

ORANT CHARITIES AFRICA –MALAWI

2020 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 2020
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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. Orant Charities Africa thrives to make a sustainable impact in Malawi through a holistic, local, and data-driven approach to supporting women and communities. Through a holistic approach, OCA implements programs in four thematic areas and thus Healthcare, Water and Sanitation, Education, Agriculture and Business. The year 2020 was amazing but also challenging due to CoronaVirus Disease (Covid-19). A lot of changes had to be made to ensure that we are operating within the accepted precautionary measures and also legal policies on Covid-19 as outlined by the Government of Malawi (GoM). Field visits were reduced and also put on hold depending on the risk levels of Covid-19, for example outreach clinics, agriculture and water extension work. In preventing Covid-19, OCA engaged seamstresses sewing masks which were sold below the production costs to ensure that everyone in the community had access to them. OCA also distributed masks to various people in the community including students in schools. Regardless of Covid-19 challenges, OCA managed to assist 55,844 patients in the healthcare program, continued supporting 97 students, drilled new 14 wells and supported nine irrigation clubs, among others.



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2. Rebranding of OCA

OCA rebranded its mission to ensure that it focuses on having good data for decision making and increased visibility. OCA also recognizes the importance of women in community development as such it ensures that most of its projects include women. OCA has a website <https://www.orantcharitiesafrica.org> where relevant information about project implementation and organization in general is showcased.

3. Location of Offices

OCA has permanent offices in Kasese Health Centre Premises in TA Chakhaza, Dowa. The offices are located about 100 metres from the M1 road at Kasese trading centre. The presence of OCA right in the community where it operates gives OCA strength to have good community engagement. This allows OCA to easily conduct community needs assessment and know which service areas should be prioritized. Strong presence in the community also allows good monitoring and evaluation of projects. Furthermore the community can easily visit OCA offices for any engagement such as sharing of project ideas.

4. Sources of Funding

The main sources of funding is through donations. We are thankful to our generous donors who make donations. The year 2020 has been difficult for non-profits who rely on donations due to Covid-19 pandemic. We continue to give gratitude to our donors who made donations to help us prepare for Covid-19. We were able to produce over 20 thousands reusable cloth masks and have various medical and non-supplies for Covid-19 prevention. Currently OCA obtains its funding from Orant Charities US, Geo-Shack and various Rotary Clubs from the United States of America. OCA also raises funds locally through collection of a small filing fee at Kasese Health Centre which also goes back to the community through various charitable contributions. With the various sources of funding outlined, OCA managed to implement the following projects;

i) HEALTHCARE PROGRAM

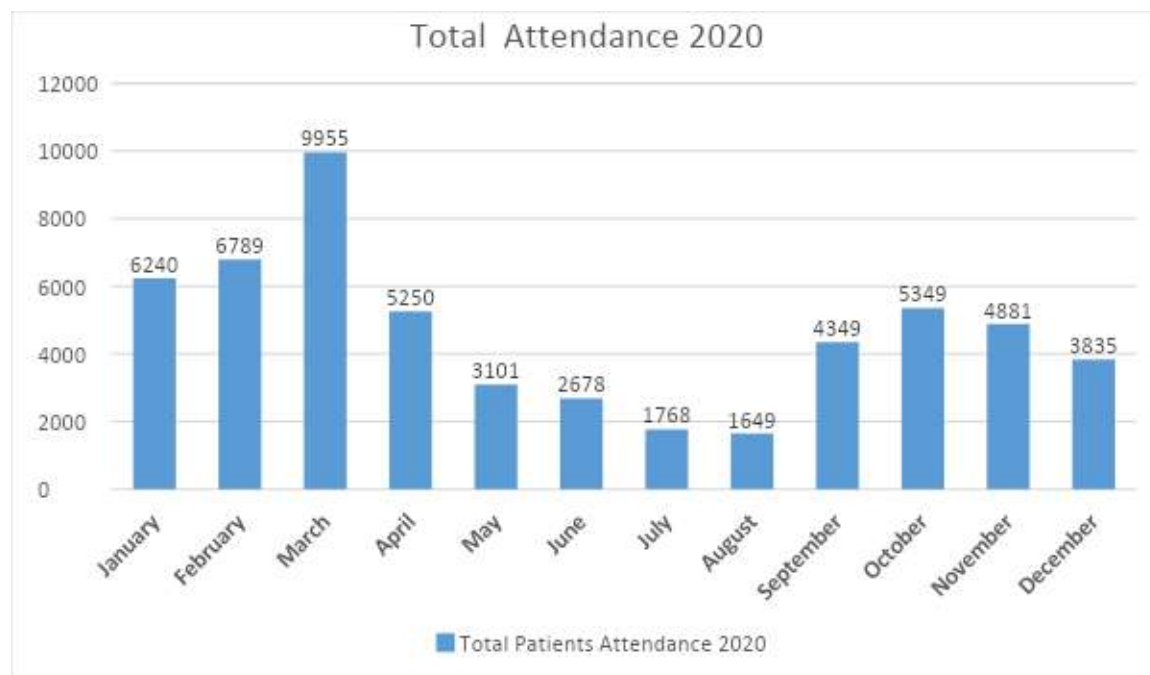
Executive Summary

OCA healthcare program provides primary healthcare through Kasese Health Centre (Static clinic) and also community outreach clinics herein referred to as Mobile Clinics. Kasese Health Centre serves the health needs of a population of approximately 36,381 in Kasese catchment area. Through mobile clinics, OCA assists patients both in Dowa and Kasungu Districts.

The Kasese health center provides the following services: Outpatient's clinic (OPD), 24hrs children's observation ward, maternal healthcare services like obstetrics (Antenatal care, deliveries, provision of family planning methods, cervical cancer screening e.t.c). In addition, the Health Centre provides preventive services through public health like (nutrition supplements, growth monitoring and immunizations).The healthcare program in its provision of services work in collaboration with ministry of health through Dowa and Kasungu district health offices (DHO), Kasese Health Centre advisory committee (HAC), St Andrews hospital, Reach Trust, Girls empowerment network (GENET) and Riders for Health.

Total Number of Patients Seen in 2020

OCA's Healthcare program assisted a total of **55,844** patients in the year 2020. 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 55844 patients who received medical care, a total of **35,659** were seen in Kasese catchment area in Dowa representing 63.9% of total patients. Out of 55,844 patients, 31,541 (56.5%) were seen right in Kasese Health Centre. This shows that a total of **24,303** (43.5%) were seen in Outreach/mobile clinics. The outreach clinics assisted 4118 (7.37%) and 20185 (36.15%) of total patients seen in the year in Kasese and Bowe Outreach/mobile clinics respectively. More patients were seen in mobile clinics in Bowe catchment (20185) than in Kasese (4118) 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 730 representing 1.3% of the total patients seen in 2020. The graph below shows total patient attendance in the healthcare program both in Kasese health centre and mobile clinics.

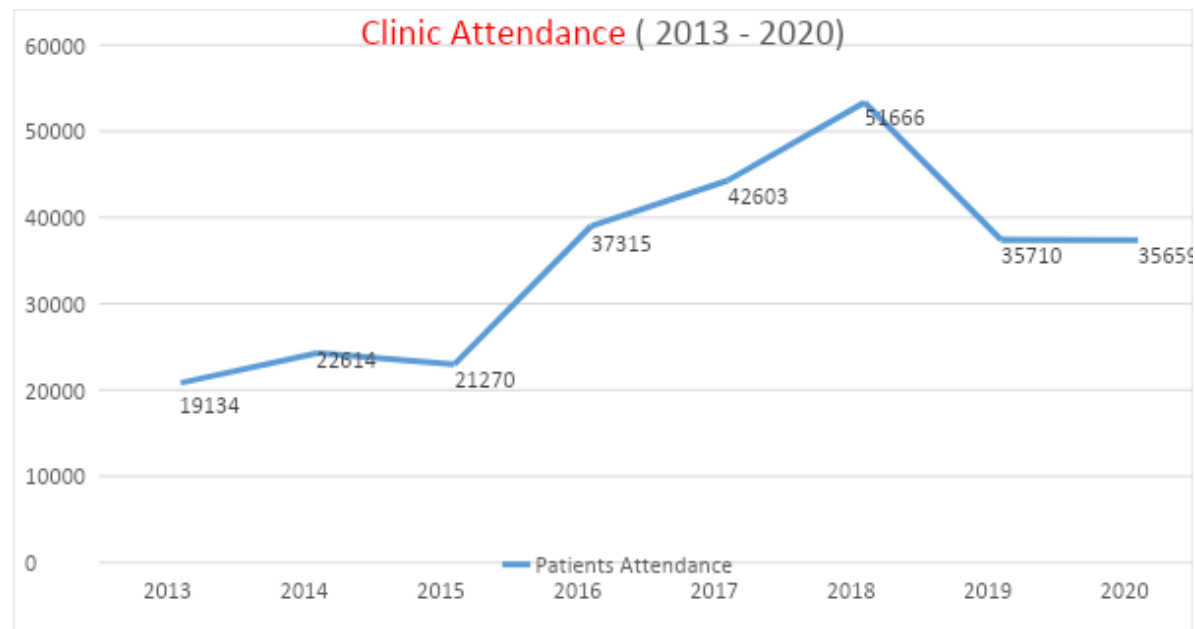


From the graph above it shows that from the month of May to August the total number of patients seen was considerably lower than the other months. This is because the mobile clinics were temporarily put on hold to adhere to Covid-19 preventative measures. Covid-19 took everyone by surprise and drastic measures were followed to prevent transmission through overcrowding especially in mobile clinics where observing social distance is a challenge. The table below shows the breakdown of total patients seen and the gaps in the month of May to August in mobile clinics.

