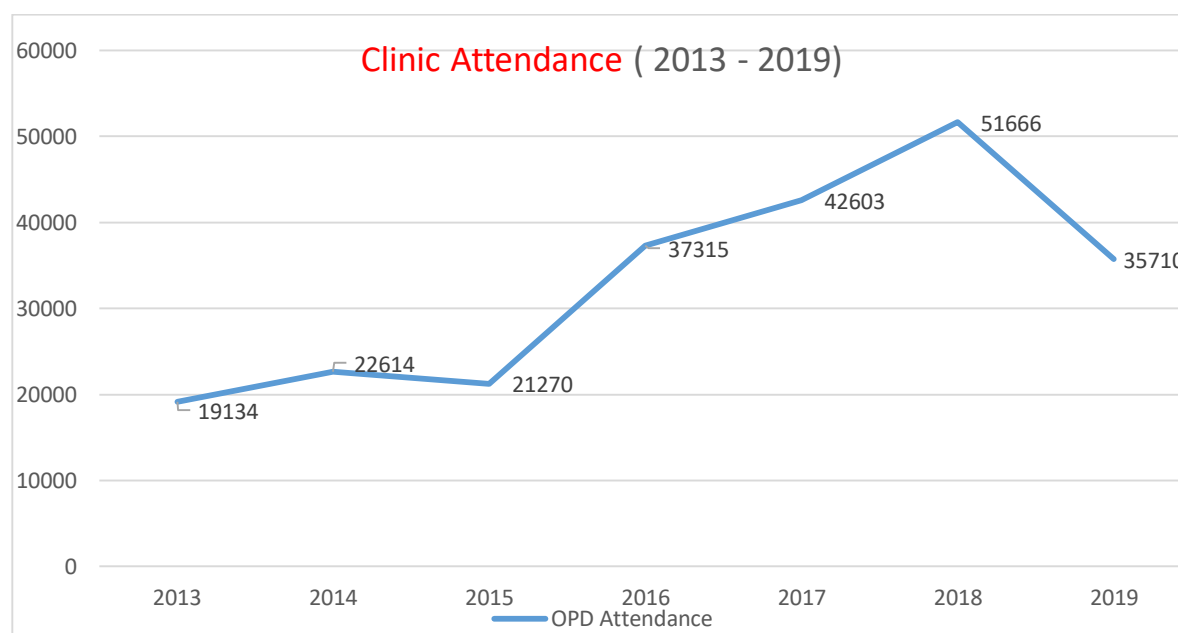
i) Healthcare Program

Executive Summary

Orant Charities Africa (OCA) operates a rural health centre in the community of Kasese in coordination with the Ministry of Health through the Dowa district Health Office (DHO). The health centre has both maternity and outpatient's department (OPD). Furthermore, the health centre has a 24 hours' children's observation ward and it has 10 beds. Other services provided by the health centre include outreach clinic services, HTC & ART clinics, Eye clinics and public health services.

OCA's Healthcare program assisted a total of **44,043** patients in the year 2019. This figure includes patients attended to in outpatient's department (OPD), Outreach/Mobile clinics and 24 hours Children's ward and excludes those in maternity and antenatal care. Out of 44,043 patients who received medical care, **35,710** were seen in Kasese catchment area in Dowa representing 81.1% of total patients. Out of 44,043 patients, 29,652 (67.3%) were seen right in Kasese Health Centre. This shows that 14,391 (33.7%) were seen in Outreach/mobile clinics. The outreach clinics assisted 6058 (13.8%) and 8333 (18.9%) of total patients seen in the year in Kasese and Bowe Outreach/mobile clinic respectively. More patients were seen in Bowe catchment (8333) than in Kasese (6058) mainly due to lack of a static clinic nearby in Bowe (Kasungu) unlike in Kasese catchment where people may easily walk to Kasese Health Centre. Total admission in the children's ward was 850 representing 1.9% of the total patients seen in 2019.

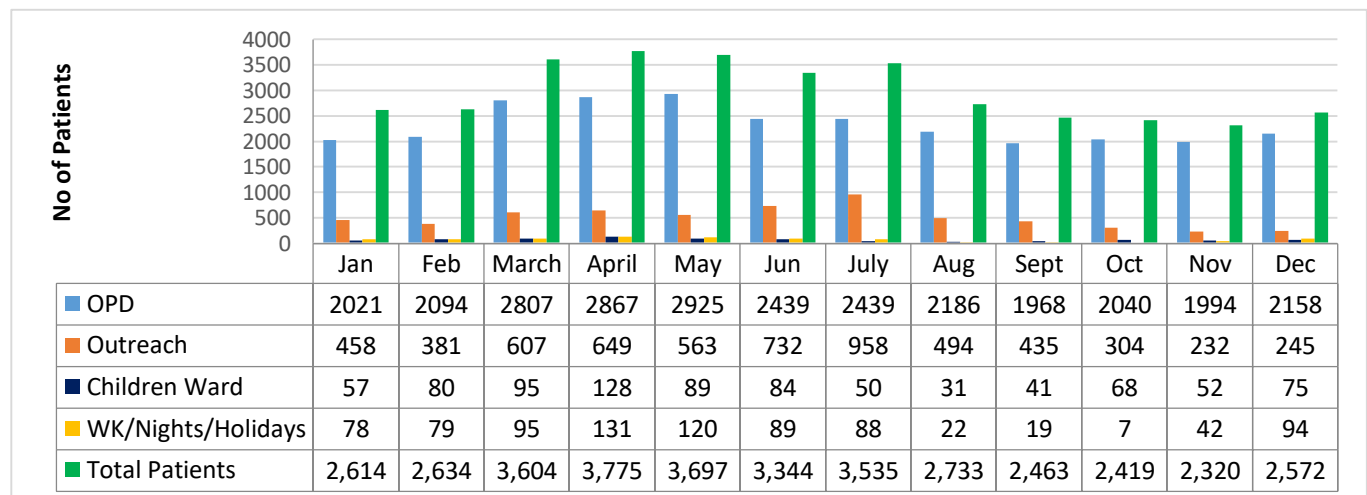
Annual Patient Statistics in Kasese Health Centre



Since Orant Charities Africa (OCA) took over from the charity Lifeline in the year 2015, the patients annual attendance has increased sharply since 2013. However, in this year 2019, there is a decrease in attendance due to several factors. Firstly, due to mass distributions of mosquito nets and good education on its usage, which the government undertook in 2018. Secondly, there was no shortage of medicine and medical supplies in adjacent government health facilities, the other reason could be the effect of early treatment as prevention. Because the community hospital seeking behaviors have changed for the better, now patients seek medical services early, hence less malaria transmission rates. Many patients can now access the healthcare in our catchment areas from static clinics and community mobile outreach clinics in comparison to the year 2013 and 2014.

Monthly Attendance in Kasese Catchment only

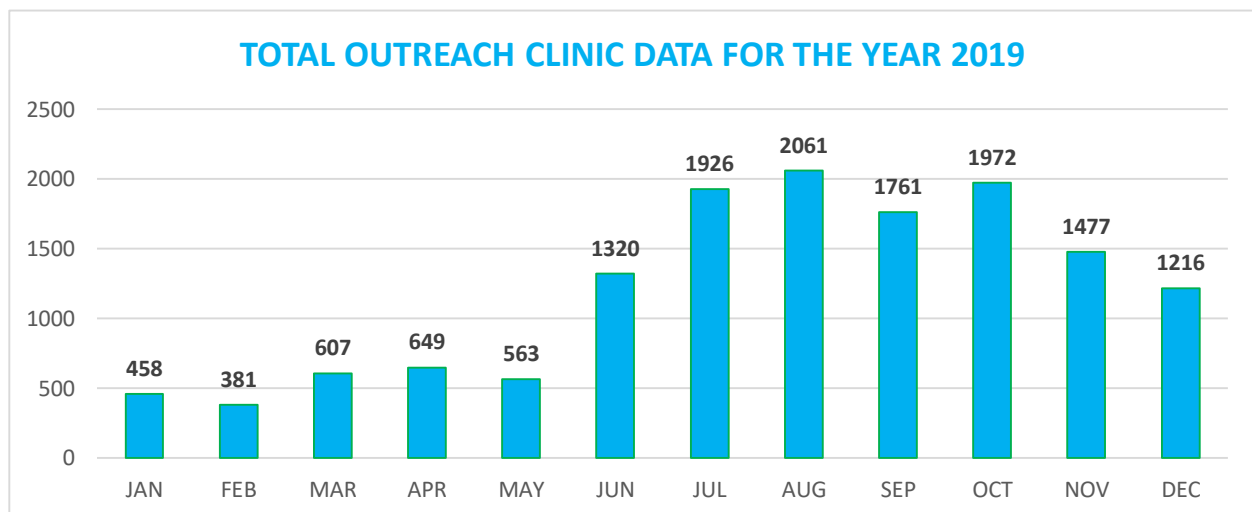
Graph showing Clinic patient's attendances (**OPD, outreach, children's ward and weekends / nights**)



Outreach/Mobile Clinics



OCA recruited 7 qualified medical team in June 2019 in order to have an autonomous outreach/mobile clinic team which was on the road at least 5 days assisting people in hard to reach areas. The team was visiting at least 18 designated stations to assist patients. Outreach clinic serves patient's time and mitigate the challenge of long distances to some community members. To most patients such as the elderly and disabled, they find distance as a barrier to come and receive medical services at the static clinic rendering them to suffer or even die in silence whilst in the community. Having an autonomous mobile clinic increased the number of patients seen in outreach clinics. The graph below depicts the total number of patients seen in outreach clinics in 2019.



These outreach clinics were conducted both in Kasese catchment area, T/A Chakhaza and also in Bowe catchment area in Kasungu spanning in the following traditional authorities; Mphomwa, Chulu and Mnyanja and Simulemba. A total of **14391** patients were assisted by the mobile clinic team.



