



Annual Report - 2021

June 30, 2022



Composed by Gabriel Kapanda, Country Director

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Message from the Country Director

Dear Friends, Followers, Partners!

It is with great joy that we present to you the 2021 annual report which shows how we performed. I want to start by thanking all people who supported our mission from donors to the people in our community. We always see great participation from the community we serve. This is the key in ensuring the sustainability of our programs.



The year 2021 started on a tough note. Some of our staff members had Covid-19 and we had temporarily suspended our mobile outreach clinics (MOC). The MOC takes our healthcare services to hard to reach areas thereby increasing medical access to people. The rains also started very late in our region and it was a big threat considering that most people are rural farmers who cannot survive without having food. When the rains started, we received a huge amount and rivers flooded such that farmers along those areas lost their crops. The good thing is we encourage irrigation so that farmers can plant more than once to have food and produce more for sale. We distributed four solar powered water pumps to irrigation clubs in the year.

Regardless of these challenges we have seen our programs grow. In 2021 we provided medical care to more people than ever before. Individual donors also came forth to support students in education. We assisted 113 students from 97 of 2020 and all three of our sponsored young girls who applied to prestigious universities in Malawi were selected. Our Financial Empowerment Microloan program increased from 13 to 28 women who are empowered financially and with business skills to be self-reliant. We also partnered with Strategic Impact Advisors to train women in digital financial literacy. Our water program intensified water, sanitation and hygiene in households, schools and communities. Our focus is now sustaining and improving what we do and collaborating with others. Together our efforts are amplified!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lgala' followed by a stylized flourish.

Gabriel Kapanda,
Country Director, Orant Charities Africa
Kasese, Dowa, Malawi

Who We Are and Where We Operate

Orant Charities Africa (OCA) is an NGO registered in Malawi with the NGO Board of Malawi and Council for Non Governmental Organizations in Malawi (CONGOMA). The management of Orant is a team of Malawians. Orant's campus is located in Kasese, Traditional Authority Chakhaza, in Dowa District, about an hour's drive from the capital city Lilongwe, Malawi. Our campus is home



to a fully stocked health center, maternity ward, office and guest house. Our team lives in homes on campus or in the closest neighboring village. Each family has an allotted farm. Orant owns thirty-three additional acres of land adjacent to campus. Currently, this land is used for agricultural programs.

Malawi is a country of 18 million people in southeastern Africa. It is famous for the spectacular Lake Malawi and is known as the “The Warm Heart of Africa”. Malawi is among the world's least-developed countries with a largely agricultural economy and rural population. Malawi has a welcoming culture punctuated by smiling faces. It is one the peaceful countries in Africa. Orant primarily serves the Dowa District of Central Malawi. The Kasese catchment area has about 36,000 people. As Orant continues to expand, it now implements projects in parts of Kasungu District, especially the mobile outreach clinics.

Orant Charities Africa (OCA) works in four thematic areas namely; Healthcare, Education, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Agriculture and Business. OCA uses a holistic approach which means that we provide support to the community with all thematic areas.

Mission Statement

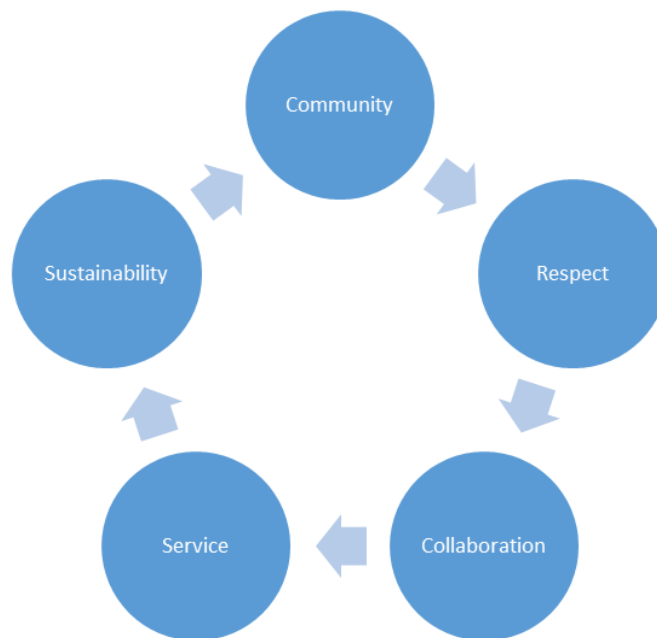
*'To build **stable** local communities by empowering **women** and the poor with **holistic** and **data-driven** programs'.*

Vision

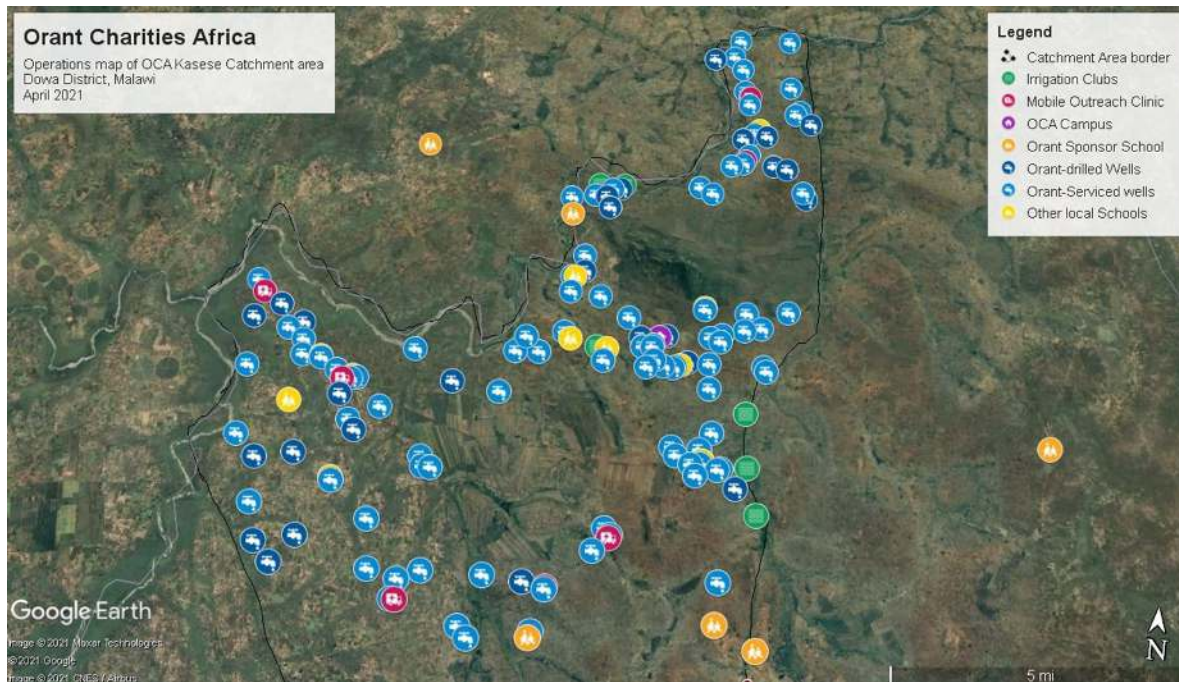
'All people in Malawi, including women, will have independent opportunities to learn, grow, and flourish in stable communities that meet their basic human needs'.