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
OPD Kasese Clinic	3105	2765	4062	3562	2976	2616	1714	1609	1859	1926	2024	1850	30068
Bowe Outreach	2450	3143	4578	473	0	0	0	0	1927	3,153	2655	1806	20185
Kasese Outreach	469	714	1041	1010	0	0	0	0	480	182	140	82	4118
Children Ward	128	98	152	105	28	39	18	17	37	44	21	43	730
Kasese-WK/Nights/Holidays	88	69	122	100	97	23	36	23	46	44	41	54	743
Totals	6,240	6,789	9,955	5,250	3,101	2,678	1,768	1,649	4,349	5,349	4881	3,835	55844

Annual Patients Statistics in Kasese Catchment Area

Since 2013, OCA has been providing healthcare in the Kasese catchment area. We have been seeing a constant increase of patients coming to Kasese Health Centre to get treatment. In 2020, the numbers slightly decreased in comparison to 2019. This could be attributed to the fact that, with the coming of Covid-19 some people had misconceptions that one is likely to get the virus in a hospital setup and therefore ended up reducing visits to the health centre. It should be noted that patients like visiting the health centre because they are assured that they will get medicine and be well treated unlike other health centres which do run out of medicine.



ii) Outreach/Mobile Clinics



Patients waiting for medical assistance in outreach clinics

Healthcare service provision by OCA has significantly improved with the mobile clinics in which our medical team are on the road at least 5 days a week to hard to reach areas where they provide medical services. The main goal of the mobile clinics project is “to provide high quality medical services in order to improve the health statuses of the people living in these hard areas. Specifically;

- To continue improving access to quality curative health services to the population served
- To continue strengthening referral system, care and support of the sick in the population served
- Information dissemination on the prevention of various diseases

Services Provided at the Mobile Clinics

The mobile clinics mainly provide General Outpatient department (OPD) services which includes;

- Screening and treatment of NCDs i.e. Asthma, HTN, DM, Epilepsy
- Screening and treatment of various infectious diseases (U5 & ≥5 years)
- Laboratory services i.e. Malaria & syphilis tests, H. Pylori, blood sugar, HGB, HCG
- Health education messages
- Referrals of patients who are critically ill to nearby hospitals.

Outpatient’s medical services are provided by a team of seven personnel which includes a Clinical Officer and a Nurse. Studies have shown that the majority of people with non-communicable diseases (NCDs) (especially in remote areas) are not aware of their conditions hence dying in silence. It is also alleged that 28% of deaths in Malawi are emanated from non-communicable diseases hence the OCA outreach clinics play a very crucial role by among other things screening, diagnosing but also treating some of NCDs in the remote areas thereby reducing deaths as other complications. The mobile clinics bring hope and saves lives of children, women and the elderly from poor families. The mobile clinics reduce the distance patients walk in search of treatment in health centers which are far from their homes.



Patients registration in progress



Triaging of patients



During the mobile clinics Covid-19 preventative measures were being followed using the readily and locally available resources) as prescribed by health experts to protect both patients and healthcare workers. Some of the measures followed were;

- All patients are advised to wash hands using the chlorinated water provided on their arrival
- Except for some patients such as under 5 children, everyone at the clinic was mandated to put on masks. Reusable cloth masks were available for sale at an affordable price of K100 which is below the cost of production. OCA produced over 20,000 masks in the year 2020 to prevent spread of Covid-19.

- Sensitization of all patients about general Covid-19 issues and its preventative measures upon their arrival at the clinic
- Social distancing was enforced although it was a challenge in most cases



Handwashing in progress at various outreach stations

The mobile clinics conduct various rapid laboratory tests such as Malaria, glucose, hemoglobin, H.pylori e.t.c. The most common test conducted is Malaria test.



Women being tested for Malaria

Major Successes in Mobile clinics

In 2020, a total of 24,303 patients were seen in mobile clinics both in Kasese (Dowa) and Bowe (Kasungu) catchment areas. Out of the 24303, about 20185 were seen in Bowe catchment (Kasungu) representing 83% of the total patients seen in mobile clinics. Out of the 20185 seen in Kasungu district, 4091 were under-fives and 16094 were equal to or above five years old. It has been observed that there is greater need of mobile clinic visits in Bowe catchment than Kasese catchment because in Kasese people can easily walk to Kasese Health Centre. In Bowe catchment, Kasungu distances to nearby health centres are long. Since we provide good services, sometimes patients without serious cases wait for the time the mobile clinics will come and not go to other health centres. The mobile clinics are assisting patients and helping the District Health Offices to reduce overcrowding in health centres. This is also very important in these Covid-19 times. The OCA team has good coordination with District Health Offices from both Dowa and Kasungu. During program implementation, our donors, partners and other stakeholders ensured that drugs do not run out. There is also good cohesion with the community

Challenges in Mobile Clinics

Regardless of the successes of the mobile clinics in assisting patients, the team encountered the following challenges;

Coming in of COVID-19 led to temporally suspension of the clinics

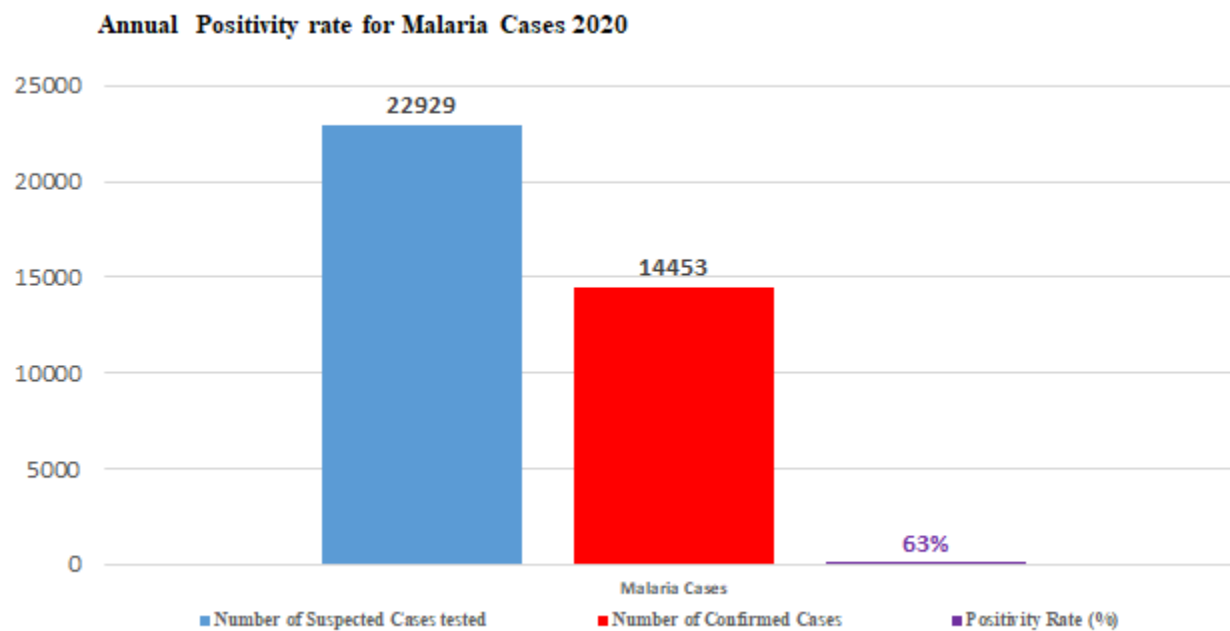
- Shortages of drugs and other medical items
- High number of patients against the available limited resources
- Rough roads which are very difficult to pass especially during rainy seasons



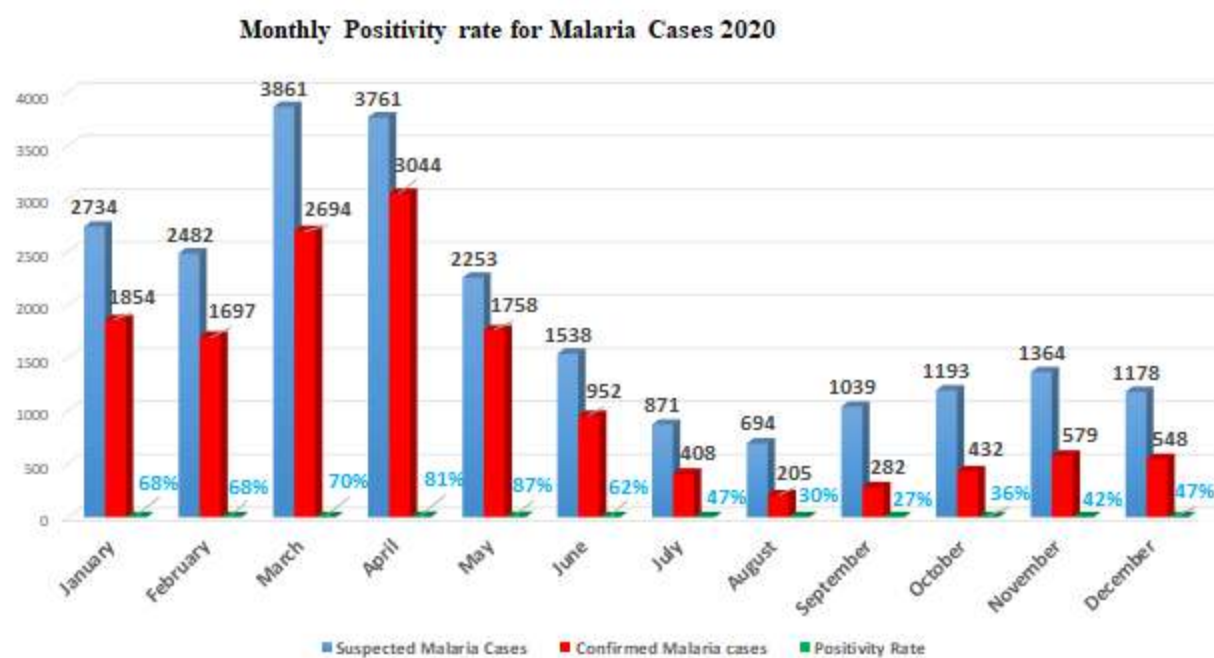
- Unconducive working environments especially during rainy season
- Some patients coming twice before finishing the prescribed drugs