Patients queueing for medical services (left) and outreach trailer which is used as a pharmacy (right)



Patients being assisted one by one



Triaging area



Rapid tests being conducted in the outreach clinic lab station

Maternal and child healthcare

Kasese Health Centre had a total of **586** births in 2019. The Kasese Health Centre is proud to report that since we opened the maternity ward 5 years ago, we have not experienced a single death related pregnancy. Our Medical team attended to **662** women in labour of which **81** were referred to other hospitals such as Madisi Mission Hospital for further management such as caesarian sections. Total admissions for 2019 were **581** in Kasese Health Centre. In its effort to improve maternal and child health, OCA pay the bills in part or full depending on the poverty levels for those who cannot afford to pay for themselves when referred to other hospitals. OCA also ferries women and other patients to referral hospitals free of charge. Furthermore, children

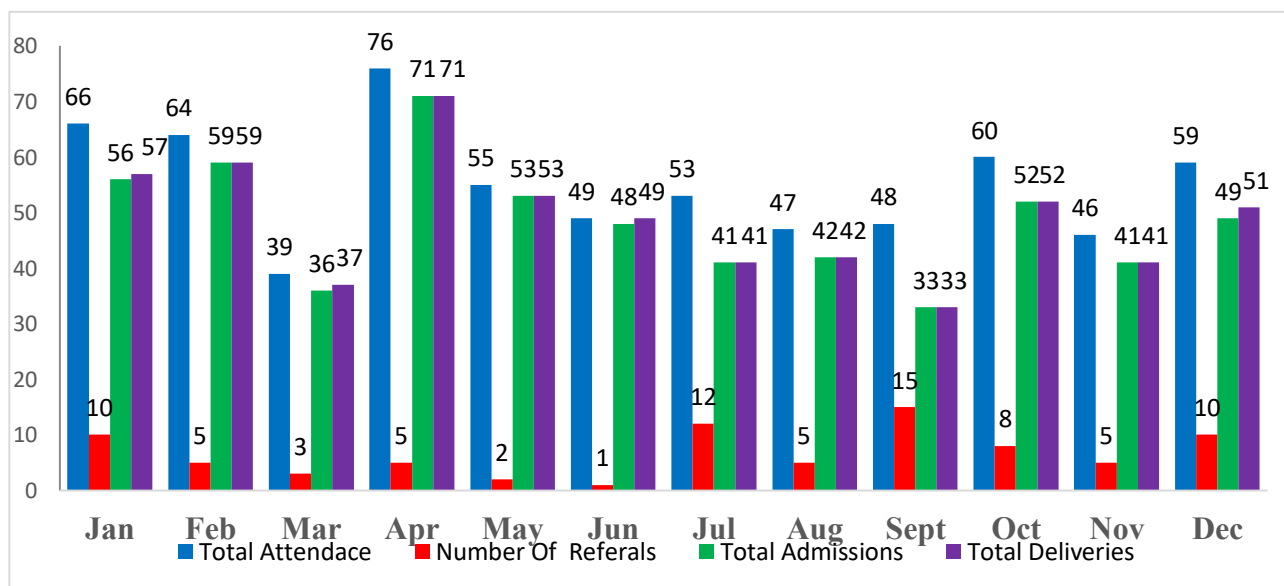
whose mothers cannot breastfeed or who have died during birth or while the child needs breast milk are provided for with milk formula. All this is done so that no life is lost in our catchment area.

Success story



Kasese Health Centre nurses and clinicians are proud of baby Ashab Yobu who was born with a condition called Gastrochisis, congenital condition that occurs when an opening forms in the baby abdominal wall and the baby's bowel pushes through the hole. Usually, the prognosis in Malawi is poor, but she is lucky to have undergone successful surgery at KCH where she was referred to. Now the baby is 4 months old and growing healthy.

Below is a graph showing monthly maternity attendance



Cervical cancer screening (VIA)

Cancer of the cervix remains amongst the top three leading cause of death in Malawi. In addressing this problem, the health Centre conduct routine visual screening of cervix using acetic acid to women of childbearing age between 25 to 49 years starting from April 2019. A total of 467 women were screened in 2019. About 18 were found positive; 14 were referred to Kamuzu Central Hospital (KCH) for further treatment such as biopsy and chemotherapy, while 4 were done thermo-coagulation right in the health centre.

When observed that some women are coming for cervical cancer screening for the first time while their situation is worse, we scheduled mass awareness campaigns in our community to encourage women to come in large numbers for screening. Prior to the mass awareness campaign, stakeholders meeting which will include chiefs was conducted.

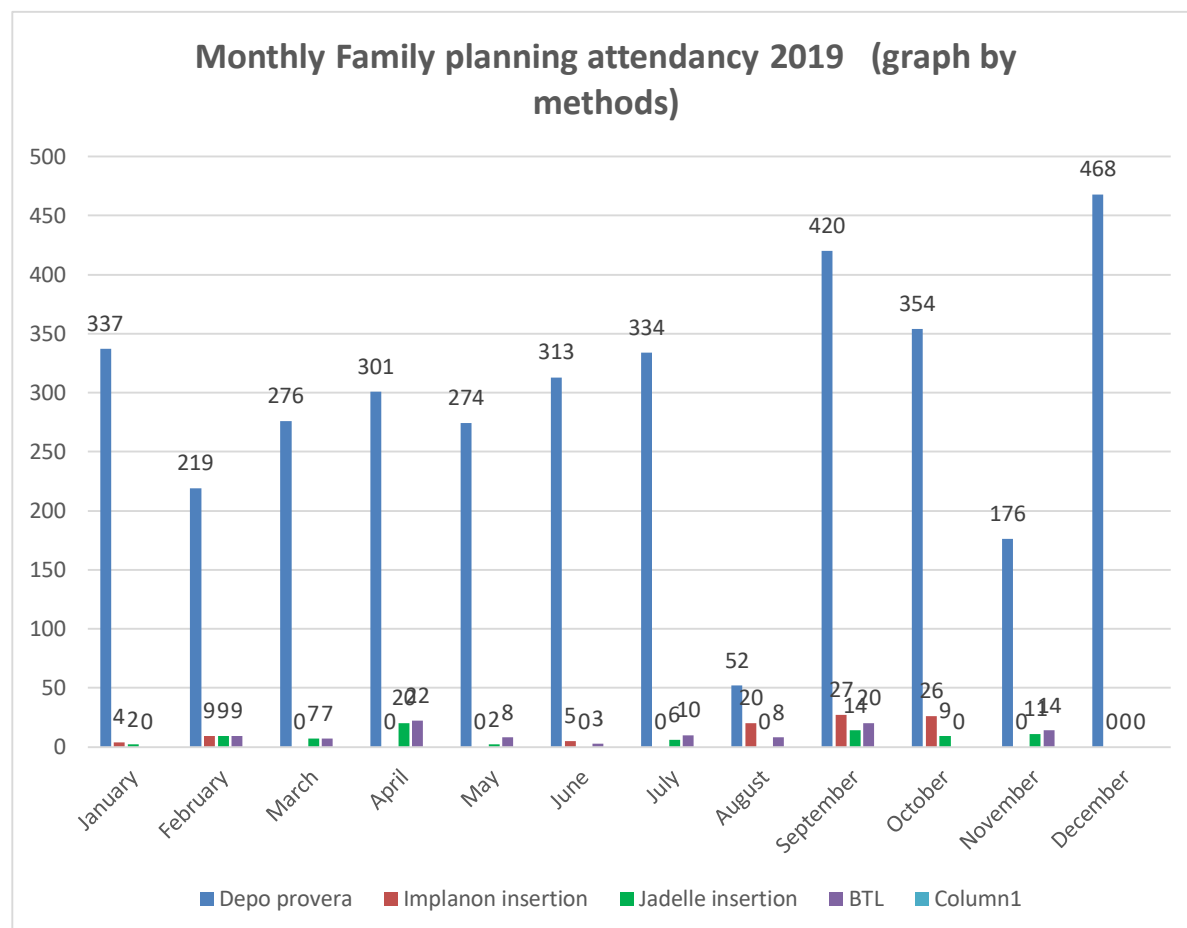


Our Lead Clinician and Nurse (left) giving a health talk on cervical cancer and Group Village Headman (Right) raising a question during a local leaders briefing on cervical cancer screening

Early in November 2019, we conducted mass awareness campaigns for a week in cluster centers (village clinics) and after the campaigns about 150 women were screened. Furthermore, we conducted cancer screening in the village clinics. Taking the services near the homes has helped a lot as many clients were screened. This assisted in retaining women of reproductive age to cervical cancer screening by over 80%. In some cases, our Nurse, Mary, who coordinates the cervical cancer screening was screening about 50 clients in one day. One of the challenges in this activity is long distance for clients to seek for the service. With the increase of patients screened we also noticed the need to procure more instruments for the service such as speculums, galipots and sponge holding forceps. Furthermore, there is need for a training on palliative care for Nurses to continue giving palliative care for those with cervical cancer.

Family planning clinic

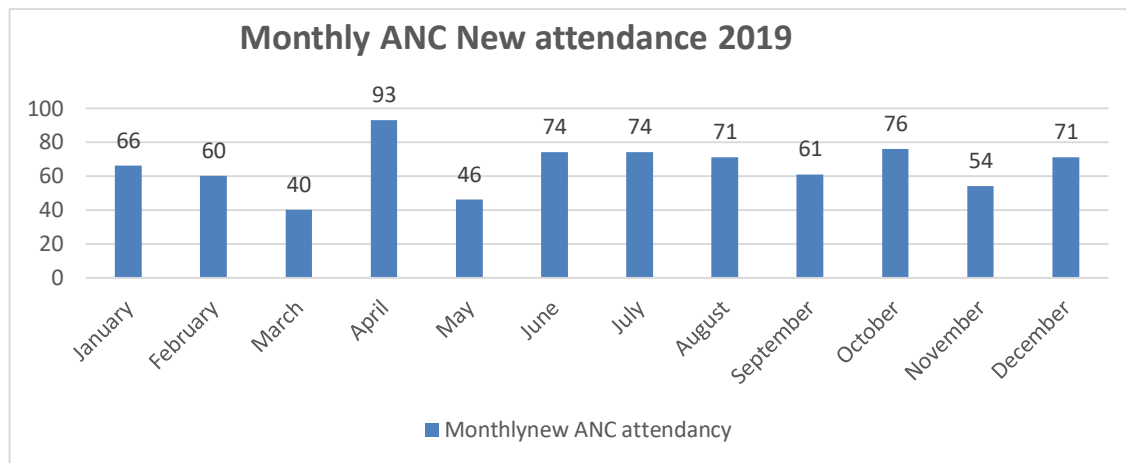
In accordance to the ministry of health (MOH) policies and coordination with banja la mtsogolo (BLM), Kasese health Centre provides family planning methods, which includes: oral pills, injectable and Implanons to women of reproductive age as per their choice and medical indications. The graph below depicts the family planning attendance and methods. From the graph many clients opted for injectable depo Provera family planning method because it is easy to administer and it does not interact with most of the medicine available in Malawi and as observed, the year about 3524 clients opted for depo Provera representing 92%. The second most liked method is implant family planning methods which is inserted for 3-5 years in the left medial aspect upper arm however, during the same month no client received it. Less liked method is the permanent sterilization method, referred as bilateral tubal ligations (BTL). Implanon insertion had 91 clients, Jadelle insertion had 80 (total implants 171) while BTL had 101. Both Implanon and Jadelle insertion are implants.