Values

Founded upon a desire to serve and inspire hope in people, we at Orant Charities Africa uphold and promote the following core five values: **community, respect, sustainability, collaboration, and service** as depicted in the diagram below;

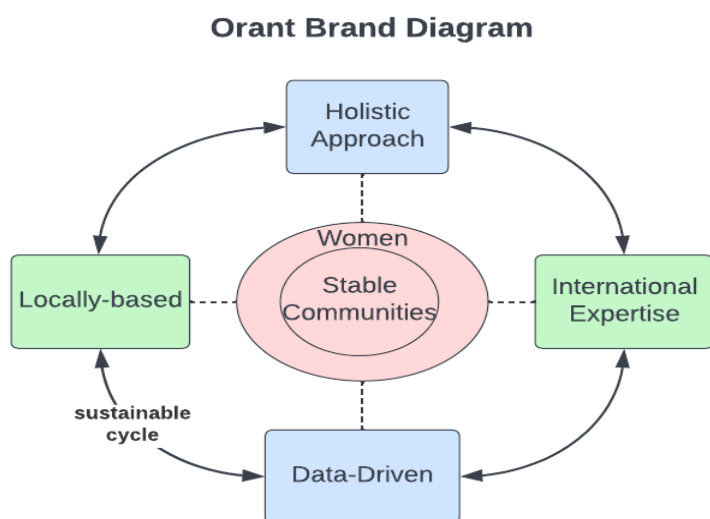


Orant is driven by the needs of people (Community), We have due regard of everyone regardless of who they are and we are guided by the rules and regulations of the societies we serve (Respect), We are not in this alone and we stand value teamwork (Collaboration), We give the best to others (Service) and we provide services which continuous and that will stand the test of times (Sustainability).



Map of Orant Activities in Kaseke Catchment, Dowa

Instead of focusing on the project approach, we use a program approach where our activities stay longer in the community. Rather than just fixing a particular problem and leaving, we are empowering communities by continuing to invest in them overtime, and offer support as they develop. Orant Charities success in program implementation is highlighted by the following illustration;



- Reliable, sustainable, holistic community development
- Low-cost, high-impact investment
- Locally managed with expert international support

Healthcare Program

The Health Program has Kasese Health Center (KHC) in Dowa and Mobile Outreach Clinics (MOC) around Bowe Catholic Mission (Kasungu) and Kasese hard-to-reach areas under the guidance of the Ministry of Health (MoH).

KHC is one of the largest health centers in Dowa. It has gained a reputation for providing high-quality primary care services – pediatric observational inpatient services, maternal and child health services, HIV and TB services, eye services, family planning and cervical cancer screening, OPD general services, and EPI. It is the only health center with a laboratory that makes diagnoses for all common diseases such as Malaria, Typhoid Fever, Peptic Ulcer Disease, HIV, TB, Urinary Tract Infection as well as full blood count. It is designated and preferred Covid-19 Testing Centre for most international and local organizations in Dowa. It has ultrasound services, especially for pregnant women.

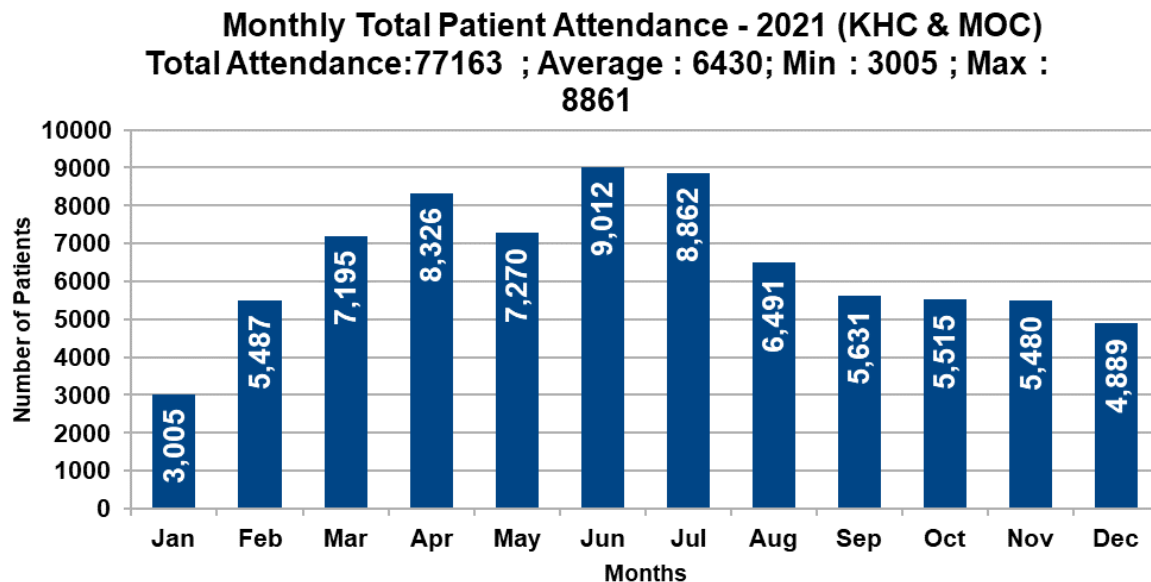
MOC is one of the largest outreach clinics in Malawi, recognized by the ministry of health (MoH) for bringing integrated health services to people's homes (decentralization) in Dowa and Kasungu. It is a differentiated model of service delivery approved by MoH for the delivery of health services in hard-to-reach areas. It is also used for decongesting health facilities to minimize the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. Our MOC team conducts 20 outreach clinics in 2 districts (4 in Dowa and 16 in Kasungu) in a month. TA Chakhaza is close to achieving geographical universal health coverage (5km radius to health services).

Healthcare Goals

The overall goal of the healthcare program exists to empower women and children, and the male population, through the provision of high quality, equitable, and sustainable healthcare in Malawi. Specifically in the Kasungu and Dowa regions.

2021 Achievements

In 2021 the medical team saw a total of **77,163** patients both in Dowa and Kasungu Districts. The total of 77,163 patients was achieved through the Kasese Health Centre and the Mobile Outreach Clinic.



Kasese Health Clinic (KHC)

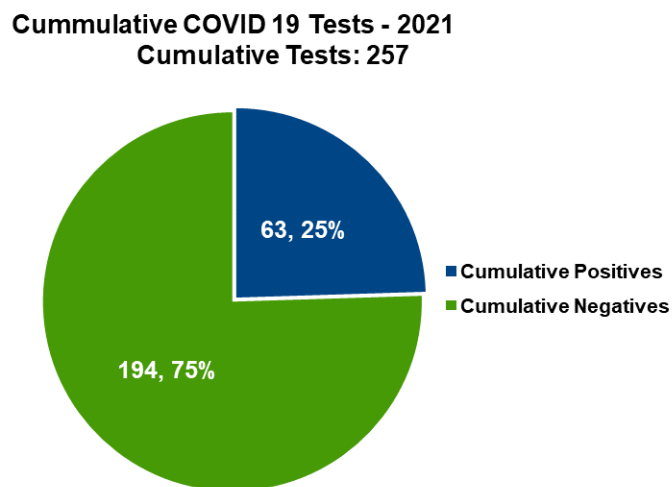


The goal of KHC is to provide excellent and quality healthcare through Kasese Health Center facilities. This static structure of 600 square meters hosts qualified full time medical personnel which includes clinicians, nurses, patient care attendants, laboratory and pharmacy personnel. It has a completely stocked pharmacy. We also have public

health offices where Health Surveillance Assistants (HSA's) work from. Periodically we invite visiting eye and dental professionals to assist our community.

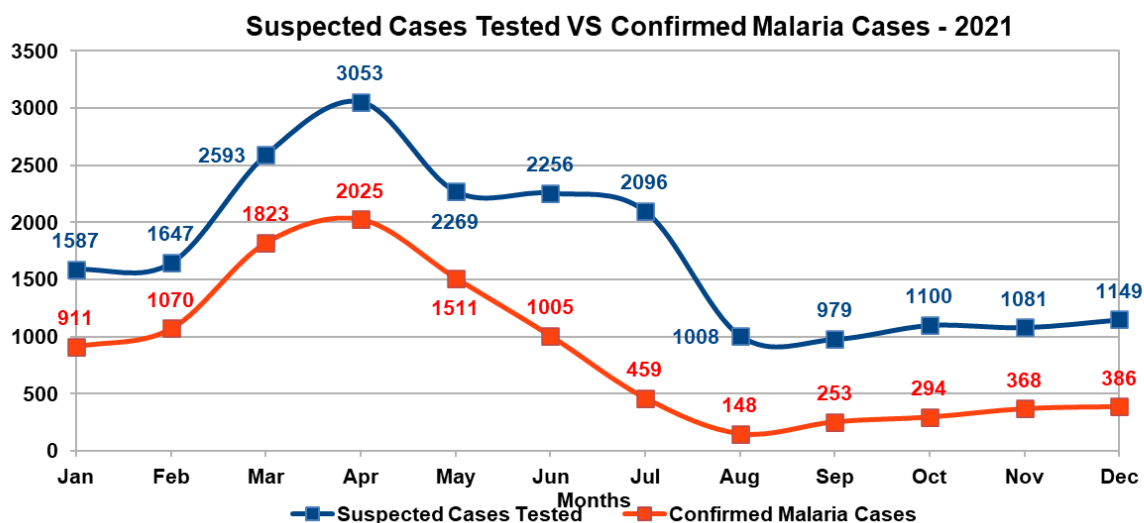
Covid-19 Pandemic Situation

The Kasese Health Center provides diverse services to the local community. In 2020 despite the ongoing threat of Covid-19 our staff diagnosed and treated over 20,000 individuals. Strict Covid protocols were observed as Orant supplied over 30,000 masks, dozens of chlorinated handwashing stations, and ongoing health education in several key areas. In 2021, a total of **7,582** Covid-19 Vaccines were administered in Kasese. It should be noted that only 25% tested positive of Covid-19 as depicted in the figure below.