Malaria Positivity Rates

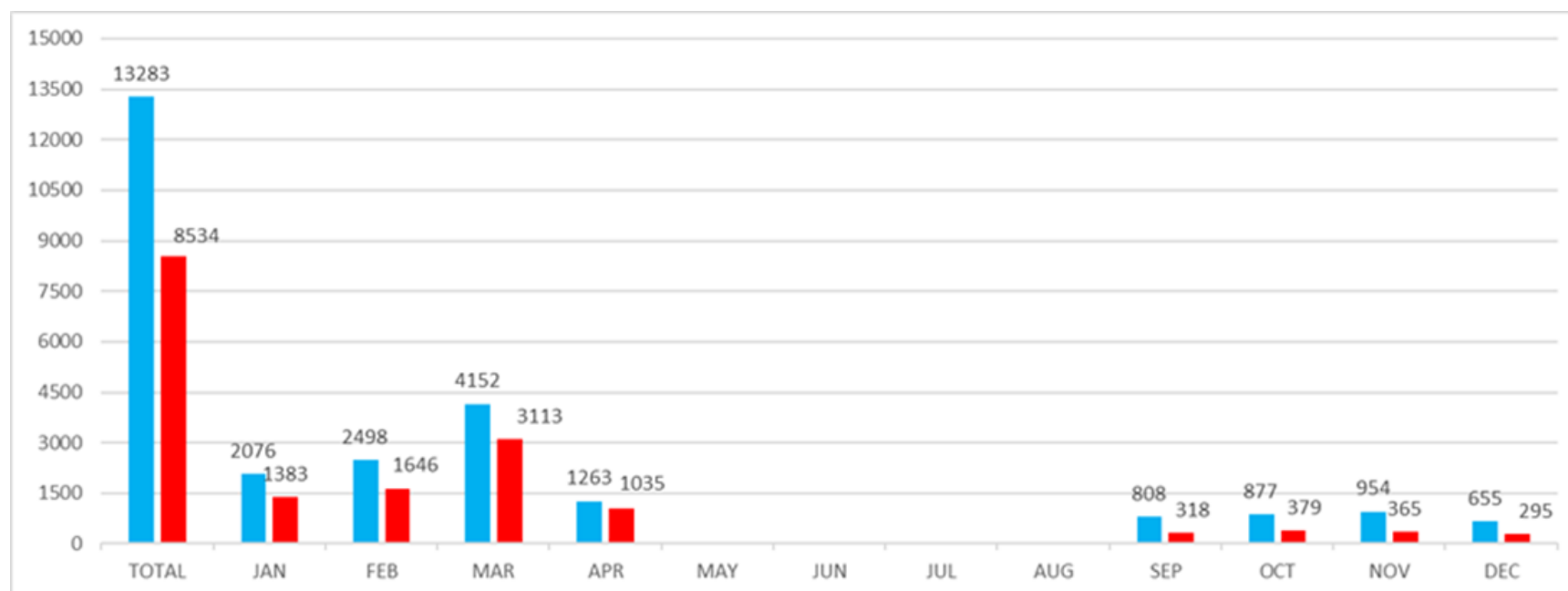
According to the World Malaria Report (2019) by World Health Organisation (WHO), Malawi is among the top 20 countries with the highest malaria prevalence and mortality rates. The mortality rate in Malawi was estimated at 2%. At Kasese Health Centre, Malaria tests are conducted both by rapid tests (MRDTs) and microscopy blood smear slides. Kasese Health Centre data shows that the annual malaria positivity rate was at 63% out the 22929 cases tested as depicted in the graph below.



It was observed that the highest number of Malaria positivity rates were seen from January to June 2020 and the highest month was May with 87% positivity rates as shown in the graph below;

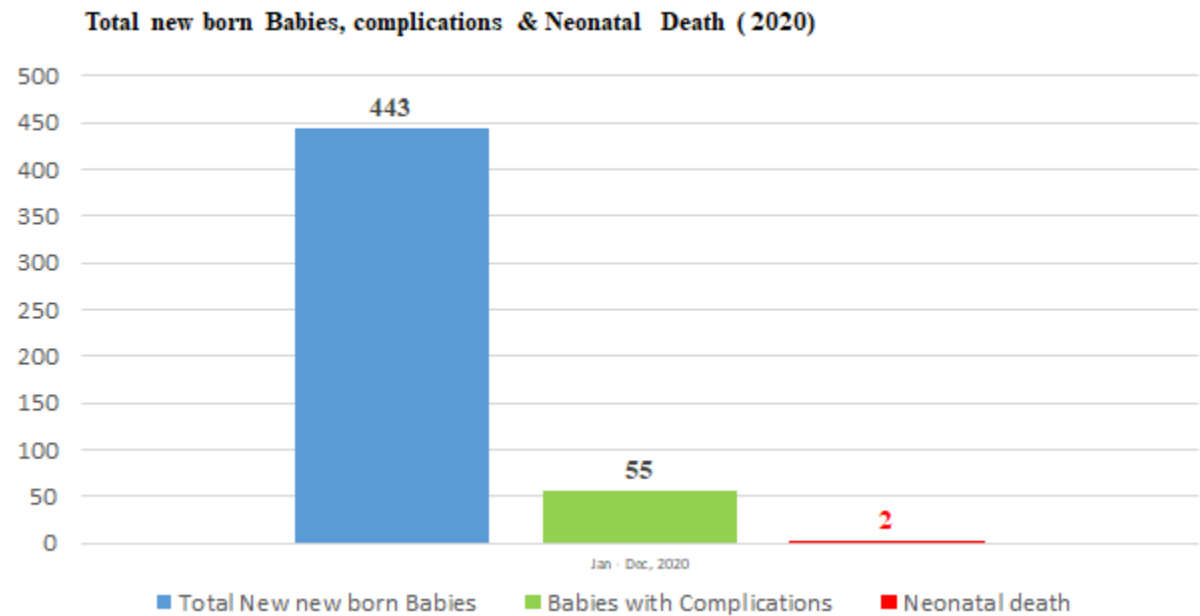


The following graph shows the Malaria positivity rates in the mobile clinics. It should be noted that the mobile clinics were temporality suspended for about four months during the Covid-19 pandemic;

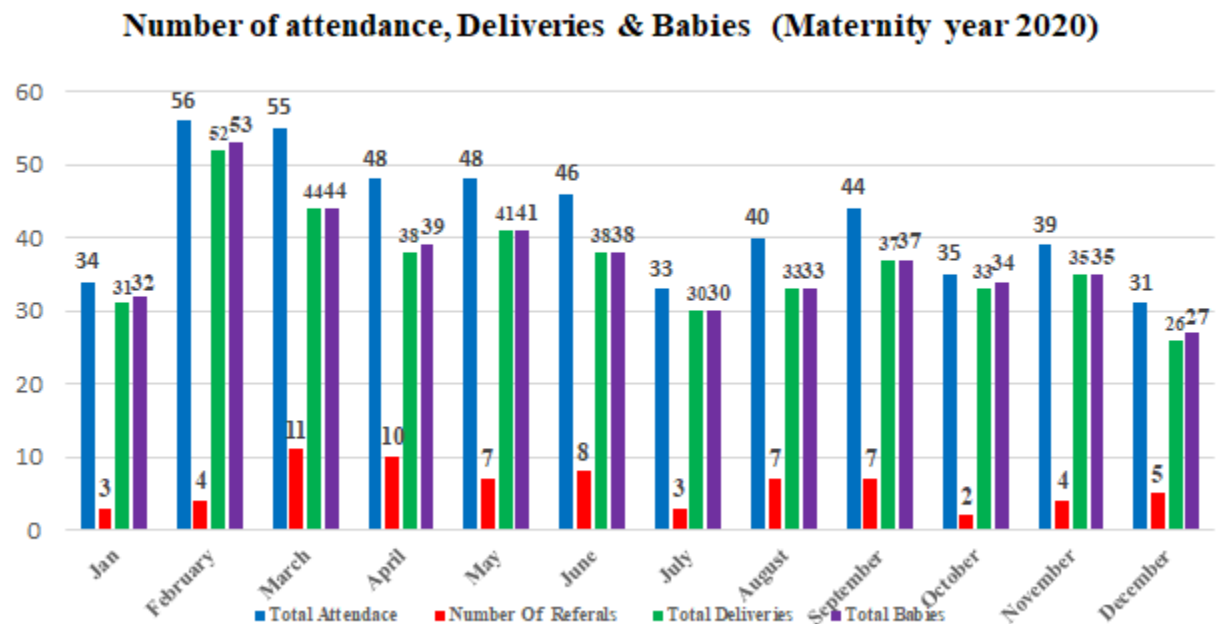


Maternal and New-borns health care

OCA through Kasese Health Centre continues to provide excellent maternal and neonatal health care. All women access high quality care during pregnancy, delivery and postnatal. All received quality medicine and are attended by skilled healthcare workers. Those in need of referrals to hospital are timely taken care of which is evidenced by good maternal and newborn outcomes, as the Health Centre has never experienced maternal related mortality for the past five years. In 2020, a total of 443 babies were delivered. Out of the 443, 55 babies had some complications and only two were victims of neonatal death as depicted in the graph below;