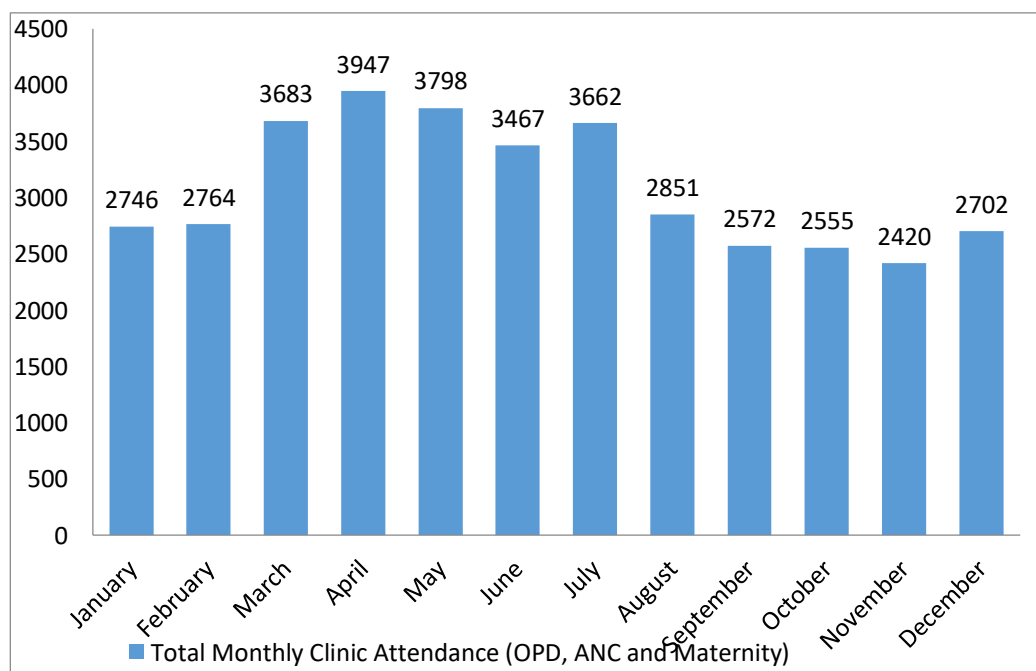
Antenatal Care (prenatal care)

The health Centre conducts prenatal (antenatal) clinics twice a week, on Tuesday for those enrolling for the first time and Thursdays for subsequence visit. During the visits, health messages are propagated to women and also their husbands. Vaccines are also administered during this time. There is also distribution of treated insecticides nets. During antenatal clinics, mothers receive two doses Tetanus toxoid vaccines, 3 doses of SP, FEFOL tablets, albendazole, Insecticides Treated Nets (ITNs) and get tested for syphilis and HIV.

Below is the graph showing monthly antenatal attendance.



Below graph Shows-Summary of total Monthly patient attendance in Kasese (OPD,24 hrs, Outreach, ANC and Maternity)



ART Clinics

The health centre continues to provide excellent ART/ TB care as depicted by quarterly award of certificate of excellence by the Malawi Ministry of Health through HIVAIDS unit.

- The clinic has 285 patients alive on ART medicine.
- Good percentage of patients were done viral load and received their results in 2019.
- Nurses and Clinicians received training on electronic master card and all records of patients who are on ART, are updated to electronic database in the month of December. The development helps to ease the workload and report generation.

Laboratory services

The Health Centre Laboratory services for (static and outreach) clinics continues to provide reliable test befitting primary health care level, mostly rapid test strips and basic microscopic tests. As for the month of December 2019, the lab conducted the following tests; Malaria, Helocobacter Pyrolysis, Syphilis, Hepatitis B&C, Salmonella, Tuberculosis and Pregnancy tests. The highest number of tests were for Malaria. OCA plans to have other equipment such as complete blood count (CBC) to assist in diagnosis of medicine

Eye Clinic

Monthly eye clinic continues to restore sight for many. The eye clinic saw about **75** people and **11** were booked for surgery in 2019. Enough drugs were procured to support the program as Dr. Nyaka who is eye specialist and a nurse from Kamuzu central hospital conducts the clinics. The eyes clinics were conducted once a month on Fridays.



Pictures of Dr. Nyaka reviewing newborn baby in maternity (left) and elderly woman (right)



Nurse Check's visual acuity for an elderly woman

Specialists Doctors' visits

In the month of August, we had visitors from the US. Among these visitors we were also privileged



to have 2 medical specialists, a dermatologist (Dr. Lucy Li) and allergist (Dr. Eric Schmitt). In the area of dermatology, Dr. Li screened and treated a number of patients with dermatological conditions both at static and outreach

clinics. Among these patients are people with albinism, she screened and treated 12 patients with albinism. Ideally, she was supposed to see more that number but due to other problems some patients with albinism failed to come to the clinic during her time at Kasese. Those with albinism were not only treated but also provided with a number of items such as long sleeve shirts, sun cream lotions and glasses for protective use.

There were a number of dermatological conditions that Dr. Li treated and these include; Paronychia, Onychomycosis, Pellagra, Eczema, Scabies, Boil, Tinea capitis, Impetigo, Vitiligo, Chicken pox, Pityriasis Rosea just to mention some. It total, more than 50 patients were treatment.



'It was indeed a good experience to have and work with specialists and it is our hope that such arrangements will continue for the benefit of the people of Kasese and Bowe', said George one of the Clinical officers. On the other hand, Dr. Schmitt also saw more than 20 patients (Spirometry

was conducted for seven patients) and trained our clinician and also a Health Surveillance Assistant in Spirometry. We are also thankful for the medical supplies brought by the Specialist Doctors.



Dr. Schmitt training our team in Spirometry

Healthcare Achievements

- OCA medical team managed to attend to 35,710 and 8333 patients in Kasese (Dowa) and Bowe (Kasungu) catchment areas, we have noted improved quality of life and reduced mortalities especially among the under five years.
- The Health Centre continues to attain certificate of excellence at ART department for good management and care of the patients.
- The Health Centre had no critical shortage of medicine and medical supplies, although towards the end of the month there was stock out of some few items, especially analgesics.
- The healthcare program introduced autonomous outreach/mobile clinic program, which covers Kasese catchments areas and part of Kasungu (Bowe). A team of 7 staff was recruited to assist in the program.
- OCA procured a brand new Land cruiser ambulance mainly for the mobile clinic.
- Trainings were conducted by Ministry of Health, which includes ART/TB, family planning, cervical cancer screening.
- Introduction of youth friendly health services in coordination with GENET
- The health care program provides financial assistance to a number of destitute patients (bills payments at Madisi hospital, and transport fare for those referred to central hospital, among others).

Challenges

- Power outages at the main out patient's (OPD) buildings, and children's observation ward and a faulty solar system.
- Frequent, mechanical breakdown of ambulance cars for the static clinic.
- "Handouts" mentality of some community members

ii) Water Program



A child drinking water at Mtandaza village (Left) and a woman drawing water in Ndeka 2 village

The overall goal of the water program is to achieve *"Improved health and well-being of the community through increased access to safe drinking water, improved sanitation and hygiene practices, and strengthening of community's resilience to water and sanitation related shocks"*. The water program is herein after referred to as sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene program (SWASH). OCA thrives to *eliminate the suffering of women and children due to lack of access to clean water in the community*. Through its water related interventions, OCA reduces distances women and children walk to fetch water and possible atrocities women face when walking in bush areas fetching water. OCA also focuses on empowering the community to take action in solving water problems in the community. OCA encourages community participation to ensure sustainability of the water projects. During the period under review, OCA water program mainly focused on four critical areas as follows;

- 1) New borehole drilling
- 2) Well repair (borehole) and maintenance
- 3) WASH extension and training
- 4) School Sanitation

Implementation of activities in all these focus areas was successful, major achievements have been highlighted in table below followed by detailed narration based on the focus areas.

SN	Achieved interventions	Target	Achieved	Comments
1	Drilling and construction of boreholes	7	7	Target was achieved

2	Facilitation of Borehole repair	NA	90	Orant responds proactively to borehole repairs need. This reduces the down time of boreholes.
3	Water Point Committees trained in CBM	35	33	The trained committees include the 7 newly established for the new boreholes and old committees that were not previously trained in Community Based Management (CBM). CBM builds communities' capacity in managing water points and conducting minor repairs.
4	Construction of Latrine blocks (with menstrual Hygiene facility) in Schools	1	1	OCA constructed pit latrines which have a Menstrual Hygiene room.
5	Distribution of Hippo Rollers	5	5	Hippo rollers eases women the labour of carrying water.
6	Households reached hygiene promotion messages	90000	7500	This is an estimate and messages were disseminated through village clinics, village meetings/briefings.
7	Distribution of HTH Chlorine	150Kgs	150Kgs	Distribution is mainly done by Health surveillance Assistants in communities, schools and other public places for disinfection

1) New borehole drilling.



Image (far left) showing a hand dug well with dirty water where the communities used to draw water from and borehole drilling (middle) and new borehole (far right).