Malaria and Other Diseases

Malaria is the largest single ailment we treat. Over 20% of all our patients , many of whom are children, are infected with this mosquito borne disease. In 2021, the laboratory tested **20,818** malaria suspects, of which **10,253** were confirmed malaria cases representing **49%** positivity rate. The following graph shows Malaria cases for patients who visited Kasese KHC,



Orant hosts a children's ward where we can provide overnight care while the intravenous antidote is applied, as well as shelter for the mothers. Other common diseases are asthma, Peptic ulcers, bacterial infections and muscular pain. Most of these conditions are the result of poverty, malnutrition and lack of health education. Our patient care attendants, both in our static clinic and mobile outreach conduct health training on a daily basis to our patients.

Maternal and Child Health Services

We maintain a maternity ward and conduct prenatal classes and post natal support. In 2020 we delivered 441 healthy children! In 2021, we delivered **373** healthy children. In the case of complex births we provide free transportation to the local hospital to ensure safe deliveries. KHC also conducts antenatal (ANC) visits twice a week. In 2021, 575, attended ANC in our clinic. As a way of improving Maternal and Child Health, cervical cancer screening is done to women of child bearing age. In 2021, **201** women were screened for cancer and **20** were positive.

As children grow their nutritional needs are significant. Unfortunately, the availability of food, so critical in early development, is not present. Nsima, a ground boiled corn, is the staple for the Malawian diet, is short on nutrients and sometimes in short supply, causing malnutrition in hundreds of children. Orant provides ready-to-use therapeutic

food (RUFT) or peanut butter based food supplements, loaded with vitamins and calories to these starving kids. It can add as much as two pounds per week to a growing child.



Before RUTF



After RUTF

A total of **1467** clients have been beneficiaries of the programme in the entire period of the year 2021. When children are enrolled in the program, they graduate only when they are no longer malnourished.

Furthermore, we supplement our own medical areas of expertise with monthly visits by ophthalmologists and dentists to serve those in need of specific care in those areas. For instance, the Eye Clinic managed to see **403** clients in 2021 and **49** clients were booked for surgery at other hospitals.

Use of Electronic Medical Records

In 2021, Orant started using an Electronic Medical Records (EMR) called Mizu which was developed by Baobab Health Trust. Mizu is a Malawian-made hospital-wide medical records system. It covers registration, billing, consultation, lab, and dispensary. Mizu



produces customized reports, which enhances our ability to evaluate data. There are a lot of advantages of using the EMR such as elimination of paper usage, generation of reports, managing inventory and documenting patient history, among others. We have seen improvements in data management with the coming of Mizu at KHC. Mizu was also launched in the mobile outreach clinic. However, being the first year most focus has been patient registration.

Mobile Outreach Clinic (MOC)

The goal is to improve and extend the reach of quality essential health services to the rural poor who face distance barriers to seeking and receiving health care and education. It utilizes a Landcruiser and a pull behind trailer which serves as a mobile pharmacy. The MOC team consists of a clinical officer, two nurses, laboratory and pharmacy personnel, three patient attendants and a driver. The team travels five days in a week to assist patients. The Mobile Outreach clinic is one of the



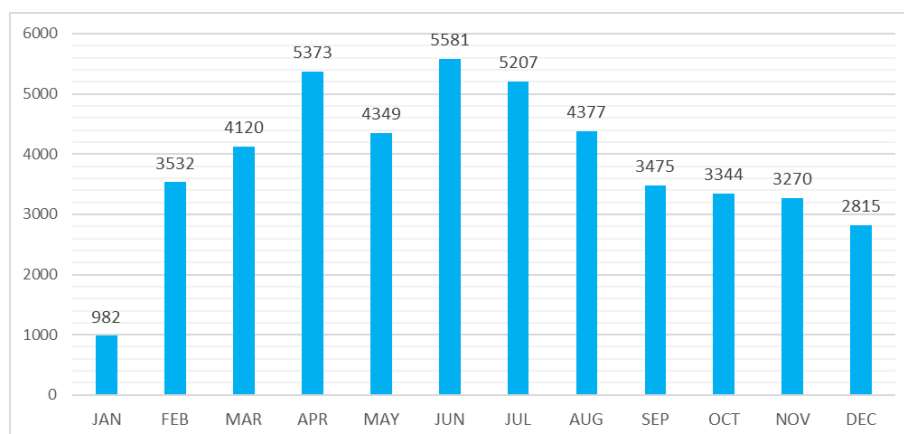
unique programmes as it brings full outpatient or primary health services right at the door of the patient in the hard-to-reach areas. The primary emphasis of this programme is based on treatment, care, support of the sick people in the remotest areas of Dowa and Kasungu Districts. The preventive component of the programme is carried through continuous dissemination of health education messages. We believe that prevention of various diseases can be achieved through direct health education messages to the

community. Furthermore, providing health information messages is the only cost-effective method as more information is disseminated at once on a day that a clinic is also in progress.



In 2021, the MOC attended a total of **46,425** patients. Out of this number 9.3% (4,323) were from Dowa while 90.7% (42,102) from Kasungu. Out of the total patients attended in the period, 18.9% were children under

the age of 5. It has been observed that unlike the static clinics (health facilities) where patients under the age of 5 years dominate, The MOC usually has more patients ≥ 5 with an increase in the number of the elderly patients. This might be due to proximity of the outreach clinic to the elderly patients among other factors. The team managed to conduct 83.5% of the scheduled clinics in the year. Overall, the team attended to an average of **229** patients per clinic. This is quite a huge number compared to patients seen in static clinics per day. The following graph.



Total 2021 patient monthly attendance in MOC

The MOC saw more patients than the static clinic. It should be noted that MOC operations were temporarily suspended in mid-January 2021 due to COVID-19, hence the lowest number of the patients in the month but was later resumed in February 2021. We also had a lower number of patients in December due to a vehicle breakdown. In

Kasungu, the MOC contributed 4.8% of the total patients seen in the entire district. This is an increase from 0.8% of 2019. In the year 2021, the MOC laboratory was fully stocked and various tests were conducted.



Outreach laboratory



The MOC vehicle and Trailer (pharmacy)

The MOC also strengthened the referral system in collaboration with the district health offices by transferring the very sick patients including children to other hospitals for further treatment.

The MOC carries enough medicine in the trailer. A pharmacy exists in Orant's campus where large quantities of drugs are kept. Having enough drugs is very important as most people flock to our clinics with assurance that they will get the right treatment and be healed of their ailments unlike other health centers, which usually do not have medicine.

The health seeking behavior in villages is not common and it results in people keeping diseases untreated for a long time. This is not necessarily a cultural thing but also because of financial challenges. So with the coming of MOC in villages, people flock to it with various medical conditions. With the referral system by the MOC, a lot of lives are being saved.

Outreach Success Story

The child in the following photos her name is Jacqueline and she had developed a very huge abscess along the right lateral chest, MOC team managed to identify, treat and referred him to Kasungu District Hospital where he underwent surgical operation under general anesthesia. About a month later (after going through successful treatment), the

mother came back to OCA MOC presenting her happy child and she appreciated OCA for the efforts made to have her child back to normal life.