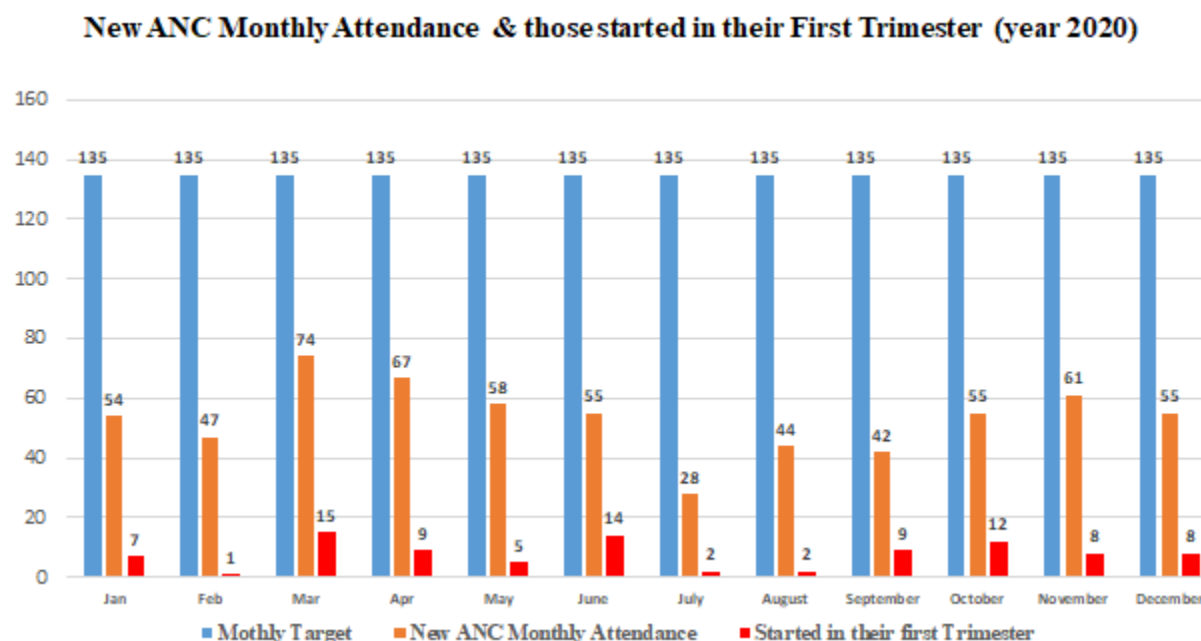


The distribution of number of births per month and referrals is shown in the graph below;



Antenatal Care (prenatal care)

The Health Centre conducts prenatal (antenatal) clinics twice a week, on Tuesdays for those enrolling for the first time and Thursdays for subsequent visits. The recommended ANC visit by the World Health Organization (WHO) is more than 8 which should start as early as possible. However, according to the data many women do not comply due to several reasons, like cultural, knowledge of pregnancies and others. It could be a lack of access to healthcare due to factors like distance. However, for those who start on time, during the Antenatal clinics, they receive; two doses of Tetanus toxoid vaccines (TTV), 3 doses of SP tablets, FEFOL tablets, albendazole, Insecticides Treated Nets (ITNS) and all get tested for syphilis with their partners. In 2020 we had a total of 640 New ANC attendance.



Cervical Cancer Screening/Control

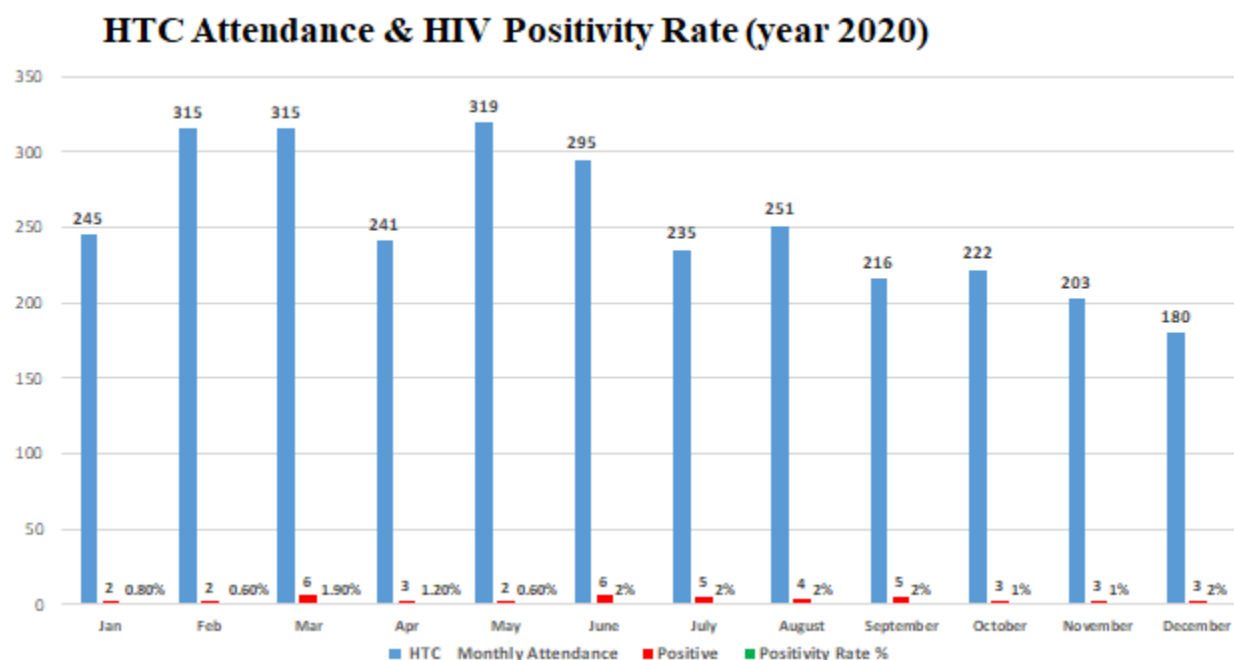
Cancer of the cervix remains a public health problem in Malawi and amongst the top leading cause of cancer death (MOH, *National cervical cancer strategy 2016-2020*). In addressing this problem, Kasese Health Centre conducts routine visual screening of cervix using acetic acid (VIA) to women of childbearing age between 25 to 49 years. A total **371** of women were screened and 24 had VIA positive representing 6.5% positivity rate. Those who are positive were referred to Kamuzu Central Hospital for further management. OCA assists the women with cash to pay for transportation from Kasese to Lilongwe. Lives of women who have cancer are improving with the support from OCA since they do not miss treatment due to lack of transportation.

Table: shows Monthly number of clients screened for cervical cancer and their outcomes

Month	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total	36	48	80	31	28	31	30	18	13	32	16	8
Positive	0	1	5	4	2	2	1	2	2	4	0	1

HIV Testing and Counselling

The health centre conducts optional HIV counselling and testing to general public and antenatal mothers as prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT). The annual prevalence rate at Kasese Health Centre was at 1.44% against the national prevalence rate of 8.2%. Graph below shows the attendance and positivity rates;