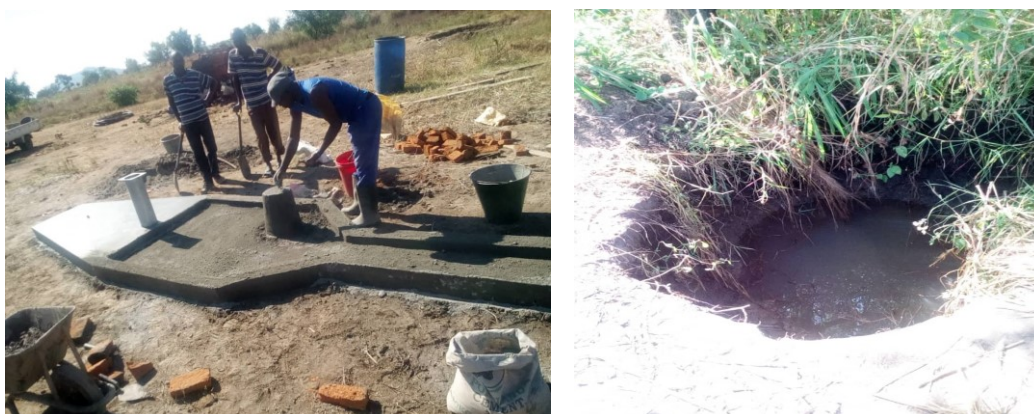
OCA drilled 7 boreholes in Kasese Catchment area, T/A Chakhaza Dowa. The following table depicts the name of village and population served with the new wells. This shows that access to water was increased to at least 4536 people.

Name of village	Population	Drilling month
Chiyazu	386	April
Mtata	515	May
Kapundu	1265	June
Chadzerakuti	628	July
Lirani	574	August
Mtandaza	386	September
Ndeka 2	782	November

Although 7 new boreholes were drilled in 2019, there are still areas that needs new water supply facilities. Prior to drilling these boreholes, the community was drawing water from untreated and dangerous sources such as unprotected scoop holes or hand dug wells, streams and rivers. One of the boreholes was drilled in Kapundu village under GVH Buza where people were previously drawing water from the nearby by Bua river which is infested with crocodiles. In 2018 people of Kapundu village lost 2 people- a mother and kid to a crocodile attack as the mother was drawing water from the river. The drilling of this borehole has helped the village to access clean water and will also save lives from crocodile attacks.



From left to right: Previous water source, Borehole construction works and Borehole curing after construction



Images showing the newly constructed borehole (left) and the previous water source at Mtata



Previous water source and new borehole at Mtandaza village

Water Quality Testing and Analysis.

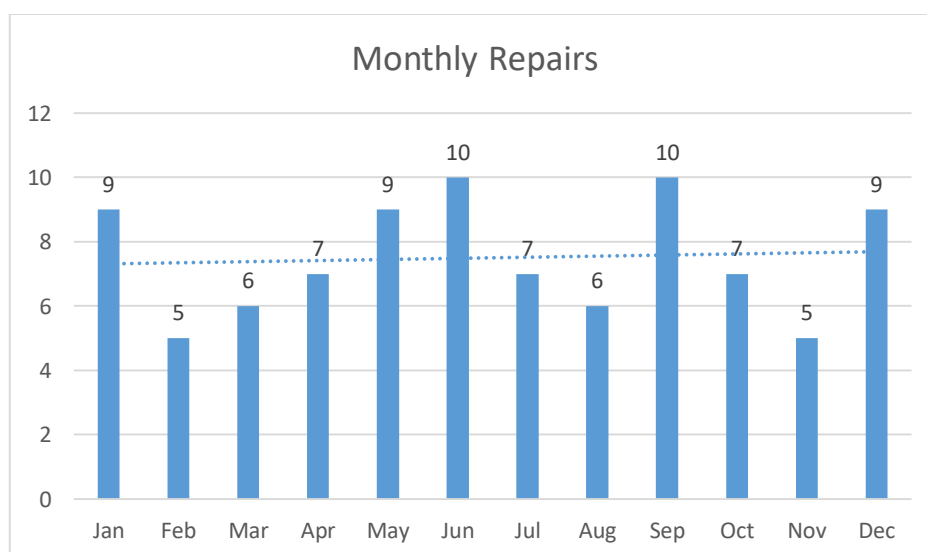
Following the drilling of the new borehole 7 boreholes, there was need to ascertain the quality of water if it was fit for human consumption as per World Health Organization (WHO) and Malawi

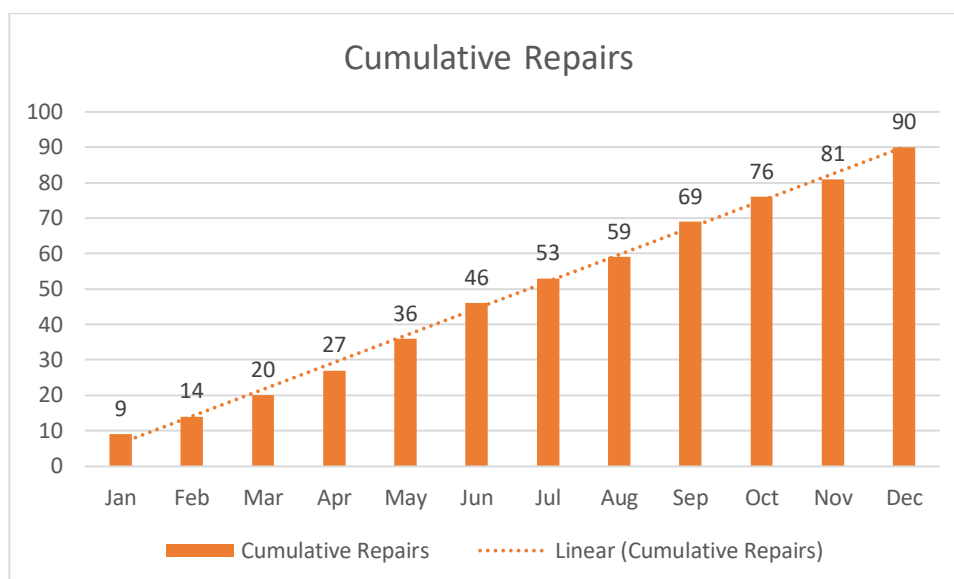
Bureau of Standards (MBS) standards. OCA thus engaged the Central Water Laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Water Development to carry out a full biological and chemical analysis. Results from the Laboratory indicated that all the 7 boreholes complied with the WHO and MBS standards.

2). Boreholes (Well) repair and maintenance



About 70% of borehole hand pumps are functional at any given time. This number is even lower in some cases hence having up to 40% boreholes non-functional. It is estimated that poorly nonfunctioning water points is about 15% to 50% at any given time taking into account of quantity, quality and service reliability (UPGro Hidden Crisis Research Consortium, 2017). This causes communities to resort to drinking water from unprotected water sources. OCA supports communities with major repairs and encourages community based management of water supply. This reduces the down time of hand pumps and prevents communities from consuming untreated water. OCA in coordination with the community members conducted 90 repairs of hand pumps for boreholes as outlined below;





3) WASH Extension and community trainings

Developmental programs become successful when there is transfer of skills to the people in the community. People at the grass root level should learn, understand and participate at every stage of the projects. This helps to ensure sustainability of projects. It is within this background that OCA in coordination with the district water office conducts community based management (CBM) trainings to new committees and also refresher trainings to old committees. The trainings were facilitated by the Water Monitoring Assistant, Health Surveillance Assistant (HSA) – both from Government departments as well as OCA.

The trainings include water governance issues, water financing, repairs and maintenance and also hygiene issues, among others. OCA provides expertise to Water Point Committees (WPC) so that the committee is able to take care of the water points in coordination with other local leaders like area mechanics. The objectives of CBM are;

- Equip the WPCs with knowledge and skills necessary to carry out preventive maintenance activities on their borehole.
- Equip the WPCs with knowledge and skills necessary to maintain sustainable sanitary and hygienic conditions around the water point.
- Enable WPC members to manage group dynamics and equip them with general managerial skills.

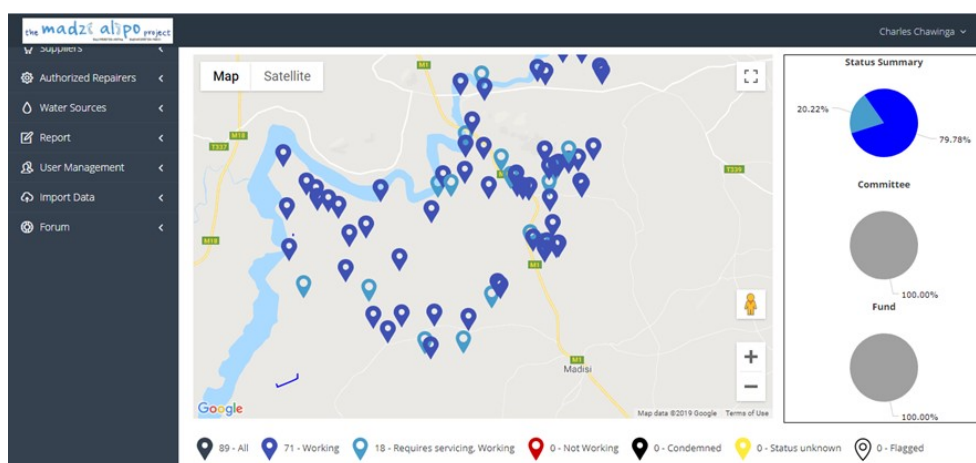
Women are encouraged to take a leading role in the governance of the committee as they are usually the ones who uses water more and are also affected with water issues, culturally. A total of 33 water points were trained in 2019. Out of the 33, 21% were new committees for the new seven boreholes drilled in 2019. The rest of the committees were old committees both not trained and also those who were trained and needed refresher trainings.



Women taking a leading role during practical sessions

Monitoring of water point performance and updating database

In order to enhance the efficiency in water facility management, OCA adopted the use of a web-based application called Madzi Alipo which was developed by Fisherman's Rest. This application tracks functionality status of water facilities in Kasese catchment. OCA managed to import about 100 water facilities into the database. This will assist OCA to have a detailed map of all water points in the catchment area. The mapping is a continuous processing and there is more work to be done in this area. Madzi Alipo application was designed to be a useful, cost effective and practical tool which facilitates collaboration and manual collection of water point data, water availability and the functionality of hand pumps. The free app can be used as a tool that records an accurate and timely feedback of the status, condition and repairs of water point on site through multiple forms applicable to the survey being undertaken. This application can be installed in Android or IOS phones and the data uploaded on an online database. The Madzi Alipo App also allows interagency sharing of data.



Screenshot indicating the application's capability to show functionality status of water points and action needed: it must be noted that the functionality statuses quoted in the image are of May, 2019. Periodic updates on the status will be made in the database as part of routine checks and the app is capable of updating the same.