Visit at MOC (Before)

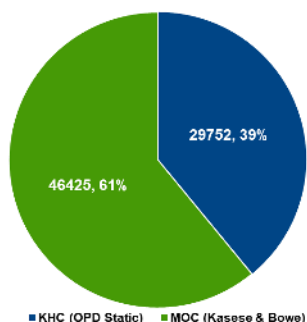


After (Jacquiline)

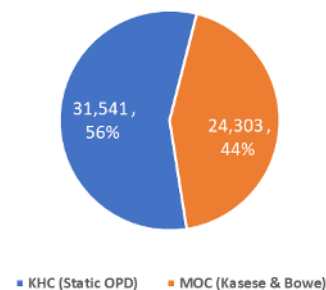
Patients in the rural community who become severely or chronically sick, usually become stranded due to lack of transportation. Sometimes patients waste a lot of time consulting with doctors and end up coming to MOC when they are critically ill. Therefore strengthening the referral system through the MOC has helped many patients. A total of **47** patients were referred to hospitals for further medical attention. Most of these referrals were children below the age of 5 and had Malaria/Anaemia related conditions. However, other cases such as severe malnutrition, fracture, sickle cell disease, heart failure, abortions were among the referred patients. Majority of these patients were referred to Kasungu District Hospital and few patients referred to Madisi Mission Hospital (Dowa) and Nkhamenya Mission Hospital in Kasungu district.

Patient Numbers: 2020 vs. 2021

KHC OPD Static VS MOC (Kasese & Bowe) - 2021



KHC (Static OPD) Vs MOC (Kasese & Bowe)- 2020



It should be noted that overall, more patients were seen in 2021 than 2022. This may be because more people are aware of our services than in previous years. Furthermore, more outreach clinics were conducted in 2021 unlike in 2020 where operations were halted for about four months due to Covid-19 pandemic. In Conclusion, the year 2021 was a success in the healthcare program.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Program

The Orant's WASH program is aligned towards contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to water and sanitation for Malawi. In 2021 targets were set in accordance to the following five key focus areas namely; New borehole drilling, Borehole/pump repairs and maintenance, WASH extension and training, School and community sanitation and Stakeholder Coordination.

WASH Goals

The Overall goal of the WASH program is to contribute towards reduced morbidity and mortality of people of Kasese through improved access to water supply, sanitation facilities and good hygiene practices. The immediate goal is to have increased access to Water and Sanitation Services to vulnerable rural communities and to ensure all the targeted beneficiaries adopt good hygiene practices while enhancing adaptive capacity through water resources management.

WASH Achievements

- Drilled 15 new wells in the catchment area
- Repaired 124 wells against the 100
- Trained 15 water point committees for the new wells in community based management
- Constructed 2 latrines for boys and girls at a primary school
- Trained 5 Area Mechanics in major pump repairs
- Conducted 15 water quality tests for new wells and all were adhering to WHO & Malawi government guidelines.

Borehole Drilling and Water Well Repairs

In 2021 Our borehole drilling program provided fresh clean water to 15 rural villages and a total of 4, 688 people were given the gift of clean water. In 2020 Orant had drilled 14 boreholes. Water quality testing was done on new wells and they are fit for consumption.



Women drawing water from unprotected water sources before OCA drilled boreholes. In Kasese catchment area.

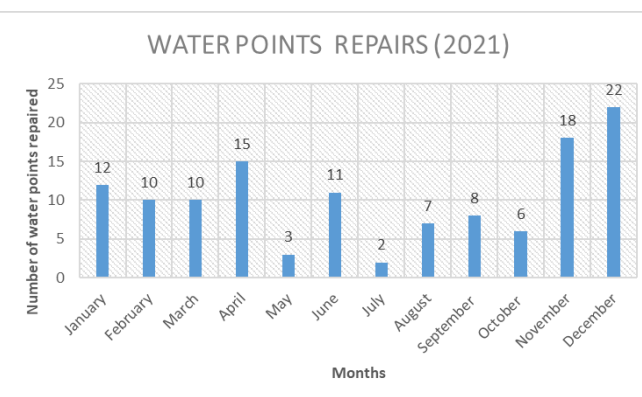


Drilling of a new well (left) and women enjoying new wells from Orant

In 2021, the borehole drilling exercise was characterized by the occurrence of dry wells. During the year OCA drilled 3 dry boreholes in Solokoto, Kameza, and Saka village. The occurrence of dry boreholes delayed the borehole drilling exercise which also affected the scheduling of other water program activities. The table below outlines the new boreholes drilled by OCA in 2021 with their location, population, Water Point Committee status, and month drilled;

NO.	VILLAGE	GVH	DRILL MONTH	COORDINATES	NAME OF DONOR	POP.	WPC TRAINED
1	Chiliphiza	Chiliphiza	May	33.529175,-13.410592	Bob/Janine	435	Yes
2	Kapale	Chikwangula	June	33.574104,-13.400601	OCUS	313	Yes
3	Soko	Joseni	June	33.589523,-13.276888	OCUS	200	Yes
4	Chinkha	Chibisa	July	33.562687,-13.4176	Susan Brennan	650	Yes
5	Solokoto	Makombwa 2	July	33.48238,-13.384628	Bob/Janine	380	Yes
6	Chipumba	Kalanga	August	33.46764,-13.360085	Steve Selinger	280	Yes
7	Kaunjika	Joseni	August	33.59561,-13.252439	Susan Brennan	310	Yes
8	Basikolo	Chikwangula	September	33.5765,-13.40692	OCUS	250	Yes
9	Mtengo	Chazinga	September	33.464947,-13.447797	OCUS	350	Yes
10	Kapapa	Makombwa	September	33.499004,-13.375022	OCUS	200	Yes
11	Kameza	Makombwa 1	October	33.498417, -13.387602	OCUS	260	Yes
12	Mphaluka	Mphaluka	October	33.600216, -13.276069	OCUS	300	Yes
13	Malizeni	Chikwangula	November	33.580868,-13.399333	OCUS	265	Yes
14	Chimpanda	GVH Mphongole	November	33.610455,-13.264183	OCUS	240	Yes
15	Chikapa	July	November	33.519287,-13.382517	OCUS	255	Yes

In 2021, the water and sanitation program supported repairs of 124 Afridev pumps within the Kasese catchment. Furthermore, 11 water point committees were trained in community based management of water facilities which included trained Afridev pump repairs and borehole cleanliness.



Water point repairs

Sanitation and Hygiene

OCA also constructed two latrine blocks (one for boys and one for girls) at Madzo Primary School. Each latrine block has four rooms and will assist 220 girls and 195 Boys. Madzo primary school covers standards 1 to 5 and has a total enrolment of 415 learners of ages between 6 to 15 years.



Old latrine (before)

Improving sanitation and hygiene in schools creates a conducive environment for pupils to focus on school and not worry about privacy, reduced diarrhea diseases and absenteeism especially for girls who are usually affected during menstruation.



New latrine blocks after Orant's intervention. Learners enjoying the new latrines and handwashing facilities

The water program also did other interventions such as Covid-19 awareness and distribution of preventative materials. The water program in collaboration with the Agriculture distributed COVID 19 preventive materials at Bowe Farmers' cooperative in Kasungu. The following items were distributed at Bowe; 310 reusable cloth face masks, 36 bottles of hand sanitizers , 25kgs of granular chlorine, 9 Buckets hand washing buckets with taps, 50 tablets of anti-bacterial soap for handwashing.

In collaboration with the education program, a total of 2000 reusable cloth face masks were distributed to all learners and teachers in three primary schools (Ndinga, Katalima, and Chinguwi). Face masks were also distributed to all water point committees during training conducted in 2021. Granular chlorine was also distributed through Health Surveillance Assistants (HSAs), especially during the rainy season between January to March for household water treatment in areas with limited access to clean water.