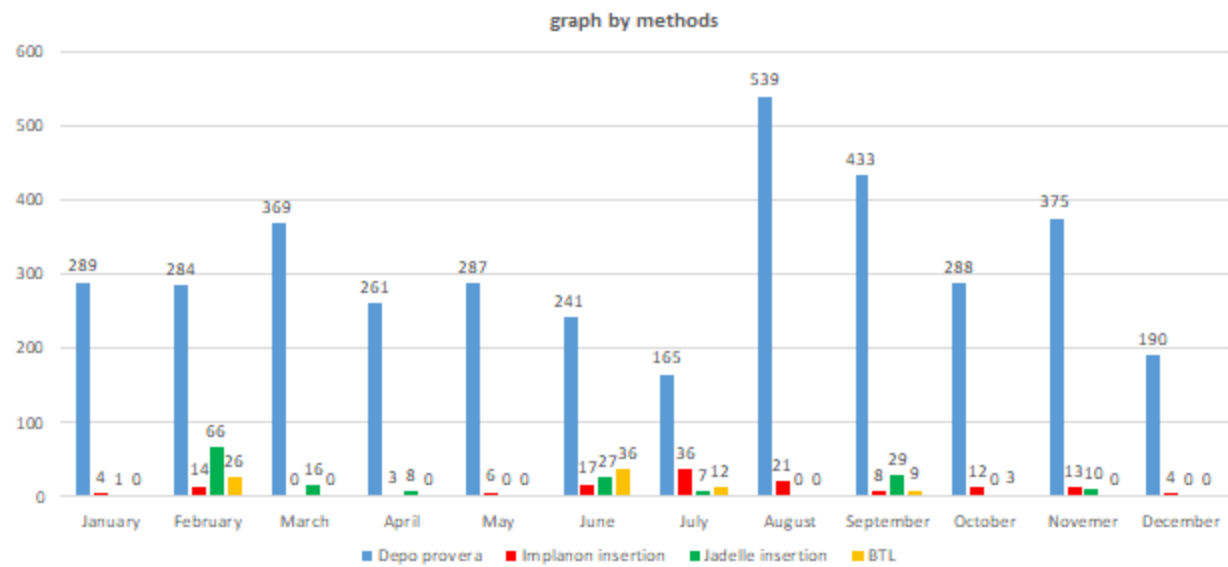


Family Planning Service

The Health Centre conducts family planning clinics once a week on Wednesdays. In accordance to the ministry of health (MOH) policies and in coordination with Banja La mtsogolo (BLM), Orant Charities Africa (OCA) understand that Family planning increases maternal and child survival through timing spacing of pregnancies and by helping couples plan pregnancies during the healthiest time within a woman reproductive cycle. Furthermore, Orant understands that preventing unintended pregnancies, especially among the high risk group and vulnerable in society is key to improving Maternal and new-born child outcomes. As such, there is a good linkage with government health systems, non-governmental organisations like (BLM) in family planning provision, whereby the government provides supplies and training to healthcare workers and the health centre provides the technical services and conducive environment for the clinics.

The methods offered include oral pills, injectable and Implanons to women of reproductive age as per their choices and medical indications. As seen from the graph below many clients opt for injectable Depo- Provera family planning method because it is easy to administer and with less side effects.

Monthly family planning attendance (year 2020)



Covid-19 Pandemic and Preventative measures by OCA



Infection prevention in progress



Awareness campaigns on mask wearing and other Covid-19 preventative measures

iii) WATER PROGRAM



INTRODUCTION

OCA Water program strives to contribute towards reducing morbidity and mortality of people of Kasese through promotion of improved access to water supply, sanitation facilities and good hygiene practices. In line with this program goal OCA further aligns itself towards contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to water and sanitation for Malawi. In order, to achieve all this, OCA early in 2020 set plans and targets according its four key focus areas namely;

- New borehole drilling
- Borehole/pump repairs and maintenance
- WASH extension and training
- School and community sanitation

Therefore, this report outlines and describes activities conducted by the OCA water program in 2020 as well as challenges, lessons learnt in the year and proposed plans for 2021.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES/ ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020

During the year 2020 OCA water program managed to successfully implemented almost all its activities and targets as summarized in the table below;

No.	Activity	Target	Achieved	Comments
1	Borehole drilling	14	14	These new boreholes were all drilled within the OCA catchment.
2	Water point Committee training	14	14	Committees were trained in minor pump repairs and borehole sanitation.
3	Borehole/ Pump repairs	N/A	90	This is demand driven hence no specific target but all boreholes were from within Kasese healthy center catchment.
4	Latrine construction	2	2	Constructed at Chilinkholi primary school for boys and girls. They are 4 door latrines.
5	Distribution of handwashing facilities	50	50	These were distributed as a covid 19 preventive measure. These were distributed in churches and markets across OCA catchment
6	Sanitation/ Covid 19 awareness campaigns	18	18	Conducted in all 18 HSA zones
7	Distribution of granular chlorine	18	18	Distributed in all 18 HAS zones for treating drinking water at household level
8	Stakeholders Meeting (community level)	1	1	This was conducted to review progress of the water program and familiarize new OCA water program staff with stakeholders.
9	Sensitization/ Review meetings with chiefs on OCA water program	N/A	5	Conducted in all 5 chief's zones who are in OCA water committee. This was also a special activity to help new staff build partnership with chiefs from OCA catchment.
10	Training sanitation clubs on chlorine dilution and use	12	3	Clubs were trained in 0.05% chlorine dilution for hand washing. This activity was not completed due closure of schools during the COVID-19 pandemic.
11	District Coordinating Team (DCT) Meetings attendance	N/A	3	OCA presented a water program progress report for 2020 at one of the meetings to district stakeholders present.
12	Joint monitoring field visit with district council representatives	N/A	1	This was also a special activity to help build partnership with the district council as well as improve visibility of the OCA water program.

DETAILED NARRATION OF ACTIVITIES BASED ON KEY FOCUS AREAS

1. New Borehole Drilling



Figure 1: **(Left)** A pregnant woman drawing water from unprotected water source before OCA drilled a new well at Mzimuwakana village, **(Centre)** A newly drilled protected well in Mzimuwakana village, **(Right)** A newly installed Life pump in Chikwangwala village

In 2020 OCA made significant strides towards improving access to water and sanitation for the people of Kasese. The OCA water program had a target of 14 boreholes to be drilled across the catchment. During the year OCA water program managed to successfully drill all 14 boreholes out of which 13 were completed with Afridev pumps and one was completed with a life pump donated by Design Outreach. Through this initiative in 2020, OCA managed to supply clean water to over 5000 (approximately 14% of the population of Kasese health center catchment). The table below describes new boreholes drilled by OCA in 2020 with their location, population, type of pump installed and month drilled;

S N	Name Village/ Borehole	GVH	Population (Estimates)	Drilling Month	Type of pump installed
1	Chapuwala	Chapuwala	360	May	Afridev
2	Shawa	Shawa	300	June	Afridev
3	Mankhaka	Kalungulu	300	June	Afridev
4	Ngoma 2	Ngoma	400	July	Afridev
5	Chilindauta	Kalungulu	300	July	Afridev
6	Nyanda	Nkhandwe	200	Sept	Afridev
7	Kasese 2	Kalungulu	465	Sept	Afridev
8	Mphamba	Karonga	290	Sept	Afridev
9	Zindo	Makombwa	675	Sept	Afridev
10	Ngala Primary School	Nkhandwe	600	October	Afridev
11	Mzimuwakana	Nankumba	340	October	Afridev
12	Nselembo	Kalonga	325	November	Afridev
13	Chikwangwala	Mphaluka	290	November	Life Pump
14	Kantubede/Maondetsa	Chimwendo	550	December	Afridev

2. Borehole/ Pump Repairs and Maintenance

In order to ensure sustainable access to clean water OCA supports communities in repairing and rehabilitating water points. The OCA water program managed to repair a total of 90 boreholes in 2020. This was done through collaborative effort between OCA water program staff, Area Mechanics and water point committees. Water points committees are responsible for day to day management of the water points and borehole sanitation and hygiene. On the other hand, Area Mechanics supports OCA water program staff in major pump repairs in the community. The graph below highlights monthly pump repairs conducted by OCA water program in 2020;



3. WASH Extension and Training

In order to ensure community/stakeholder engagement, empowerment as well as sustainability of its initiatives OCA water program conducts WASH extension services in its catchment. These are in the form of water point training, stakeholders review meetings as well as project monitoring and evaluation.

In 2020 OCA water program trained a total of 14 water point committees in Community Based Management (CBM). This aims at training water point committees with borehole management skills such as minor repairing of pumps as well as borehole sanitation and hygiene.

Apart from conducting CBM training, OCA water program further engages stakeholders such as Chiefs, teachers, district council, Area mechanics, Village Development Committees (VDCs) and Area Development Committees (ADCs) to review progress and plan development activities within Kasese catchment. In 2020 OCA supported water program review meetings with chiefs, Area Mechanics and a joint monitoring field visit with representatives from Dowa District council.



Figure 2: **(Left)** Joint Monitoring visit with representatives from Dowa district Council, **(Right)** Committee members showing their newly acquired skills in minor borehole repairs in Ngoma village during water point committee training



Figure 3: **(Left)** Water Program stakeholders review meeting in session at Kasese, **(Right)** A water program review meeting with chiefs from GVH Ndalama cluster/zone.

4. School and Community Sanitation

The OCA Water program directly and indirectly supports efforts of its health and education programs respectively. This is done through efforts to reduce disease burden in the community as well as creating an enabling environment for children to go to school.

In 2020 OCA water program constructed Improved Pit latrines for boys and girls at Chilinkholi Primary School in the area of TA Chakhadza in Dowa. This was done following a recommendation from the government's education department and an assessment by water program staff on the school's sanitation status. Chilinkholi Primary School had dilapidated and unimproved pit latrines for both learners and teachers. The two new latrines have 4 doors, three of which will be used by learners while one will be used by teachers for both boys' and girls' blocks. Chilinkholi primary school has an enrolment of 297 learners (Boys: 147, Girls: 150) and 3 teachers. The school covers standard 1 to 4 and learners are within the average age range of 6–14.



Figure 4: **(Left)** Old latrine at Chilinkholi before OCA construction of new latrine, **(Right)** One of the constructed improved latrine at Chilinkholi Primary School

Apart from construction of latrines, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, OCA intensified its efforts offering sanitation and hygiene education to various sectors of the Kasese catchment area. During the period, OCA trained three schools sanitation clubs in making 0.05% Chlorine solution to be used for hand washing in schools, the same platform was also used to educate learners on COVID-19 prevention. Chiliphiza, Chiwira and Katalima schools benefited from the exercise, each school also received doses of HTH chlorine for use. The exercise however did not reach out to the rest of the schools in the catchment due to the closure of all schools in Malawi during COVID-19 outbreak.