Distribution of Hippo Rollers

A Hippo roller costs about \$125 and carries about 90 Litres of water. Hippo rollers provides an efficient and effective way of transporting water in rural areas at household level. OCA distributed 5 water Hippo rollers to villages whose clean water sources is far from their houses as an interim solution to minimize the burden of carrying water on the head for a long distance. A total of 5 rollers were distributed to the following villages; Namkumba, Chongole, Phaya, Chimbaleme & Kauma bwinja. The hippo rollers will be used by every household who needs them and the village health committees will help in managing the rollers to ensure equal sharing and sustainability. It is envisaged that these water rollers will ease the burden women face as OCA plans for a long lasting solution of providing a water source close to them.



Sanitation and Hygiene awareness

In order to avoid the possible Cholera outbreak in OCA operation area, OCA conducted massive hygiene education sessions aiming at raising awareness on how cholera and other related diseases could be avoided during this period. This involved working with Health Surveillance Assistants (HSA) in educating communities in various water treatment options such as the use of the distributed HTH chlorine, boiling, among other approaches. OCA took advantage of pre-existing community gatherings such as under-five clinics to disseminate the messages. A mass dissemination event was held at Katsuka Primary School, this event involved public lectures and theatre for development as the means of disseminating messages. About 7500 (estimate) people received these messages in 2019.



Part of the Audience during the meeting

OCA also embarked on a mission to promote sanitation and hygiene in water supply facilities, the ultimate aim of this exercise was to make water points really sources of potable water and prevent them from being breeding grounds for disease vectors and pathogens. A total of 30 water points were visited and users provided with health education. Water points whose surroundings were not hygienic were enlightened on things they need to improve and then an appointment date for a second follow up visit to determine if change has taken place were agreed upon.

Distribution of HTH chlorine

Rainy season is characterized by a surge in the prevalence of water borne diseases including cholera. In an effort to prevent disease outbreaks, OCA distributed water treatment chemical; HTH chlorine to households and schools across the Kasese catchment. A total of 150 KGs of chlorine of which was distributed to households through HSAs and school sanitation clubs. The HTH chlorine distributed in households was expected to help households treat (disinfect) their drinking water while in schools the chlorine was expected to be used for disinfecting public facilities i.e. latrines. The distributed chlorine assisted about 8153 households and 17 primary schools.

4) School Sanitation- Construction of girl's latrine with a menstrual hygiene facility at a primary school.

OCA constructed a second girl's latrine at Chiliphiza primary school in Kasese catchment area, the construction of this latrine follows another similar intervention that was done in 2018 at M'ndinga primary school. The present latrine has three holes and one change room for menstrual hygiene management. The latrine was constructed amid acute shortage of sanitary facilities at the school that was contributing to school drop outs especially for adolescent girls. The constructed latrine will ease the pressure at the school, however the need is still high for both girls and boys the school. Pictures below show the latrine that has been constructed by OCA and others that are/were being used. Chiliphiza school has a total enrollment of 848 learners (455 boys and 393 girls).





The top two images show the front and side views of the newly constructed latrine (before branding) and the below image show the old latrines at the school.

Joint Program Monitoring by District Executives

The district technical team on Water and Sanitation conducted monitoring visits in all catchment areas of Non-Governmental organizations working in Dowa district. The aim of the visits was to monitor how NGOs are implementing their programs and see if the programs are in line with standard operating procedures. On 20th February, 2019 the district executives toured OCA's water projects. Generally, OCA was commended for doing a great job that was highly and positively impacting on the livelihoods of the rural poor.



The District team interacting with learners at N'dinga primary school where OCA established a sanitation club.

Review meetings with Area Mechanics and Chiefs

The Water program held an annual review meeting with chiefs and Area mechanics who are major stakeholders in its activity implementation. The aim of the meeting was to review areas of progress and areas that need to be revised in order to reach out to people as per OCA's mission. Both parties (OCA and the stakeholders) aired out their expectations from either party for a stronger working relationship. Chiefs committed to support in enforcing by-laws that promote health seeking behaviors and support OCA in its operations. The chiefs and area mechanics lobbied OCA to expand their territory of operations for water repairs because other areas within T/A Chakhaza needs such services.

Challenges in the Water Program

- There are some areas within Kasese area whose aquifers have high mineral content and do not yield palatable water, as such OCA has been limited in a way to reach out to these areas with clean water, An immediate solution to the challenge would be to use piped water systems to draw water from nearby villages which have good water quality aquifer's.
- Spatial settlement patterns cause people to walk long distance to fetch water as it is not easy to drill boreholes near every household
- High population needs more water interventions which may not be fully catered for with the current funding

Conclusion and Way forward

OCA managed to implement its planned activities. Appreciation goes to our donors, program partners and the community at large. Community participation played a huge role in the success of our activities. We look forward to partnerships with other like-minded institutions /NGOs. OCA intends to lobby for funding that would necessitate provision of water to areas without access to clean water.

iii) Agriculture program



The Agriculture program was carried out in Dowa district in catchment area of Kasese Health Centre under Madisi EPA targeting Chakhaza B which include Phamba, Kachala and Katalima sections approximately within a radius of 15 kilometres and also in Mphomwa area, in coordination with Bowe Farmers Cooperative in Kasungu District. The main objective of the program is to make sure that farmers have an increased yield per farmer per cultivated land. Specifically, to ensure that farmers have understanding of good agricultural practices and livestock production. Farmers are also being empowered economically by ensuring that they have access to profitable reliable markets and soft loans. OCA provided a soft loan to Bowe Farmers' Cooperative which has a 3% percent interest. The loan was meant to assist the cooperative in

procuring farm inputs and distributing to its members. This ensured that farmers have bumper harvest and hunger is alleviated in the community.

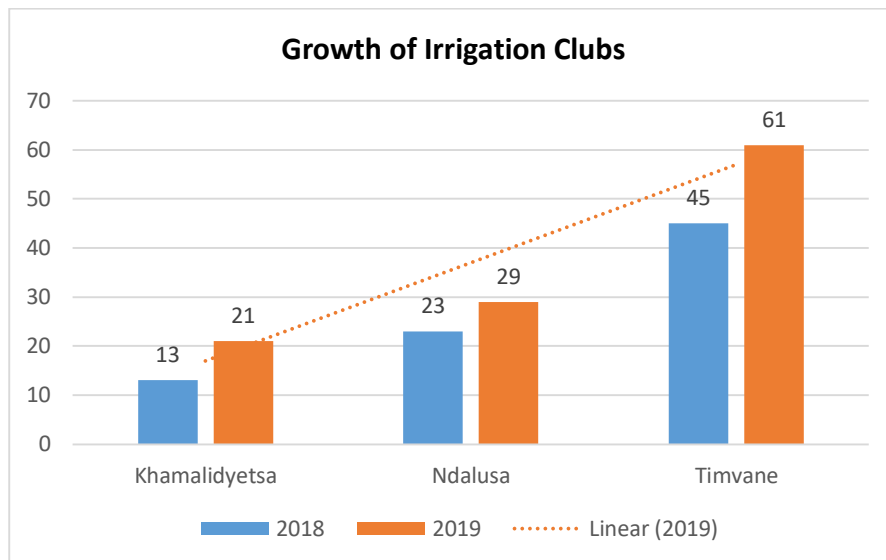
The Agriculture program is divided in four sections which includes; irrigation, school garden, lead farmers and OCA farm demonstrations. Several smallholder farmers in the villages around Kasese catchment area have benefited from OCA projects as depicted below;

Irrigation and Microloan Project

Irrigation is important as it allows farmers to harvest more than once in a year. Irrigation projects are improving lives of many people in the village. Irrigation projects provides employment to the people in the village, helps them learn more best agricultural practices and helps the community have more food or money compared to simply relying on rain-fed Agriculture. Kasese catchment area has good water resources for irrigation such as Bua and Kasangadzi rivers. Farmers also use hand dug wells or scoop holes to irrigate their farms. OCA works with irrigation clubs and in 2019, a total of 10 irrigation clubs were supported as depicted in the table below;

#	Name of club	Crop	Land size (acres)	Total members	Total beneficiaries	Group village located	Date of Activation
1	Timvane	Tomato	7	61	275	Manthondo	02/03/2019
2	Ndalusa	Tomato and Maize	8	29	114	Nkhandwe	25/03/2019
3	Kasangadzi	Tomato	2	14	98	Nankumba	18/04/2019
4	Khamalidyetsa	Maize	4	21	210	Chapuwala	13/09/2020
5	Matchedza	Maize	2	27	189	Nankumba	8/05/2019
6	Nkuyu	Tomato	2	12	84	Nambela	23/07/2019
7	Mgunkhu	Maize	2	15	105	Nkwichi	26/08/2019
8	Mnthila	Maize	3	20	120	Chilemba	23/09/2019
9	Sefani	Maize	2	15	90	Makonbwa	13/06/2019
10	Tiyesenawo	Maize	2	15	75	Nambela	08/07/2019
	Total			227	1360		

It has been observed that people are seeing the benefits of conducting irrigation farming. This is evidenced by the increase of the number of smallholder farmers joining irrigation clubs which are working with OCA. The graph below shows difference in number of club members in few irrigation clubs in 2018 and 2019.



Irrigation equipment provision

OCA provides irrigation equipment to clubs. Due to increase in land holding size for irrigation farming at Ndalusa and Timvane irrigation clubs, Ndalusa was supported with watering pump and Timvane was supported with Treadle pump to improve the processing of watering. This means that 20% of the clubs had improved irrigation equipment while 80% were using watering canes.



Delivery of Diesel water pump

With the diesel engine, Ndalusa was able to cultivate a large piece of land and harvest more. Timvane irrigation club was using watering canes for irrigating 7 acres land and this was labour intensive which was resulting into low supply of water but with the use of treadle pump, the

watering process has become easier and faster hence club members are able to supply their crops with enough water.



Delivery of treadle pump

Other irrigation clubs like Mantchedza were supplied with watering canes due to the availability of financial resources. Although watering cans are labour intensive, the club was able to irrigate its piece of land and maintain health crops as showing in the pictures below.