Distribution of buckets, chlorine, tablets of soap and face masks (left), and children wearing face masks

Water Achievements: 2020 vs. 2021

Activity	2020	2021
Borehole drilling	14	15
Borehole repairs	90	124
Water committee trainings	14	`11
Latrines constructed	2	2

Summary of Water Achievements in 2021

During the year 2021 OCA water program managed to successfully implement almost all its activities and targets as summarized in the table below;

No.	Activity	Target	Achieved	Comments
1	Borehole drilling	15	15	These new boreholes were all drilled within the OCA catchment. A total of 4, 688 have been reached with clean water.

2	Water point Committee training	15	15	Water point Committees were trained in minor pump repairs and borehole sanitation.
3	Borehole/ Pump repairs	100	124	This is demand-driven hence no specific target but all boreholes were from within Kasese's health center catchment.
4	Latrine construction	2	2	Constructed at Madzo primary school (1 block for boys and girls respectively). They are 4 door latrines.
5	Distribution of handwashing facilities other COVID 19 prevention materials at Bowe Farmers' Cooperative	1	1	These were distributed as a COVID-19 preventive measure.
6	Distribution of granular chlorine	18	18	Distributed through Kasese Health Center Environmental health department in the rainy season
9	Installation of borehole placards for OCA boreholes	49	35	Some of the boreholes drilled late in 2021 do not have placards as they are yet to be made.
10	Distribution of reusable face masks in schools	3	3	In collaboration with Education, program masks were distributed at Chinguni, Ndinga, and Katalima
11	District Coordinating Team (DCT) Meetings attendance	N/A	5	OCA presented water program progress reports in 2 DCT meetings out of the 5 attended. Supported 1 DCT meeting.
12	Joint monitoring field visit with district council representatives	1	0	This was not conducted last year and is expected to be conducted early 2022.

13	Area Development Committee (ADC) Meetings	2	1	Supported 1 ADC meeting where the water program presented a progress report and plans for 2021.
14	AM refresher training	1	1	In collaboration with the district council, Pump-aid, and Inter-aide
15	Water Quality Testing of new boreholes	15	15	This was done on new boreholes drilled in 2021 to ensure OCA is supplying water of good quality to communities. All boreholes tested were found to be within water quality guidelines by WHO and Malawi Government.

Education

In keeping with our mission and core values, OCA collaborates with local communities, schools, and families to create a multi-level support system for students on their education journey. OCA provides tuition and other support to students who cannot afford to go to school. Secondary school in Malawi requires payment of tuition and most average families cannot afford to send their children to school and girls end up being affected. This is where OCA comes in to help vulnerable students to go to school and complete their education.



Education Goals

The goal of the education program is to support and fund secondary education, primarily for young women by providing scholarships and mentoring to qualified applicants.

OCA thrives to support students in order to break the cycle of poverty, and help them to be self-dependent individuals throughout their life. The initial focus of the Education program has been secondary school. However, OCA observed that students who have passed secondary school fail to proceed to university due to lack of finances. As such in 2021, OCA introduced the Orant Ulemu Scholarship to assist students.



Education Program Manager mentoring sponsored students at Nkhamenya girls secondary school

Education Achievements: 2020 vs. 2021

With assistance from donors such as GeoShack and other committed individual donors, OCA sent **113** students to school in 2021 against the **97** students who were assisted in 2020. The added students were because of more donors willing to support students. Out of the 113 students; 71 were under OCA individual donors and 42 were under GeoShack. The 42 students supported by Geoshack are in eight schools across 3 districts in the central region namely Dowa, Kasungu and Lilongwe. Out of the 71 students funded by individual donors, a total of **66** students are in secondary schools and **three** students are in primary schools. Previously we had a grant from Rotary but it was utilized. Various Rotary club members continue to donate towards individual student support.

University Selection

In the 2020/2021 academic year, OCA had **three** form four students who were funded by Rotary International District 5810 and were learning at Nkhamenya girls secondary school. These three students sat for the Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE). OCA has been paying tuition for these girls since form one. all these students passed and they applied to different universities. The University selection list was released in August 2021 and these three students (100%) were selected into prestigious Malawian Universities as follows;

Name of student	School	Course
1. Bridget Khunga	Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS)	Bachelor of Science in Industrial Laboratory Technology
2. Jessie Zulu	Chancellor College	Bachelor of Science in Chemistry
3. Vanessa Kawerengera	Malawi University of Business and applied Science (MUBAS)	Bachelor of Education in Business Studies

This is a great achievement to OCA because we now have **12** students who have been selected into University since 2017. In Malawi the competition is always high and OCA is

proud that the girls made it into University and it's a success of the OCA education program.

Success Story: Graduation of Princess

OCA has supported the education of Princess Phiri up to college. In the year 2021, Princess graduated with an advanced Diploma in Community Development and she was studying at Salima Technical College. Lonjezo Chauya, Education Program Manager for OCA attended the graduation ceremony.



[Princess on graduation day](#)

Orant Charities had found Princess while doing charity work in Bowe, Kasungu district when she was in standard 3 (primary school) 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 supported her with tuition and other basic needs until she graduated form 4. She passed her Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE) and she went to pursue her studies at Salima Technical college. Prior to her graduation, Princess volunteered to work as an intern with the Mobile Outreach Team for OCA.

National Examination Results

Junior Certificate of Education (JCE) Exams

In the same year, a total of 13 OCA students sat for the JCE examinations. This examination is the first secondary school examination; it is written by the students after completing junior secondary level which covers two academic years. All 13 OCA students passed and they qualified for the award of the Junior Certificate of Education. This represents a 100% pass rate. These were all boarding students.

Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE) Exams

OCA had 26 students from different secondary schools who wrote the 2021 MSCE examinations. Amongst these students 14 passed and 12 failed representing a 53.8 % pass rate. From the 12 students who failed, 11 students from Day schools which is an indication that Day school students are not performing better than boarding students. The OCA education program will continue to encourage its students, especially the day school students to work extra hard since they face a lot of challenges as compared to boarding school students. Some of the challenges faced by day school students include; long distance to schools, household chores, gender-based violence, negative cultural practices e.t.c

OCA is pleased to report that some of its students are among the 57.90 % pass rate for the 2021 MSCE exams in Malawi. However, the 2021 MSCE pass rate is a slight improvement from the 2020 pass rate at 41.42 and the 2019 pass rate at 50.42 percent. Yet the overall 2021 pass rate is 11 percent worse than the 2017/2018 pass rate at 63.23 percent. This is a significant decline that threatens to retard the country's strides towards reaching the set policy target of 80 percent pass rate.

Mentorship to Students

The Education program ensures that the students are also mentored. The Program Manager plus other personnel visits the students. In 2021, one of the OCA board members Mrs. Ivy Chihana played a huge role in mentoring the students. Various schools were visited including Natola, Chayamba and Dowa Secondary schools. The

students were greatly inspired by the success of Mrs. Ivy Chihana in her law profession. Through these sessions, the students were able to develop certain problem-solving skills which will help them deal with particular issues surrounding their lives. The students are advised to cope with different situations they face in their school life. For example, how should they talk politely or relate with their peers. Such advice will give them perspective on how they should behave in certain scenarios.



Ivy interacting with Dowa students from Natola and Dowa Secondary Schools

School Visits and Distribution of School Supplies

In the year 2021, the education department visited all students in primary and secondary. School visits are essential for Monitoring the academic performance of students, payments of tuition, raising awareness of the education program , Mentoring and encouraging students, and also providing support to students such as writing materials, calculators, school bags, school uniforms and sanitary utensils. Apart from the usual monthly visits, the US team and the Executive Director visited a number of schools to interact with the students such as Likuni girls secondary school, Nkhamenya girls secondary school, Ngala Community Day Secondary School (CDSS) and St. Peters primary school.



School visits to Ngala and Nkhamenya girls secondary schools

OCA provides support to students which includes writing materials, uniforms, school bags and essential groceries to sustain students' lives and help them concentrate in school since these students come from poor families and cannot afford such basic necessities. When students lack such basic needs they may have a low self-esteem or 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, no wonder OCA provides such support to help the students flourish in their academics.



Students from Dowa and Dzenza secondary schools posing with school supplies



Students from Chayamba secondary school



Students from Nkhamenya

OCA strives to ensure that it supports education inclusively. It should be noted that 3 students from Chayamba secondary school are blind and one is a person with albinism. OCA also supports a deaf student (Modester) who is in primary school who is studying at Embangweni school for the deaf.