Similarly, during the same COVID-19 outbreak, OCA water program disseminated messages on prevention in 18 Health Surveillance Assistants' (HSA) zones across the catchment. OCA went further to provide facilities that would make prevention possible in public places such as markets and churches. In this period OCA distributed 50 handwashing facilities/ stations with chlorine in market centers and churches.



Figure 5: **(Right)** OCA water program manager handing over a hand washing station to Kasese Market Chairperson, **(Right)** Church members receiving a gift of a hand washing bucket from OCA



Figure 6: **(Left)** Sanitation club members during a training on Chlorine use, **(Right)** A sensitization meeting on COVID-19 Prevention CHALLENGES

- The outbreak of COVID-19 caused many changes in the programming and certain activities were delayed.
- Frequent breakdowns of the vehicle shared by the water program and Agriculture increased pressure on other OCA vehicles hence affecting scheduling of field activities.
- The presence of salty aquifers in some areas affected allocation of boreholes in some areas in need of clean water.

LESSONS LEARNT

- Good collaboration with other partner NGOs help in learning new skills and technologies.
- Involvement of the media in key project activities can improve NGO visibility which can create more opportunities for the NGO.
- Good collaboration with relevant government extension workers as well as district and community stakeholders can ease implementation of the project and at the same create a good platform for project sustainability.

CONCLUSION

Despite the challenges faced during the year, 2020 has been a productive year for the water program as we managed to complete most of our targets. During the year OCA water program welcomed two new members of staff who have adapted well to the new environment due to the solid platform for continuity set by the out-going staff. The water program is very optimistic of the New Year as COVID-19 cases are dropping and COVID-19 vaccine has been rolled out. This promises that 2021 will be another good year to take another positive stride towards empowering the poor, inspiring hope and improving lives.

iv) AGRICULTURE PROGRAM



Introduction

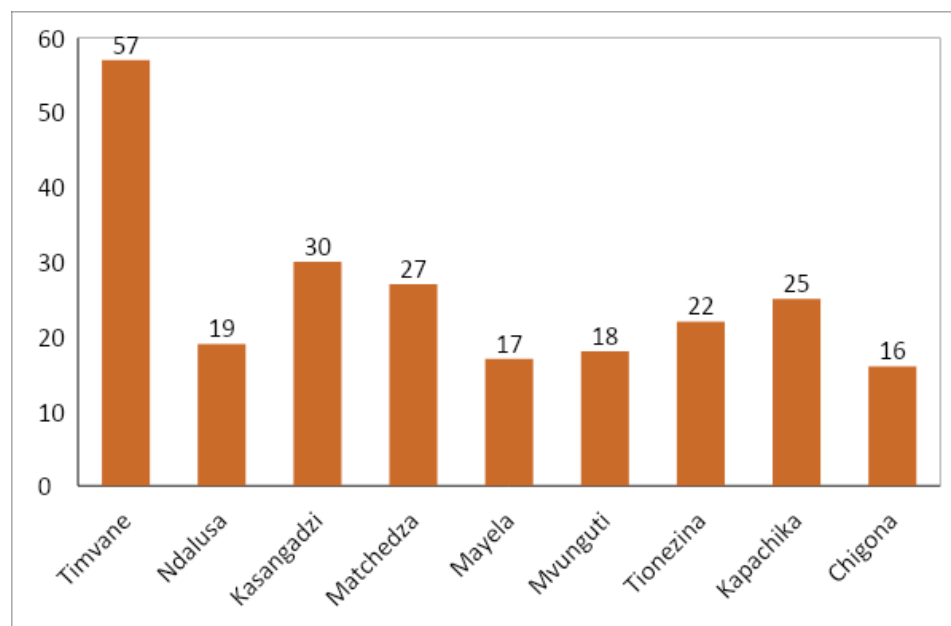
The Agriculture program activities were carried out in Dowa district in the catchment area of Kasese Health Centre under Madisi EPA targeting Chakhaza B which includes Phamba, Kachala and Katalima sections approximately within a radius of 15 kilometers. The main objective of the program is to make sure that farmers have an increased yield per farmer per cultivated land. Specifically, to ensure that farmers have an 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. In the 2019/2020 growing season, OCA managed to lease 31 acres of its farm land. The OCA farm provides employment to the community, this also helps people in the community being empowered economically. The Agriculture program is divided in three sections which includes; Irrigation, School garden, and OCA farm production. Several smallholder farmers in the villages around Kasese catchment area have benefited from OCA projects as outlined below;

Irrigation program

During the year 2020, OCA worked with 9 irrigation clubs in production of Maize, Beans, Tomatoes, Onion and Vegetables. According to the year 2020 for irrigation program, it was proposed to work with 10 irrigation clubs however we managed to work with 9 irrigation clubs according to the and these clubs include Mantchedza, Kasangadzi, Kapachika, Timvane, Ndalusa, Mvunguti, Chigona, Tionezina and Madzimayela. One of the clubs (Khamalidyetsa) had some land challenges with the chiefs and did not cultivate. Through the support from OCA Agriculture office on searching for better markets, the club members have been able to sell their produce at competitive prices which brought smiles on smallholder farmers' faces through profits gained. The income gained from the garden produce has improved smallholder farmers' lives as they were able to purchase food for their families, livestock for rearing, building materials for better shelter and farming materials to support them on upper land farming during the rainy season. This program has made households food secure which has reduced problems of food shortage in the communities. For the 9 clubs which have been working with OCA, the total number of farmers who have been taking part in the production process were 231 whereas 145 farmers were women and 86 farmers were men since women empowerment has been a goal for the project.

Graph below showing number of members per club



Mvunguti is one of the exemplary irrigation clubs and was in production of Tomato, Maize and Beans. During the irrigation year, Mvunguti club was able to work with 18 members and was able to get an income of MK1,746,360. The irrigation club managed to pay back the required 50% of the loan. Taking into account cost of inputs the, on average each member was getting MK86,597.77 (\$115) at the end of the production cycle. The club was able to purchase a petrol engine water pump through income gained from the production cycle which has helped in increasing land for production.



Tomato staking in progress

Table below shows the total inputs on tomato production at Mvunguti club

Inputs (Fertiliser and Chemicals)	Quantity	Price	total cost
D-Compouund	4	25000	100000
Snowcron (1 L)	4	10000	40000
Copper	4	2500	10000
Success	2	2000	4000
Diathen	4	2000	8000
Kick boxer	4	3000	12000
Dudex	2	1800	3600
Linkmil (copper)	4	2500	10000
			187600

Table below shows outputs/profits from Mvunguti club

Description	Total members	Average # of pales member	Average price per pale	Total cash gain
Tomato fruits	18	12	8085	1,746,360

Profit/Loss = Output - Input

=MK1, 746, 360 - 187600

=MK 1,558, 760

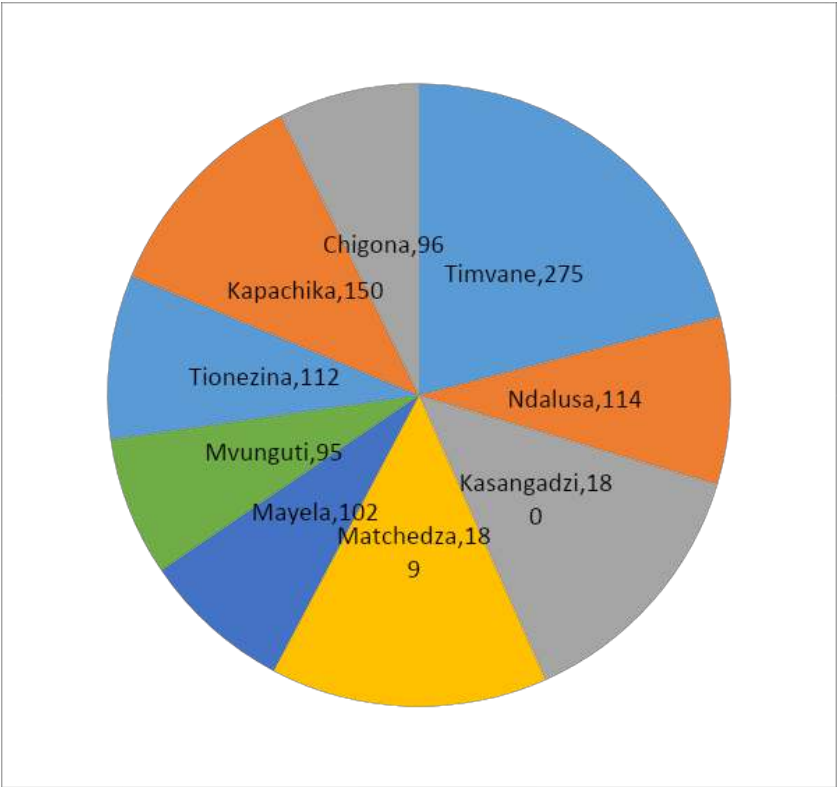
The results above show that, in one cycle of production, Mvunguti irrigation club made a profit in tomato production. Mvunguti irrigation club started the production process with watering cans then after it was upgraded into a petrol water pump. The irrigation club is located along Bua river and it depends on the same River for irrigating their crops.