Watering Maize in progress

Sustainability of Irrigation Projects

At first OCA simply provided farm inputs to irrigation clubs. However, after harvesting and selling the produce, the farmers were coming back to OCA to give them farm inputs for the next growing season. This was creating a dependence mentality and was not sustainable. As such, OCA introduced Microloan system to ensure that funds are revolved. In the Microloan program, irrigation clubs are to give back only 50% of what they borrowed. When the irrigation club is fully established in the near future, it will be encouraged to give back 100%. These loans have no interest and are just there to assist farmers take farming as a business and to ensure sustainability. Issues to do with disasters such as droughts or flooding were taken into consideration to ensure that the irrigation clubs prosper even in uncertainties. OCA then engaged irrigation clubs to discuss the Microloan approach. The Microloan approach was accepted by the clubs. And about five clubs were given the Microloans in their second crop planting. These clubs include Ndalusa, Timvane, Kasangadzi, Khamalidyetsa & Nthila irrigation club.

These Irrigation clubs agreed to the conditions of the program. Some of the necessary conditions to be fulfilled by the clubs are opening back accounts and submitting constitutions governing their clubs.



Meeting with club members on microloan program

Extension Support and Monitoring of Irrigation clubs

Irrigation clubs are visited at least twice a month to provide extension support and monitoring. This is done to see if good agricultural practices (GAP) are being followed. Farmers were encouraged to waste a lot inputs in production cycle and harvesting very little. Proper planting and application of fertilizers and pesticides was also monitored.



Figure above shows tomato seedlings ready for transplanting at Ndalusa

Marketing of Farm produce

OCA assist farmers in identifying good markets for their produce. The target areas for marketing the produce from irrigation clubs were Kasungu, Mponela and Madisi. Institutions like schools, hospitals and motels fetch a better price than the local market. The results after selling have shown that farmers made profits which will assist them to feed their families and cultivate bigger land in the next irrigation cycle. For example, the sales of Mantchedza irrigation shows that the club achieved MK524,880 as output and MK146,200 were inputs hence the club has made MK378,680 as profit. Below are tables showing inputs and outputs at Mantchedza irrigation club.

Inputs

Inputs	Quantity	Unit price (MK)	Total price (MK)
NPK fertilizer	2	22,000	44,000
Urea fertilizer	2	20,500	41,000
Pesticides	12	3,000	36,000
Maize seed	7	3,600	25,200
			146,200

Outputs

Total members	Average yield (cobs)/ member	Unit cost (MK)	Total cost (MK)
27	216	90	524,880

Profit or Loss

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Profit} &= \text{Output} - \text{Inputs} \\ &= \text{MK}524,880 - \text{MK}146,200 \\ &= \text{MK}378,680 \text{ (Profit)}\end{aligned}$$

Awareness of Orange Maize Production

As OCA continues to raise awareness of Orange crops to smallholder farmers around Kasese. Now Orange maize is being planted in irrigated farming. Orange maize has a lot of advantages but the main one being the ability to deal with Malnutrition problems since Orange maize contain Vitamin A. It also improves health of pregnant and lactating mothers and their children and also prevents eye problems.



Happy farmers standing on their maize field

Trainings

OCA conducts various trainings targeting 227 irrigation club members, 75 lead farmers and about other smallholder farmers 2000 who attends field days and trainings. OCA also provides trainings to primary school students in vegetable production and general agriculture basics. Some of the trainings conducted in 2019 includes;

- Banking and Savings
- Compost manure making
- Pre and Post-harvest trainings
- Pesticides/chemicals handlings
- Interpretation of soil sampling results
- Water crop requirements/proper watering methods
- Planting, bed-making, pruning and sucker removals

Training on savings was done with an aim of equipping smallholder farmers with ways of saving the little which they gain for sustainability. The irrigation club members were trained opening the Bank account and allowing some people to be borrowing the money at an interest rate. Apart from the program of borrowing money to other people at an interest rate, they were also trained on introducing some other small businesses special for the club and being able to make profits from it. With tomato production, they were also trained on value addition process where they can be able to find a machine for tomato sauce production. OCA planned to continue monitoring these activities and encourage farmers to work in a group so that they can eventually become an association or a cooperative.



Training in savings

Compost manure making

OCA trained local farmers in making compost (Organic fertilizer). In every village the focal points are Lead farmers. This Organic fertilizer is being derived from animal matter or vegetable matter as they are locally and commonly available materials in areas where farmers live. Total of 118 households from Tembo, Kapachika and Bweya villages benefited in compost manure production. The methods of making compost manure included using wooden frame, Chimato, Changu (Chinese) and Bokash. Materials for making these compost manure include grass, crop residues, leaves of various plants, a booster inform of animal manure and top soil from virgin land. The list

of all required materials are commonly available in areas where farmers stay hence making it simple for farmers to adopt the system. The materials required are also of low cost in comparison to inorganic fertilizer and it also supply nutrients in succeeding years after application.

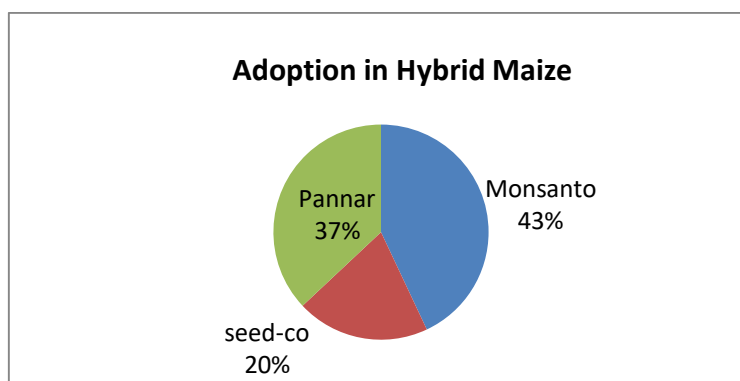


Demonstrating compost manure production

Lead Farmers Program

Assessment of Lead farmers was done with focus on technology adopters of the different farming technologies(systems) which we used in production of Maize in last year growing season. Each lead farmer was given a task to identify farmers who have been able to adopt some of the technologies and as of January 2019, 127 farmers have been identified as technology adopters. The data shows that, large numbers of farmers are able to adopt and practice the Sasakawa system of Maize planting in their farms. There was also a large number of farmers who have been transformed from using local maize varieties to hybrid maize varieties despite hybrid maize being too expensive at the market. Data shows that farmers have cultivated much of maize varieties from seed producing companies such as Monsanto, seed-co and Pannar seed. Through the data collected, it gives high probability of dealing with hunger problems in our catchment area.

The pie chart below shows data on adoption percentages in different hybrid Maize.



Lead farmer's plots were monitored to check if good agriculture practices have been taken into consideration. Lead farmers were encouraged to be on top of their game since they are people of influence and they should lead by example. In 2019, all 75 lead farmers were active.

Lead farmers and club members training on interpretation of soil sampling results

After receipt of results of soil testing, a training was conducted which involved all Lead farmers who benefited from the soil testing activity and some members from irrigation clubs were also invited. The training helped smallholder farmers to understand soil sampling issues. For example, what crops to grow and what kind or how much fertilizer to apply.



Agriculture Extension Development officer (AEDC) addressing the farmers

Rain gauge installation

A portable manual rain gauge (plastic) was installed at Kachala section, Mphamba section and near OCA agriculture office in presence smallholder farmers from particular section, Lead Farmers (LF) and irrigation club members. Smallholder farmers were trained on installation process and how they are going to use the instrument in terms of readings recording. Smallholder farmers were also trained on how to keep the instrument for long term use. Smallholder farmers now have an understanding of how much rainfall is required for activities such as planting. For example, planting of maize requires a total amount of 26mm of rainfall for successful germination of maize seed. OCA values the efforts made by farmers in the community to alleviate hunger and poverty. As such OCA continues to provide agriculture extension services to smallholder farmers.



Smallholder farmers listening very carefully on instructions of rain gauge use

OCA demonstration farm/plot

OCA has demonstration plot which act as learning area for all farmers. Farmers come to appreciate best agricultural practices.



Application on pesticides in progress



Maize crop stand after top dressing

Field day

Field day was conducted at OCA demonstration farm in coordination with Monsanto Seed Company and Farmers word. The field day invited all people living around Kasese catchment area and about 389 people were present on that day. The field day was conducted with the aim of showing smallholder farmer's different varieties of Maize, Soya and Groundnuts currently available in Malawi so that farmers can have a wide choice on the varieties to produce bumper harvest. The other purpose of the field day was making smallholder farmers realize that farming is business hence good agriculture practices have to be followed and new farming technologies has to be adopted.



Farmers viewing demonstration plots of different varieties and treatment

School garden project

OCA worked with four schools named Kalikulu, Mdinga, Katsuka and Kamongo primary school. Various trainings are conducted for example trainings which focus on producing good vegetable seedlings and to have high yielding and best quality of vegetables. Students were trained on proper sowing and good care for seedlings which involved two different systems thus; broadcasting and line sowing. These two systems were done for learning purposes so that the students must compare for themselves the best system which can produce the best strong seedlings and also be able to practice what they learn in class.



Leaners demonstrating bed making and sowing

School garden program has supported leaners with knowledge on seed bed making, manure application, sowing and fertilizer application. Leaners were trained on raised beds since it is rainy season to avoid water lodging. Katsuka primary school which is one of our beneficiary schools in the program has been able to take advantage of this program to teach standard 8 class. Standard 8 class has been able to use this garden for furthering up their class work. With support from OCA and directions from their teacher they have been able to demonstrate what is taught in class from books into the ground for construction of beds, sowing, manure and fertilizer application. They have been also trained on how to use hand folks, strings and rakes. The proceeds from the vegetable gardens are used for some small school development projects. Despite making money for the school, the leaners are also benefiting a lot since they are able to use the garden for practical purposes.



Watering of vegetable plants

Meetings in Agriculture Program

A number of meetings were held in the year with various stakeholders such as seed companies like Monsanto and Famers word. OCA attended meetings with Area Stakeholder Panel (ASP) at

Extension Planning Area (EPA) offices in Madisi. The meetings involved all companies and NGO's working in Madisi EPA in agriculture. ASP is the committee that looks after the needs of smallholder farmers in villages and they are responsible in taking smallholder farmers queries to the government. Other organizations who attended such meetings include; Tiyeni Malawi, ELDS/ELCM, DAPP, JTI, Limbe leaf, SPRODETA, Farmers world and Care Malawi. These meetings assisted in understanding the programs the organizations have brought in this year of 2019 and the catchment area.