Face- Masks Distribution

A total of **4651** masks were distributed in schools to help in the fight against Covid-19. **1700** masks distributed to 3 partner schools (schools where we are sponsoring individual students) and **2951** masks distributed to 5 non-partner schools (where we are not supporting individual students). Covid-19 pandemic was still a threat in the year and as a preventative measure schools mandated students to be wearing masks. The cost of masks is expensive to most poor students. OCA had embarked on a mask production project in 2020 dubbed 'Masks for Malawi' whose goal was to produce 30,000 reusable cloth masks. This goal was achieved and it was necessary to continue supporting the community with masks.





Chayamba Secondary Students wearing cloth masks

Primary schools also benefited from the masks distribution exercise. The mask distribution was accompanied by the Primary Education Advisor (PEA) and the Area Development Committee (ADC) Chairman. Below are the pictures;



Chiwira and Chinguwi primary schools received masks

Covid-19 Lockdown and Studies

There was a time when schools were closed during lock-down due to Covid-19 pandemic. Schools opened on 4th January for the 2021 academic year. As the OCA education program was preparing to start visiting the sponsored students for the collection of school reports and payment of school fees in their particular schools, Malawi declared a state of national disaster as the country is being swept by a new, fast-spreading wave of the Corona Virus Disease. This was in the first few weeks of January 2021.

Days after the declaration of the national disaster, the President of Malawi ordered that all schools be closed for three weeks except for students who were at that moment about

to write the Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE) Examinations. OCA had only 3 students from Nkhamenya girls secondary school writing the exams. The President also said that all students in boarding schools must be screened for COVID-19 before they go home. However, the ministry of education later disclosed that over half of the students in one of the girls' secondary schools in Lilongwe were tested positive for coronavirus. OCA is supporting five students at this school, fortunately none of them had the corona virus disease.

In the same period, it was announced that schools would be closed for another two weeks, this means that schools were closed for 5 weeks since January 18th. It was a tough situation in the Malawian education sector because the closure of schools was affecting the students, especially girls. When schools were closed for six months in the first wave of COVID-19, Malawi registered an unprecedented number of teenage pregnancies.

Before students were sent home, the school management gave them advice on how they can manage working from home. They were told that when they are home, they should carry on reading their notes, and work in pairs from home, that way they are prepared when schools reopen. OCA Education program also 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.

Introduction of “Orant Ulemu Scholarship”

At the end of 2021, OCA introduced a University sponsorship program in the following year, earmarked for the year 2022. The scholarship is called “Orant Ulemu Scholarship”. We believe that education is a key to change and sponsorship gives a child the means to escape from poverty and to change his or her life for good. Not only does it make a difference to a young person's life, but it has made a difference to the lives of sponsors too.

Orant Ulemu Scholarship aims to provide Tuition, accommodation, food and books to students who cannot afford. The assistance is prioritizing students who were previously sponsored by OCA in secondary school and these students must pass their MSCE grades below 25 points and must be selected into University/college and also meet the sponsorship selection criteria. Students who were not previously sponsored by OCA in secondary school will also be considered more in future. The application for the scholarship is competitive and involves writing essays. The scholarship started with six students from various universities in Malawi.

Agriculture

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, Katalima and part of Karonga section approximately within a radius of 15 kilometers. The program also covered some parts of Kasungu district which include BOMFA Cooperative and Bowe Parish. The program ensures that farmers have an increased yield per farmer per acre of cultivated land and that farmers have an understanding of good agricultural practices. The OCA agriculture program also helps farmers to have access to profitable reliable markets and soft loans. In the 2020/2021 growing season, OCA managed to provide 20 acres of land to those households who do not have enough land for farming.

Agriculture Goals

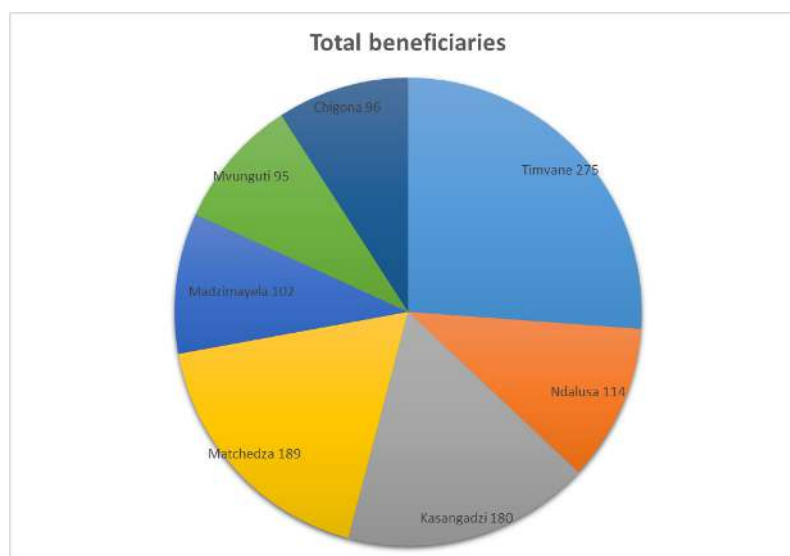
The overall goal of the Agriculture program is to support farmers with best practices to turn farming for survival into farming for business thereby contributing to the attainment of national food security, poverty reduction and national economic development objectives. The immediate goal of the program is to promote agricultural productivity of small-scale farmers and help them have increased access to affordable and efficient agricultural inputs and technologies hence reducing hunger problems and financial problems in the villages around Kasese.

OCA has a 32 acre farm that provides employment to the community, this also helps people in the community being empowered economically. For the year 2021, the agriculture program was divided in two sections which includes; Irrigation, and OCA farm production. Several smallholder farmers in the villages around Kasese catchment area have benefited from the OCA project through training in good agricultural practices. The agriculture program performed several activities in supporting smallholder farmers in the communities. The activities were aimed at empowering the local farmers to live independent lives by having enough food and improved economic levels in their homes through irrigation and rain-fed farming;

Irrigation Clubs

Throughout the year 2021, OCA worked with 7 irrigation clubs in production of Maize, Beans, Tomatoes, and Vegetables. These 7 irrigation clubs include Mantchedza, Kasangadzi, Timvane, Ndalusa, Mvunguti, Chigona, and Madzimayela. Some of the activities which were carried out in these irrigation clubs include ploughing, bed making, sowing, weeding, Pests and disease control, fertilizer application, pruning, staking and Harvesting. 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 7 clubs which have been working with OCA, the total number of farmers who have been taking part in the production process were 194 whereas 117 farmers were women and 77 farmers were men giving us percentage of 60 percent women and 40 percent men since women empowerment has been a goal for the project. A total of 1051 beneficiaries were supported from irrigation clubs as depicted in the *Pie chart below*;



Exemplary Irrigation Club

Chigona irrigation club has been one of the exemplary clubs and was in production of Tomato, Maize and Beans. During the irrigation year, Chigona club was able to work with 26 members and was able to get an income of MK3,697,400 (\$4509.0) as profit. The irrigation club managed to pay back the required 75% of the loan. Taking into account cost of inputs, on average each



member was getting MK142,207.69 (\$173.42) at the end of the production year. OCA supported the club with a solar water pump which helped in increasing land for production. There are other clubs who did well such as Ndalusa (\$2776), Timvane (\$2815), and Madzimayela (\$2556). The club which made the least proceeds was Mvunguti which made a total of MK672,500 (\$820).



Irrigated maize from Chigona Club

Upgrade from Watering Cans to Solar Powered Pump

2021 has been a great year to the irrigation clubs as four clubs have graduated from using watering cans to Solar water pumps. OCA managed to provide portable F2 solar

powered water pumps to Ndalusa, Timvane, Chigona and Kasangadzi irrigation clubs. 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 have joined the club since they have a mechanized way for watering the crops. During the time of water pump system installation, club members promised OCA that they will take care of the pump and the land to be cultivated will increase. Apart from the solar pump, OCA also supported two irrigation clubs with drip kits which saves water. The clubs supported with drip kits include Ndalusa and Timvane.