Summary of inputs versus output

Name of the irrigation club	Description	Total club members	Average produce cost per member	Total Inputs	Total Outputs	Profit (+)/loss(-)
Ndalusa	Tomato production	19	92608	383500	1759552	1376052
Timvane	Tomato production	57	21047	352000	1199679	847679

Matchedza	Maize production	27	29092	200700	785484	584784
Mvunguti	Tomato production	18	86597.77	187600	1746360	1558760
Madzimayela	Maize production	17	41132	183600	699244	515644
Chigona	Maize production	16	42000	234400	672000	437600
Kapachika	Maize production	25	23000	166800	575000	408200
Tionezina	Onion production	22	29600	113500	651200	537700
Kasangadzi	Tomato production	30	25757	266500	772710	506210
	Total	231	390833.77	2088600	8861229	6772629

During the production year, a lot of people in the community have benefited from this program. Club members in their homes have extended families such as the elderly people, orphans and people with disabilities. With the produce which they get from the irrigation farming, they were able to support such people with food, clothes, good shelter and good education for those schools going students. A total of 1313 beneficiaries were assisted from irrigation clubs as depicted in the *Pie chart below*;



From watering canes to Solar Powered Pump

For the first time, OCA managed to provide a portable solar powered water pump and a 5000L tank to Mantchedza. This development has been welcomed by the club members and the whole community as it has reduced problems of watering the crops and land for cultivation has been extended. Also the elderly and other people with less power have joined the club since they have a mechanized way for watering the crops. During the time of water pump system installation, the club members took some roles such as providing bricks, sand and man power for the construction of a tank stand. This shows ownership to the development being done in their area. Apart from the tank and solar pump, OCA also supported the project with cement, brick force wire and also the mason.



Solar water pump being connected by committee member



OCA personnel working with club members in setting solar water pump

Microloan program

Microloans were provided to all irrigation clubs which have been working with OCA. Irrigation clubs were supplied with different items such as seed, chemicals, fertilizers, watering equipment and fuel for mechanized watering equipment. Despite all these items given to the clubs, only seeds, fertilizers, chemicals and fuel were given out at microloan and while watering equipment was a donation to boost the farming capacity of clubs. The loan percentage paid back to the organization was only 50% (Half of the items were paid back). This helps farmers to have more income to help their households. However, the future goal is to see all irrigation clubs be able to pay back 100% or be self-reliant. The microloan program has supported smallholder farmers a lot as they have been able to support their families.

School garden

The school garden program supports learners by providing agricultural training to them on basic farming or garden management. This helps students to have practical experience on things they learn in class. The targeted schools to benefit from the program were four but due to the outbreak of COVID-19, the program was put on hold since schools were closed by the government.

OCA Farm

OCA farm was divided into two parts where one part was leased and the other portion was designated for demonstration plots. The leased part was 31 Acres which was cultivated with only Maize. The demonstration plot was cultivated under partnership with several companies such as Seed-co, Bayer and Farmers world. Partnership with these companies involved training smallholder farmers in production of several crops such as Maize and also in production of cash crops such as Soya and Groundnuts.

The production process was liked most by the tenant despite some challenges which were encountered such as prolonged dry spells, high temperature, water lodging and pests attack such as fall armyworms. These problems brought a reduction in harvest compared to our expectation. The total area which was affected with the water lodging problem was 3 acres which brought in reduction on production area from 31 to 28 acres.

Production process on leased land was done under agreement on crop share. The tenant agreed to pay twenty three percent of the total yield harvested from the leased land. OCA managed to get 145 bags as their crop share from the produce on the leased land.

Field Days

Field day was conducted at OCA demonstration farm which was attended by more than 300 farmers and were taught different systems of production from different organizations working in the Agriculture sector. The field day was attended by OCA partners from Bayer, AFAP, SPRODETA and Farmers World. Other extension workers from the government also attended the field day which included Agriculture Extension Development Officer (AEDO), and AEDC. The main focus on the field day was to teach smallholder farmers on performance of different high breed seeds and fertilizer. Smallholder farmers mostly use the recycled seeds in farming which are low yielding. During field days smallholder farmers are able to differentiate and see the importance of using high quality seeds. Field day was seen as an effective way of communicating with local farmers as more farmers gather in one place during the event.



Smallholder farmers gathered during Field day

Lead farmers

With support from Farmers World, soil sampling was done at OCA farm and also some smallholder farmers who are Lead Farmers (LF) around the 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 are also Boron, copper and zinc which are micronutrients that are likely to be limiting the yields. From the soil testing findings, 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. Lead farmers and representatives from irrigation clubs were later invited to a brief training so that they better understand the soil testing results.

Demonstration plots were also mounted in sections of Kachala and Katalima with support from Farmers world where Lead farmers were taking good care of the plots. The crops on demonstration plots were Maize, Soya, groundnuts and sweet potatoes. Lead farmers were supplied with all required inputs such as Seeds, Fertilizers and pesticides.

Farm inputs distribution

OCA has supported agriculture activities through provision of farm inputs and materials such as fertilizers, seeds, pesticides and fuel for water pumps/engines. Below is the summary for the support given to farmers working with OCA for the year 2020.

Farm inputs distributed

Description	Irrigation clubs
Pesticides	284
Fertilizers	94
Seeds	89
Watering canes	64
Set of solar water pump	1

The following Table below gives a summary of all activities conducted during the reporting period of 2020.

Planned versus achieved activities

Activity	Target	Achieved	Remarks
Training	24	24	Managed to train irrigation club members in areas of production, marketing, and storage of produce, crop protection and governance. Clubs were also trained in manure production such as Changu manure, Bokash and Chinese manure. Club members were able to practice and implement trained activities. OCA also managed to train LF in the

			production process of Maize, Soya and Groundnuts through support from Farmers World.
Exchange visits	2	2	Exchange visits help farmers learn better from their fellow farmers. Exchange visits were conducted within Dowa district
Monitoring	144	139	Irrigation clubs and Lead farmers were monitored to check whether activities being trained are implemented and inputs delivered are used in time and for the benefit of the club members and people in their villages. The difference in planned versus actual was due to transport challenges in some days
Data collection	10	9	Data was collected in Irrigation clubs and Lead farmers. The irrigation club's data was collected on the sales of the produce to know whether club members have made profit or not. Data again was collected on the total number of people who are benefiting from the program and the number of villages
Meetings	21	21	Meetings were held with ADCs, Seed producing companies, NGO's, and smallholder farmers. OCA also attended DAECC and ASP meetings. OCA managed to partner with four seed companies in demonstration. OCA was relied upon by members of DAECC to assist in disseminating information on Fall armyworms.
Field day	2	2	Farmers were able to appreciate the crop uptake on different varieties of crops grown from different companies and were able to select the variety which can be suitable for their areas of production according to climate change.

v) EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM



Handing over of Covid-19 preventative materials at Chayamba Secondary School

INTRODUCTION

OCA education sponsorship is provided to students who cannot support their education independently due to financial challenges. 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 follows some basic eligibility criteria which includes those belonging to a low income or very poor family, being a poor orphan and also having a great interest for studies. The basic goal of the OCA education program is to support a child in order to break the cycle of poverty, and help them to be self-dependent individuals throughout their life. OCA ensures that students are not only getting benefits of education but all around development from activities such as mentorship, counselling and monitoring performance.

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 sponsorship to students especially girls who would otherwise never be able to go to school or would have to drop out to be married. The sponsorship is continuous until each student has acquired the necessary knowledge and skills.

OCA sponsorship program

The OCA education program has 3 types of sponsorship. OCA, Rotary international and Geo-shack sponsorship. Rotary and Geo shack is sponsoring only secondary school girls whereas OCA despite sponsoring girls, is also sponsoring some male students in boarding primary and secondary school and also university. In 2020, The Education program had a total of **97** students. Out of this total, 30 students were under Rotary, **25** students under OCA and **42** students under Geo-shack sponsorship.

OCA students



OCA had **25** students of which **20** students were in secondary schools. Five students from Tchale CDSS, **7** were students from Ngala CDSS, **4** students were from Nkhamenya girls and **one** student from each of the following secondary schools Chaminade, Chayamba, Madisi and Natola. Other OCA students were in primary school two (Christopher & Omega) of which are studying at St. Peter's primary boarding school in Mponela. Christopher is in standard seven while Omega is in standard five. The other primary student is a girl named Modester who is studying at Embangweni boarding school for the deaf. Modester comes from Chapuwala village around Kasese and she was born deaf. These students are provided with upkeep to meet other personal needs at the boarding school. Furthermore, OCA has two students in the university and thus Alick who is studying Metallurgy and Materials Engineering at Malawi University of science and technology (MUST) and Princess who is studying Rural and Community Development at Salima Technical College.

Rotary students



Sponsored students from Nkhamenya Girls Secondary School

With \$40,000 funding from Rotary International District 5810, a total of **30** students were being sponsored since 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 girl's secondary school. The other students were spread across seven different schools. Two students are at Chamkango secondary school, two students at Natola CDSS, two students are at Madisi secondary school, one student at Mlanda girl's secondary school, one student at Bishop Mtekateka secondary school, one student at Mziza mission secondary school and one student at Chigodi 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.

Geo-shack students

A total of \$80,000 was previously (2018) committed by Geoshack to sponsor students. This is a four-year program to educate girls from form one up to form four. About **42** students were targeted and identified for this program. 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, 5 students at Chayamba secondary school, 5 students at Lilongwe girl's secondary school, 5 students at Likuni girl's secondary school, 5 students at Dzenza secondary school, 4 students at Ngala community Day Secondary School (CDSS), 7 students at Dowa secondary school and other the 7 students at Nkhamenya girl's secondary school.