OCA Farm

OCA leased its farm to a tenant and the agreement was crop share method. The tenant cultivated maize and groundnuts. After sharing was done, OCA obtained the following crops;

Crop	Total received (bags)
Maize	19 bags
Groundnuts (Unshelled)	440 pales (20 Litres)

OCA also harvested the following crops from the demonstration plots;

Crop	Total outcome
Soya	95 kgs
Groundnuts (Unshelled)	10 bags (30 pales)
Maize	1470kgs

Such produce is either sold and the funds pumped into more charitable work or the crops are distributed during lean season to vulnerable households stricken by hunger.

Soil sampling

With funding from Farmers World, soil testing was conducted at OCA farm to check the status of the nutrients. The activity did not target OCA farm only but also some smallholder farmers who are Lead Farmers (LF) around OCA catchment area. The results showed that on maize cultivation, the major nutrients that are likely to be limiting the yields are Calcium and total nitrogen available in the soil. There is also Boron, copper and zinc which are micro nutrients that are likely to be

limiting the yields. From the results, it was advised to top dress the maize crop with NPK fertilizer at the rate of 4 bags per hectare and Urea at the rate of 3 bags per hectare for bumper harvest.

Challenges in Agriculture program

1. Pests attack at irrigation clubs and other farms in the catchment area. Pests like fall army worms were severe
2. Flooding of farming land. Some irrigation clubs lost their crops due to flooding
3. Use of labour intensive irrigation equipment. Some irrigation clubs are still using watering cans which limits their production capacity

iv) Education Support Program

OCA education sponsorship is provided to students who cannot support their education independently due to financial crises. With the help of OCA donors, students can get access to primary, secondary, and even university level education. In order to be a sponsored student, OCA follow some basic eligibility criteria which may include; being a poor orphan, belonging to a low income or very poor family, and also having a great interest for studies. The basic goal of OCA Education program is to support a child and the family in order to break the cycle of poverty, and help them to be self-dependent individuals throughout their life. And this goal is usually in support of all the children, despite of their religion, race, ethnic background or gender. OCA ensures that students are not only getting benefits of education but all round development from activities such as mentorship. OCA Education program helps students to progress well in life and support their education throughout. OCA envisions a community in which children flourish, lives are extended, the elderly have hope, young people have opportunities and that souls are being healed. It is within this vision that OCA has been sponsoring vulnerable students with tuition and upkeep so that they complete their studies without financial challenges and become self-reliant and develop the community.

OCA provides scholarship to students especially girls who would otherwise never be able to go to school or would have to drop out to be married. The scholarship is continuous until each student has acquired the necessary knowledge and skills. The program also includes monitoring performance, counseling and mentoring.

OCA education program has 3 types of sponsorship and thus OCA individual donors, Rotary international and Geo-shack sponsorship. Rotary and Geo-shack is sponsoring only secondary school girls whereas OCA despite sponsoring girls, it is also sponsoring some male students in boarding primary and secondary school and also university. In 2019, the Education program had **98** students in total. Eight students graduated secondary school and one student graduated from University and remained with 89 students. However, another 8 students were added making a total of 97. Out of the 97 students, 30 students were under Rotary, 25 students under OCA and 42 students under Geo shack sponsorship.

OCA students

In the year 2019, OCA had 25 students. Twenty students were in secondary schools. Five students were from Tchale CDSS, 7 students from Ngala CDSS, 4 students from Nkhamenya girls and one student from Chaminade, Chayamba, Madisi and Natola secondary schools. In addition, OCA also sponsored students in primary school. Amongst the students, two were girls and one was boy. Christopher and Omega are studying at St. Peters primary boarding school in Mponela. Christopher is in standard 6 while Omega is in standard 4. The other girl is Modester studying at Embangweni boarding school for the deaf. Modester comes from Chapuwala village around Kasese and she was born deaf. These students are provided for with upkeep to meet other personal needs at the boarding school. Furthermore, OCA had two students in the university. Alick is studying Metallurgy and Materials Engineering at Malawi University of science and technology (MUST). The other student is Princess Studying Rural and community development at Salima Technical college.

Rotary students

With a \$40,000 funding from Rotary International District 5810, a total of 30 students were being sponsored starting from 2017. This is a four-year program and students were sponsored starting from form one. Out of the 30 students, 19 students were at Nkhamenya girls secondary school and amongst them eight students wrote the Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE). All the students passed. Apart from Nkhamenya girls secondary school, the other students were spread across seven different schools. Two students are at Chamkango secondary school, two students at Natola Community day secondary school (CDSS), two students are at Madisi secondary school, one student at Mlanda girls secondary school, one student at Bishop Mtekateka secondary school, one student at Mziza mission secondary school and one student at Chigodi Community Day CDSS and another student at Ludzi girls secondary school. All these are boarding schools. Having students at different schools is important to ensure students across the districts have chances of being helped with the sponsorship but it also helps to know which secondary schools are the best. To be enrolled in best boarding secondary schools is usually based on merit and only a few students make it.

It should be noted that when eight students wrote the Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE), the Rotary program was left with 22 students. Another eight students were replaced to still make a total of 30 students. Seven students were added were from Nkhamenya girls secondary school and one from Ludzi girls secondary school.

Geo-shack students

A total of \$80,000 was committed by Geoshack to sponsor students starting from 2018. This is a four-year program to education of girls from form one up to form four. About 42 students were targeted and identified for this program. These are needy students who cannot afford to pay for their education. These students come from three districts in Malawi; Dowa, Kasungu and Lilongwe. The 42 students are studying in 8 different secondary schools. They were all in form two and Geo-shack will continue with them up to Form 4. Four students are at Byanzi secondary school, Five

students are at Chayamba secondary school, Five students are at Lilongwe girls secondary school, Five students are at Likuni girls secondary school, Five students are at Dzenza secondary school, Four students are at Ngala community Day Secondary School (CDSS), Seven students are at Dowa secondary school and other Seven students are at Nkhamenya girls secondary school. At Chayamba Secondary school, we have four students who are blind (*Four of the girls are blind from the right*).



School Girls Chayamba

The Tables below depicts a summary of OCA education department sponsorship program for the year 2019.

Level	OCA	ROTARY	GEO-SHACK
Primary	3	0	0
Secondary			
• Day students	12	0	4
• Boarding students	08	30	38
University	2	0	0
Total	25	30	42

MSCE Results

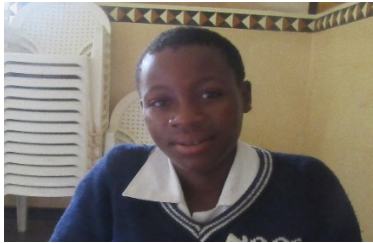
We are pleased to report that all the eight girls sponsored by Rotary International District 5810, who wrote Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE) at Nkhamenya Girls Secondary School in 2019 passed the exams. Nkhamenya girls achieved a 100% pass rate. Nkhamenya Girls is a girls boarding school with well experienced teachers and good facilities. The following are the eight girls who had sat for the MSCE;

Angella Botoman



Aggregate Points: 20

Beauty Mkandawire



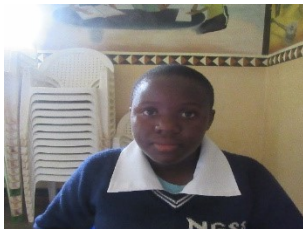
Aggregate Points: 20

Mary Chipala



Aggregate Points: 21

Clara Mzumara



Aggregate Points: 21

Lilian Maholo



Aggregate Points: 21

Mary Chadeluka



Aggregate Points: 25

Bertha Phiri



Aggregate Points: 32

Ruth Mkandawire



Aggregate Points: 32

The lower the points the stronger the pass. The highest performing student in secondary school gets six points (all distinctions) and the highest gets 36 points (all credits) to qualify for public universities. These girls applied for the university enrolment. It's not easy to make it to public universities in Malawi and we will be happy if they make it to college especially public universities where tuition is cheaper than private Universities.

	SPONSOR-ROTARY	Total	Percentage
Total number of students who wrote MSCE	8	8	N/A
Passed	8	8	100
Failed	0	0	0

MSCE results showing 100% pass rate

School visits and Distribution of school materials

In the year 2019, the education department visited all students in all schools throughout the year. Below are among other things OCA education program personnel did in visiting the schools;

1. Monitoring the academic performance of students and collecting their progress reports
2. Payment of school fees/tuition
3. Facilitating communication between donors and students. Letters were collected from students and sent to their donors
4. Providing support to students e.g. notebooks, pens, mathematical instruments, calculators, school bags, school uniforms, Sanitary utensils e.t.c
5. Raising awareness of the OCA education program
6. Mentoring and encouraging students to make use of this opportunity

All schools were visited for the payment of school fees and collection of progress reports of the students. OCA is pleased that a lot of its students were performing well in their studies. This has been due to the continuous support and encouragement OCA is providing to the students. It is not good for a child to be struggling and being teased by other children for not having what they need in class. They might feel ashamed or like they don't belong. They might feel embarrassed asking to borrow a pencil or paper every day. They are likely not to be motivated and could have issues with their self-esteem. This is why having school supplies is so important. Children have to be equipped with what they need in order to have a better learning experience.



OCA staff pose with Byanzi secondary school students materials given and the deputy head teacher



Lilongwe girls secondary students showing their by OCA



Dowa secondary school girls showing their school bags teacher



A pose with Likuni Girls students and their head teacher

Nkhamenya Girls secondary school was also among the schools visited by OCA to provide students with notebooks, pens, rulers, mathematical instruments, scientific calculators among others. This is important because it helps the students to excel in class because the government of Malawi does not provide such materials for the students. Since these students come from very poor families and their families cannot afford to provide for them all the necessary materials, OCA thought it wise to provide support of school materials to them in order to keep them in school and also that they are able to do better in class because their basic needs are met. OCA is committed to empower girls and to removing any barriers that prevent full participation of girls in their life. The students showed gratitude for the good work OCA is doing to them and they promised to work hard in class and achieve their goals.



Nkhamenya Geo-shack sponsored students after receiving their school materials



Orant Charities Africa representatives distributing school materials and the Sister is giving a thankyou handshake for the support OCA is giving to the students.

In addition to provision of school materials, OCA visited the students to encourage them. From the visit, OCA discovered that a lot of students are performing well only a few needs more encouragement.