Upgrading from watering canes to Solar water pump

In 2021, OCA distributed 4 solar powered water pumps to irrigation clubs. Apart from the water pumps OCA distributed the following items; drip irrigation kits for quarter an acre (2), Pesticides (236), Bags of Fertilizers (62), Seeds (153), Watering cans (64). The watering cans were distributed because of financial constraints, the ideal situation is use of solar powered pumps. OCA migrated four irrigation clubs from the labor intensive watering canes to solar powered pumps.

Microloan Approach for Irrigation Clubs

OCA uses a microloan approach so that irrigation clubs should take farming as a business and not just receiving handouts. 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's (drip kits and solar pumps), Sprayers 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 while watering equipment and sprayers was a donation to boost the farming capacity of clubs. The loan percentage paid back to the organization was only 75% of the farm inputs given. 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.



Sprayers and drip kits being given to the irrigation clubs

In 2020 Orant's agricultural team engaged with 8 Irrigation clubs which are cooperative oriented village farmers that historically have grown only for subsistence . The training we provide allows for larger crops of maize, tomatoes, soya and groundnuts(peanuts). The year 2020 was a successful year for these clubs. The addition of a solar water pump donated by Orant allowed second crops to be grown after the rainy season, greatly enhancing food availability and village profits which are used to repay loans for inputs and pay for children's education, as well as improvements in housing. During the **2021**

growing season , the agriculture program performed several activities in supporting smallholder farmers in the communities.Orant expanded the agricultural program to include 10 more families to farm part of the 32 acres adjacent to our campus.

OCA Farm

OCA farm was divided into two parts; one part was leased by a big farmer during 2020-2021 growing season and later during 2021-2022 growing season, the land was given to the farming families from the community of Kasese. Furthermore demonstration plots were put on the farm to teach farmers good agricultural practices.

During the production season of 2020- 2021, maize was grown on the leased portion by a commercial farmer (tenant). The production process went through some challenges such as witchweed, pests attack and prolonged dry spells. These problems brought a reduction in harvest compared to our expectation. 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. The tenant harvested 369 bags of Maize and twenty three percent was paid to the organization which is 69 bags. These bags were later distributed to poor families during the lean season.



Harvesting and treating harvested maize grain from weevil's attack

After harvesting the 2020-2021 crops, OCA decided not to lease its land but to let hard working poor farmers use the land so that their lives improves. The program of working with the community of Kasese on OCA farm started in the 2021-2022 growing season and they formed a group which was named as Mwayiwathu club. The total land given to

Mwayiwathu club is 20 acres which was cultivated mainly with cash crops such as Groundnuts and Soya beans. The total number of families working under this project were 10 families from 10 different villages around Kasese and 60 % of the direct beneficiaries were female. Each family was given 2 acres of land to cultivate one type of crop between Groundnuts and Soya. Total land of 12 acres was cultivated with Groundnuts and 8 acres for Soya beans. The project aims at training smallholder farmers in talking farming as a business. OCA supported the club with agriculture expertise, land for farming and microloans in form of farm inputs and they will payback without interest in the first year. The farm inputs given to the club included seed, inoculant and pesticides. The farmers play the role of providing labour to their allocated fields so that the crops are always free from weeds and pests. The established club is also planning on being registered as a cooperative in future so that they can be able to sell their produce to big markets at better prices, among other cooperative benefits.

Cooperatives Engagement

Orant works with Bowe Farmers Cooperative herein referred to as BOMFA. In addition to training and supporting farmers in the Kasungu area Orant has been supporting a large well run agricultural cooperative in Traditional Authority Mphomwa situated north of Kasese for seven years. BOMFA's small management team provides inputs, training and



marketing to over 700 small shareholder farmers. Much of their focus has been on sunflowers which are hardy and grow well locally. The seeds are processed at their storage facility into sunflower oil. BOMFA then markets and sells the oil, which is organic and popular for cooking. In 2021 Orant greatly expanded their loans to BOMFA to aid in providing financial independence to an expanding group of Cooperative members.

Food Distribution to Vulnerable Households

In the year 2021, Kasese catchment area was affected with hunger problems due to poor harvest which farmers got from previous year. The problem of hunger was a big challenge to the area due to the late government food distribution program. OCA had Maize in its



storage facilities which was organized to be distributed within the month of February.

OCA agriculture office had in stock a total of 732 (36,600kgs) bags of maize which was distributed in three areas which include Kasese catchment area (Dowa), Bowe parish and BOMFA (Kasungu) areas. Total bags of 500 were distributed at Kasese catchment area, 100 bags at Bowe parish and 132 bags at BOMFA. Each beneficiary was given 25kgs of Maize hence a total of 1,464 households benefited from the program.

Beneficiaries were identified by Health surveillance assistants (HSAs), Agriculture Extension development Office (AEDO), Village Development committee (VDC) and Area Stakeholder panel Members (ASP). The team was considered to help in identification of beneficiaries since they are conversant with the community and individual households. The other benefit of using this particular team is that they have a lot of information of households who benefited from similar food programs elsewhere hence it minimizes



problems of one household benefiting more than once in a similar program. Verification of the selected beneficiaries was done by some workers from OCA, Senior HSA and Agriculture Extension Development Coordinator (AEDC) from Madisi EPA with an aim of finding out if identified

beneficiaries are eligible or not.

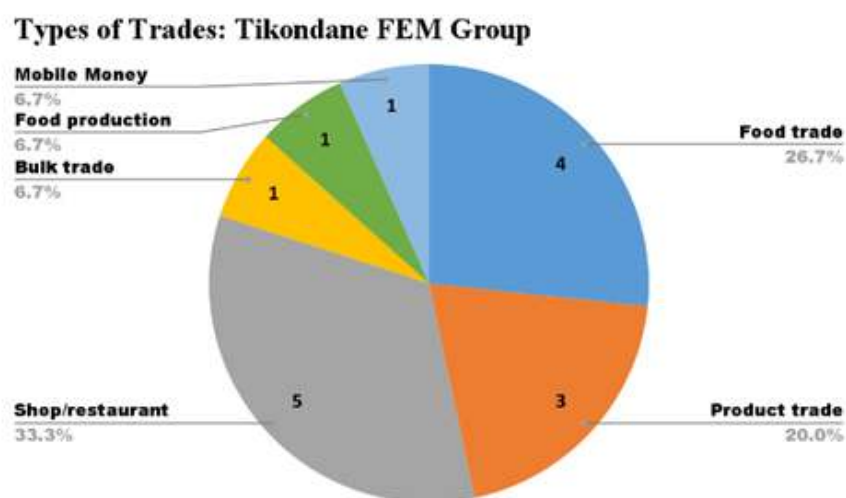
Business and Financial Empowering Microloans (FEM) Program

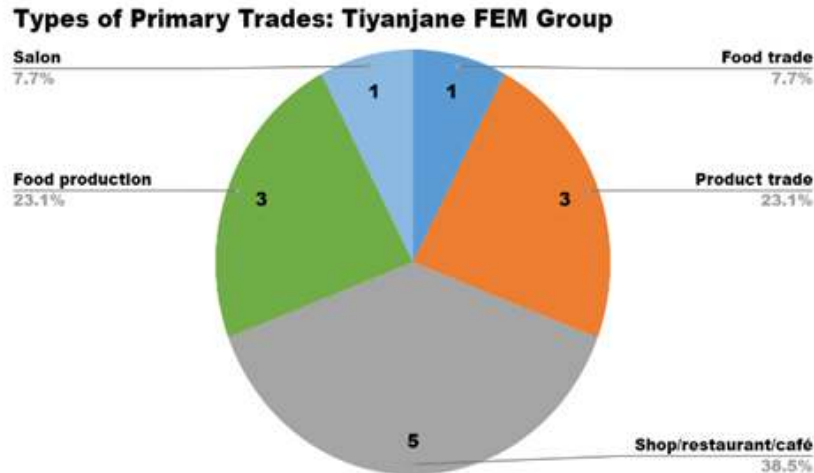
Financial empowering microloan (FEM) program was introduced in April 2018 in an effort to empower women and improve livelihoods through provision of interest free microloans and business mentorship. These microloans are disbursed and repaid within a period of four months. The initiative mainly targets women entrepreneurs within the Kasese catchment area. The FEM program leads Orant's small business initiatives.