The Table below depicts a summary of OCA education department sponsorship program for the year 2020

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

UNIVERSITY SELECTION

In the 2018/2019 academic year, OCA had 8 students (under rotary) who passed the Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE). These students applied to different universities and OCA is happy to say that in the year 2020, 5 of the 8 students (62.5%) have been selected into Universities.

Below is the list of students, University they have been selected to, and the course to study;

Name of student	School	Course
1. Clara Mzumara	Chancellor College	Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Cultural Studies
2. Beauty Mkandawire	Chancellor College	Bachelor of Early Childhood Development
3. Mary Chipala	The Polytechnic	Bachelor of Education in Business studies
4. Lilian Maholo	Mzuzu University	Bachelor of Education (Languages)
5. Angella Bottoman	Mzuzu University	Bachelor of Education (Science)

However, one of the students who passed the 2017/2018 MSCE was also selected to the University. This means that in the year 2020 OCA will have 6 students who have been selected to University. Below are the details for the student;

Name of student	School	Course
6. Amina Providence	Mzuzu University	Bachelor of Arts

This is a great achievement to OCA because since 2017 only two students were selected into university and in Malawi the competition is always high and for this year (2020) out of the 3327 students who have been selected to different universities, 1401 are girls representing

42%. Therefore, it is not easy for the **six** OCA students to be among the 42%. These students have done very well and this has indeed contributed to the success of the OCA education program.

School visits

In the year 2020, the education department visited all students in all schools throughout the year. The following are some of the goals of the visits to the schools;

1. To monitor the academic performance of students and collect their progress reports
2. To make payments of school fees/tuition
3. To Provide support to students with various items such as notebooks, pens, mathematical instruments, calculators, school bags, school uniforms, Sanitary utensils e.t.c
4. To raise awareness of the OCA education program
5. To Mentor and encourage students to make use of this opportunity
6. To distribute mask as a Covid-19 preventative measure

OCA is pleased that a lot of its students are 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 with lack of basic school materials as 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 providing school supplies is important. Children have to be equipped with what they need in order to have a better learning experience. Below are the pictures of some the students which OCA visited in the year 2020;



Likuni Girls students carrying their buckets from OCA



Madisi secondary school students showing off their materials given by OCA

Nkhamenya girl's secondary school was also visited accompanied by Orant Charities Co-Founder, Mr. Michael Tenny and other visitors. During the visit, the students were provided with assorted items such as bathing/washing soap, sanitary pads and sugar. Students were also encouraged to work hard.



Mr. Tenny with Nkhamenya secondary students

Tchale Community Day Secondary school (CDSS), Ngala CDSS were also visited by OCA education personnel and Orant Charities Operations Manager. It was a great visit because the students were able to share their experiences and challenges. One of the challenges which was encountered at Ngala and Tchale CDSS was that the schools do not have laboratory facilities and students are having difficulties in learning science subjects. OCA encouraged the students not to give up in science and use the schools' available resources so that they can still achieve their dreams.



Tchale CDSS students with OC operations manager

The education program also managed to visit students in primary school who are studying at St. Peters St. Peters primary school. These students were previously lacking basic needs and were malnourished but the two are now happy and living a healthy life.



Omega (left) standard 5 and Christopher (right) standard 7

Covid-19 Pandemic and the Effects on Education

In the same reporting year, the Malawi government declared a national state of disaster as a result of the Pandemic of CoronaVirus disease (Covid-19) which has affected the whole world. Therefore, the Malawi government announced that all schools must be closed with immediate effect for the safety of the students. Students stayed home for 6 months from March to September 2020. In September, only classes sitting for national examinations and fourth year University students went to school. The other classes reopened later in October. OCA had only three students sitting for national exams in the year 2020, and these reported for school in September. The students were in form four at Nkhamenya girls secondary school. The OCA education program also visited these students. The aim of the visit was to;



- Check how prepared are the students towards the national exams
- Provide masks to the students because every student is mandated to wear a mask to avoid the spread of COVID-19.
- Provide the students with writing materials to be used during exams. The materials include; pens, pencils, rulers, mathematical instruments and scientific calculators. The students were also given reusable sanitary pads.

It was a great visit, the students were very happy and were adhering to the COVID-19 restriction measures.

Distribution of masks

A total of **7150** masks were distributed to **14** secondary schools where OCA is supporting students. OCA did not provide masks to sponsored students only but to all students in a school including teachers and support staff as depicted in the table below;

Name of school	Number of Masks distributed
Tchale CDSS	115
Ngala CDSS	170
Natola CDSS	476
Dowa Sec. school	600
Byanzi Sec. school	429
Chayamba Sec. school	920
Madisi Sec. school	1000
Chamkango CDSS	400
Likuni Girls Sec. school	645
Nkhamenya Girls Sec. school	460
Lilongwe Girls Sec. school	700
Mziza Mission Sec. school	220
Chigodi CDSS	515
Dzenza Secondary school	500
Total	7150

Below are the pictures of students in some schools where OCA distributed masks



Chigodi CDSS Students



Madisi Sec school students



Dowa Secondary school students



Nkhamenya girls Sec. school students

At Chayamba secondary school, OCA did not only provide masks to the school but also Chlorine (20kgs), 100 tablets of Soap and 10 hand-washing buckets. This was upon their request to OCA in the fight against COVID-19. Therefore, OCA managed to help them with the above mentioned things.



Chayamba secondary school students after receiving the donations from OCA

Reaching out to the Needy with groceries

Apart from visiting students in schools, the OCA education program also reached out to Omega's family. Omega is a standard five student at St. Peters primary boarding school in Mponela. Her family is very poor and her mother being a widow does not afford to support the family. In the year 2020, OCA helped them with some basic needs for survival. The things include; bathing and washing soap, sugar, maize, cooking oil, candles, matches, salt e.t.c. Omega is the only girl in the family and she is the first born in a family of 4 children.



Omega's family

Stakeholder Meetings

Meeting with students and Guardians



Discussion with students and their guardians

The OCA education program met with students and guardians from Tchale CDSS. The students raised concerns that they would like to transfer to another schools because their schools has the following challenges;

- Lack of enough teachers. The school has only 4 teachers from the 8 teachers they had previously
- Not learning some of the subjects due to lack of teachers
- Lazy teachers
- Transfer of learners to other schools in search of good education. Currently there are less than 30 students at the school

These challenges reveal some of the challenges being faced in Malawi especially in community day secondary schools. OCA engaged with the school authorities who also expressed that some of the challenges may not be solved by them. OCA explained to the parents/guardians that they are at liberty to transfer to any better school within Dowa and the tuition will be paid for by OCA.

Meeting with youths

The OCA education program also had a chance to meet with the youths around the Kasese catchment area. In coordination with the OCA clinic department which conducts youth friendly health services, the education program personnel had to interact with the youths to encourage them about school. It was a very fruitful meeting because the youths had a lot of questions concerning education. Some of the issues discussed were;

- The importance of school
- What they want to become after they finish school
- How Covid-19 pandemic has affected their education
- Challenges they faced during the lock-down of school



Interacting with the youths

Meeting with students around Kasese Catchment area

During the 6 months lock down of school, the education program managed to meet with some of the students who live within Kasese catchment area to discuss a few issues concerning the lock down and find out from them the challenges they are facing. Below was the students' feedback;

Students were worried about their education' future since they didn't know when schools will open

Students were complaining that at home there were a lot of household chores so they did not have enough time to concentrate on their studies

They were failing to attend part time sessions because of lack of money

Their parents were facing challenges to find enough food and some basic needs to provide the family since all children were at home unlike when they are at school parents are relieved

Others were being chased by boys so that they engage into courtships

Upon hearing students' feedback, OCA education program personnel discussed with the students on the possible solutions to the problems which include;

Since it was not known when schools would open, students were encouraged to continue studying.

And to avoid too much work at home, after some assigned work, they should go to some quiet places to study. For example, nearby school, church e.t.c

Whosoever can afford part time sessions was encouraged to attend

All students were encouraged to Abstain and say **No** to boys in any circumstances because they will end up getting pregnant and in early marriages.



Meeting OCA Education personnel had with students

Challenges in the Education Program

OCA had five students who dropped out of school. The five dropped out because they were pregnant. Three students dropped out while in form 3 and two dropped out in form 2.

Lack of internet access for students. In response to school closures, most schools recommended the use of distance learning and online learning to reach learners remotely and limit the disruption of education, but technology in Malawi is a big challenge. Teachers were trying to do online classes but students had no access to the internet as most students live in rural areas where there is no electricity.

Learning from home had its obstacles. The challenges they faced is when they got stuck on a particular subject, they could not ask teachers for help because they were not on campus.

Many secondary schools in the country have a shortage of textbooks. As a result, very few students were able to take textbooks home. As such most students rely on the notes written in class.

The OCA Education program observed that many students were having challenges not being able to understand their studies on their own and were unable to receive adequate assistance from parents who do not have much knowledge on the subjects.

Students lacking Covid-19 preventative materials like hand-washing soap in their homes and radios to listen to Covid-19 pandemic informative messages.

Conclusion

The year 2020 has been a tough year for the education system in Malawi. Schools were closed and students stayed home for six months. Hundreds of girls across the country have fallen pregnant and others are getting married since the schools closed. However, girls sponsored by OCA are eager to learn and graduate when the time is right. The Education program continued to follow up on the sponsored students during the school lock down so that they study at home and be able to achieve their dreams.