Communication with Donors

Students wrote letters to their donors and some of the letters were sent to US through the OC Executive Director. The goal of this communication is to create a bond between the donors and the students. The donors also appreciate and are happy to get to know the students they are sponsoring. On the part of students, they work hard so that they should not disappoint the person who is helping them go to school, become self-reliant and come out of poverty.

Menstrual Hygiene promotion and mentorship

Supporting vulnerable students in schools goes beyond providing of tuition. Students have other needs which must be met to keep them in schools. Well-wishers from the US donated brand new reusable menstrual pads to be distributed to sponsored girls in schools so that they should not be disturbed during their monthly cycle. OCA also added locally made menstrual pads to supplement the donation to ensure that all the girls have access to menstrual pads. With help from one the representatives from the OCA board, Ivy, the menstrual pads were distributed to girls in schools. The girls were also advised on how best to use them and to maintain hygiene. Below are pictures of menstrual pads distribution;



With Girls from Natola (left) and Tchale (right) CDSS

During visits to distribute menstrual pads, good quality time was spent with the students to learn their challenges and encourage them to work hard in school. Students were told of opportunities which awaits them in life when they pass in their studies.

Meetings

i) Meeting with Group Village Headmen's (GVHs)

OCA education program attended a meeting with 42 GVHs from Kasese catchment area. The meeting was to initiate the community to advocate for girls to have access to education. It was a very successful meeting since OCA and the chiefs had a lot to talk about the education program and shared knowledge on how to support and care for the poor girls at community level. Girls being part of the community should be supported by everyone. Therefore, the community has the responsibility to support and advocate for the girls.



Attending a meeting with GVHs

The chiefs were very thankful to OCA for the support it is giving to their children and are looking forward for continued support by OCA to educate a lot of girls in Kasese.

District Education Network (DEN) Coordination

District Education Network (DEN) is a group of all NGOs working in the education sector at district level. Since OCA sponsors students in Kasungu district, it is a requirement that our education program engages with other NGOs to learn best practices and contribute to advancement of district education goals. OCA Country Director made a presentation of the Education support program at Kasungu. DEN recommended OCA for the positive impact it is doing in the education sector. DEN advised OCA to work more towards sustainability of the project through empowering families of sponsored girls to be self-reliant. This may include income generation activities like agriculture (including livestock rearing) and through village savings loans (VSL).



OCA Country Director, Mr. Gabriel Kapanda making a presentation



Audience during presentations

Education Success stories



John, a young man aged 24 cannot afford to hide his smile and joy after the completion of his long-term training in nursing under the sponsorship of Orant Charities Africa. John comes from a humble background and in the beginning, he struggled to attain secondary education due to school fees challenges. His family could not afford to send him to school. One day he shared his story with Bowe parish priest who linked him up with Orant Charities in the year 2012. "It has not been easy,

and I did not imagine that one day I will complete my studies, high and above in Nursing field which is highly competitive" said John while smiling. 'I am very thankful to Orant Charities for the unlimited support rendered to me', said John with a grateful voice. In 2019, John was doing volunteer work at Kasese Health Centre while waiting to write final exams by the Nurses council of Malawi that will enable him to be registered and practice a qualified Nurse. 'As a qualified Nurse, I will be able to assist more patients in our community and I will be able also to support my family', concluded John.



A 19-year-old Princess, is a student being supported by Orant Charities since 2008. Orant Charities found Princess while doing charity work in Bowe, Kasungu district when she was in standard 3 at Katete Primary boarding school in Kasungu. After her primary education, Princess was selected to Nkhamenya girls secondary school. Nkhamenya girls secondary school is one of the best girl's catholic schools in Malawi. Orant Charities Africa supported her with tuition and other basic needs until she graduated form 4. She passed her Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE) and has now been selected to pursue her studies at Salima Technical college. She has been offered to study Rural and community development studies course in which she will obtain an advanced diploma after 2 years.

Princess is the first born in a family of 4 children. The second born in the family, (her brother) dropped out of school last year (2018) when he was in form 2 due to lack of school fees since they only stay with their mother (a widow) who does some small scale business of selling home-made doughnuts. Their father died in 2009 when princess was in standard 4. Princess's two other young siblings are in primary school; the third born is in standard 5 while the last born is in standard 2.

During her free time, Princess likes praying, chatting, reading different books, eating, listening to music and doing exercises like; dancing, playing netball and running.



[Little Princess when Orant Charities started sponsoring her](#)

After finishing her Diploma in Rural and Community Development, Princess would like to upgrade and obtain a bachelor's degree in Agriculture which help her work in the Agriculture sector. In addition to that, Princess has passion to help her younger siblings (3) and other needy students when she excels in life because she has seen how the hopeless become hopeful through the assistance from Orant Charities Africa. She believes that without her being helped by Orant Charities Africa she would not have reached secondary school because she comes from a poor family and her single mother cannot afford to pay for her education due to high poverty levels. Princess is a brilliant girl and has a lot of potential to excel in life. She is very thankful to Orant Charities Africa and its donors.

Challenges in the education program

- There are needy students especially girls than the available funding
- One student from Likuni girls secondary school was withdrawn from school on academic grounds. However, a replacement was made.
- A total of four girls dropped out of school to get married and they were also pregnant
- Boarding students are performing better than day students. Self-boarding is not ideal for girl students
- Long distance to schools by day scholars

Conclusion and Way forward

Just from the success stories, it is quite clear that the education support program is very important. OCA is very thankful to all the people who make this happen, from the donors to the students who are willing to learn. Stakeholders should work hard towards elimination of self-boarding. A better solution of eliminating self-boarding schools is construction of hostels at the school. In this case, girls will be looked after by the boarding master. Schools like Ngala CDSS have land where hostels can be constructed, and it all hinges on having financial resources to support community contributions like labour and locally available building materials

6. Other Charitable Work in the Year

a) Distribution of Maize to families prone to hunger during lean period



Beneficiaries smiling after getting their portion



OCA Country Director assisting in distribution of Maize

A total of 164 bags of Maize were distributed at Kasese, Dowa and Bowe (Kasungu) catchment areas.

b) Distribution of shoes & school materials



A total of 117 shoes were brought to Malawi and were distributed to children in different villages. The shoes were unisex, durable and their adjustable abilities allows children to grow with them more than 2 years.

c) Distribution of items at KCH

Orant Charities Africa (OCA) donated colostomy bags to Kamuzu central hospital – intensive care unit. OCA had colostomy bags in stock which were also donated from the US a long time ago. Looking at the need of Colostomy bags at the central hospital, OCA donated the items to save lives in Malawi.



To the left is the picture of Lead clinician, Wilson and Matron of the unit receiving the donations.

7. Summary of Successes in the 12 months

OCA has engaged in a number of activities in the last 12 months and the following summary highlights some of the positive things that have been achieved:

a) Increased Outreach Clinic Services

OCA recruited a 7-member medical team to conduct outreach/mobile clinics every working day in Dowa and Kasungu. The mobile clinic project was rolled out successfully.

b) Attended and treated more patients

A total of **44,043** patients were assisted by Orant Charities Africa healthcare program through both Kasese Health Centre and outreach clinics.

c) Received Certificate of Excellency for Best ART Clinic

Under the Supervision of Dowa DHO, Kasese Health Centre received certificates for providing excellent ART services ranging from testing, counseling and administering of drugs.

d) Supported Bowe Farmers' Cooperative

Orant Charities gave Bowe farmers' cooperative a soft loan of MK 20,000,000 to assist the cooperative in procuring farm inputs such as fertilizer and seeds to help local farmers come out of poverty. Bowe farmers' cooperative assist more than 700 farmers and more than 50 percent are women. The loan has been paid in full.

e) Disbursing Microloans funds to women

About 16 women benefited in the program. A total of MK2,000,000 was disbursed to the women. These microloans attracted no interest and were meant to help vulnerable women out of poverty. The minimum amount disbursed to the women was MK50,000 (\$69) and the Maximum was MK200,000 (\$277) depending on the business capacity of the women. The women were able to boost their businesses and return the loans

f) Growth of Irrigation clubs

Irrigation clubs grew from seven to ten and also in numbers of members within the club

g) Agricultural Field Days

OCA conducted a field day in which community members were able to see good agricultural practices (GAP). Representatives from Ministry of Agriculture, the clergy, Chiefs, and lead farmers were present. Demonstration plots on OCA farm helps local farmers learn and apply GAP in order to have bumper harvest.

h) Increased access to clean water

Apart from repairing water wells, OCA drilled 7 boreholes which have good quality water. This is a contribution to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 6 of water and sanitation.

i) Successful Targeting of needy and vulnerable students

OCA continued to target students to be enrolled in its education program. OCA provides sponsorship to needy students who cannot afford to pay tuition and support themselves with other resources in schools.

j) Students Passing Exams

Eight students wrote MSCE examinations and all of them passed. The students who have passed their M.S.C.E will be applying for enrolment at various universities.

k) Good working relationship with the government

OCA successfully worked with all partners at both district and national levels

8. Lessons learnt in 2019

The following notable lessons have been drawn during this reporting period through activity implementation;

- There are diseases burdened people in our villages who rarely access health services and through mobile clinics we assisted more people
- Some villages are very hard working, what they need most is capital/financial resources and guidance for them to continue their own interventions
- Organizations are likely to achieve more with holistic approach to situations
- Engaging the community in decision making is essential as it gives them an opportunity to express their views and own the programs hence increased sustainability.
- Increased collaboration and networking with stakeholder's increases service delivery
- Capacity building of communities should be continuous to ensure understanding and empowerment of the community
- More sensitization campaigns to the community are needed to facilitate stable behavioral change.

9. OCA Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT)

The analysis was carried together with the programs team to help OCA understand how its programs relate to both internal and external environments. The matrix table below highlights all the points discussed.

	Helpful to objectives	Harmful to objectives
Internal Origin	Strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having offices right in the community we work • Qualified and dedicated staff. • Good links with stakeholders at all levels. • Own spacious land which can be used for agriculture or expansion of clinic buildings • Reduced overhead costs 	Weaknesses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handouts mentality of communities • Overdependence on donations.
external origin	Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goodwill from the public. • Can easily extend to other (areas) districts due to vibrant networking with partners. • Can utilize partnership for visibility and further growth. 	Threats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High poverty levels amongst beneficiaries. • High illiteracy levels amongst households. • Government's laxity in implementing own policies and signing of MOU's

10. Financial Analysis of 2019-See attachment financial statements from the auditors