FEM Goals

To empower women to be (financially) self-reliant through micro loans, training, and business mentorship.

Initially, the program started with one group comprising 13 women entrepreneurs and the group was called Tikondane women's group. Currently, the program has two groups namely Tikondane and Tiyanjane which have a total population of 15 and 13 women entrepreneurs respectively. Below are charts showing summaries of trades the women entrepreneurs are involved in.





Achievements 2020 vs. 2021

In 2020 Orant's nascent FEM program initiated small financial loans and mentoring to 15 women. While the program was successful on a small scale we felt it had a great deal more potential. FEM was rejuvenated under a new program manager and business professional. It now incorporates weekly group meetings with the women to help them interact and to groom the women entrepreneurs so that they have a saving culture through village savings and loans (VS&L).

We have since initiated mobile banking, business counseling, profitability analysis, and diversification. The small businesses range from bakery goods, to mobile phone services, empowering the ladies to expand their business and improve the quality of life for themselves and their children.

The Financial Empowerment Microloan program continually provides financial and literacy support to women entrepreneurs around the Kasese catchment area to ensure that women are economically empowered at a local level. To date, the program is supporting twenty-eight women entrepreneurs. In 2021, OCA disbursed loans twice to Tikondane women and once to Tiyanjane group and payments were made in July and August. To offset the business challenges brought by Covid-19 the loan repayment

period was prolonged to give room for making more money. In the year, the lowest loan disbursed in the cycles was \$60 and the highest was \$368.

In 2021, the program trained the women in the following areas: Goal setting, bookkeeping and financial management, Savings and investments, Prioritization and digital financial literacy.



Group discussions for Tikondane



Training in progress with women entrepreneurs

OCA recognises the importance of collaboration as such the financial literacy training is done in coordination with Zoe Empowers and Small and Medium Enterprises Development Institute (SMEDI). During the year monitoring visits were conducted as it helps in keeping track of program progress. It also motivates the women entrepreneurs as they are refreshed on what was previously learnt such as record keeping.



Maness(L) showing off her Thobwa (maize drink)

Dorothy serving a customer at her business post

Targeting and Verification of New Members

During the year 2021, the FEM program introduced another group of 13 women entrepreneurs called Tiyanjane women's group. This was done in order to widen our target population so that we reach out and improve as many livelihoods as possible within our catchment area. Before this, forty five application forms were distributed to women entrepreneurs who had shown interest and had applied to be part of the FEM program. Out of the 45 target population, 13 were verified and confirmed to be part of the new group.



Sensitization Meeting with Market committee

An awareness meeting with the Kasese market committee was conducted with the aim of establishing a good working relationship as most of the women entrepreneurs we work with are operating their businesses at the trading center. Furthermore, the relationship that was built, had helped us during the process of identification and verification of new FEM members since the committee members were familiar with most of the applicants.

Digital Finance Literacy

In its quest to promote digital finance literacy among women, OCA partnered with Strategic Impact Advisors (SIA), an international consulting firm that was implementing the HEY Sister Show me the Mobile money campaign. With funding from USAID-WGDP, SIA developed an audio series digital financial literacy curriculum which was being used to facilitate learning during the campaign. Although the campaign was mainly targeting women, men were not completely left out. OCA had a target of 4500 women and managed to reach out to 4783 women.



FEM Manager conducting a training (left), and OCA Country Director and SIA Country Lead handing-over project materials

FEM Program Challenges

Despite successes of the FEM program the following challenges were encountered;

1. Covid-19 pandemic affected the economy and business operations
2. Difficulties in frequent collaborating with government officials because of tight schedules
3. Gender and cultural barriers

Lessons Learnt

1. Gender inclusive approach during implementation is important
2. Community engagement during implementation contributes to program success

Activities	Target	Achieved	Remarks
Microloans disbursements for women	3	3	Tikondane and Tiyanjane FEM group received loans in two and one cycles respectively.
Facilitate account opening for women entrepreneurs	28	25	One member already had an account and two are still outstanding as there were issues to do with their national identification cards hence the bank could not open accounts for them. Those without bank accounts were using mobile money.
Business/ entrepreneurship Training	3	3	Tikondane Fem group had two training sessions whereas Tiyanjane had one training session
VS&L Meetings	N/A	21	Conducted group VS&L meeting on a weekly basis starting from the month of August, 2021.
Monitoring Visits	12	12	Visits were carried out fortnightly to track business/program progress
Sensitization with Market committee	1	1	Conducted one meeting with Kasese market committee as part of community engagement
Targeting and Verification of FEM Members	1	1	Was done once with 26 women entrepreneurs out of which 13 were verified into the program
Establishment of new FEM Group	1	1	Established Tiyanjane FEM group comprising 13 women entrepreneurs operating businesses within Kasese catchment area
Develop Business Plans for women entrepreneurs	30	28	Projected to have 30 women by year end but only managed to work with 28 women hence 28 business plans developed

Financial Highlights

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
(Malawi Kwacha in Thousands)		
Opening Cash and Cash Equivalents	51,314	37,250
Funds from Orant Charities USA	733,518	510,230
Clinic Fees	24,227	11,693
Hey Sister DFLC project	3,059	0
Exchange Gain	2,787	0
Agriculture Income	956	1,791
Bank interest	108	38
Other Income	5,032	5,678
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>821,001</u>	<u>566,680</u>
Payments		
Agriculture Extension Program	20,050	7,315
Education Program	32,230	19,273
Medical Clinic Services	140,631	117,070
Meetings	1,013	659

Administration	148,203	105,164
Staff expenses	231,365	183,278
Water program	69,245	64,697
Expensed Assets	87,924	17,910
Total Payments	<u>730,661</u>	<u>515,366</u>
EXCESS OF RECEIPTS OVER PAYMENTS	<u>90,340</u>	<u>51,314</u>
REPRESENTED BY:		
Cash at Bank	27,317	21,219
Accounts Receivables	63,023	30,095
Closing Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>90,340</u>	<u>51,314</u>

Management and the Board of Trustees

OCA Management Team

Gabriel Kapanda



Gabriel is the Country Director, and he provides leadership and management to over 50 employees. He has worked with Orant for over the last 5 years. Prior to joining Orant, he worked with Plan International Inc-Malawi and other NGOs. Gabriel achieved a Master of Science degree (Sanitation) and also a Bachelor of Science degree in Water Resources Management and Development both from Mzuzu University. He is currently pursuing a Master of Business Administration

at the Malawi Institute of Management. He is a family man and a husband to Chikondi and together they have a son named Jotham. During his free time, he likes; farming, traveling, reading, networking, watching movies & listening to music. He is the President nominee for the year 2023/2024 for Rotary Club of Bwaila-Lilongwe.

James Mwambene, Healthcare Program Manager



James is the Healthcare Program Manager and his role entails managing both the static and mobile outreach clinics. James is a certified Clinical Officer, and Healthcare management specialist. James started his career in the government and now has over 18 years working in healthcare and has managed various USAID programs in the non-profit sector. James holds the following academic accolades; MSc. in Healthcare

Administration from Asia University, Taiwan, Postgraduate Diploma in Management Studies from the University of Malawi, University Professional Degree in Health Care and Management in Tropical Countries from University of Basel, Swiss Institute of

Public Health, Switzerland, Diploma in Health Leadership from the Institute of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Sciences, Malawi and Diploma in Clinical Medicine From College of Health Sciences, Malawi. He holds various professional certificates and also has four publications to his name.

Wilson Bett, Clinician Health Center



Wilson holds a Diploma in Clinical Medicine, a Diploma in Anesthesia

& Intensive care medicine and a BA of Health Systems Management from Exploits University.

Wilson is the Lead Clinician of Orant Charities Africa and he leads the Kasese Health Centre team in daily operations. Wilson has over 18 years working as a Clinical Officer in various Hospitals. Wilson likes being innovative and suggesting new projects in

Kasese Health Centre. In 2018, OCA opened a 24 hours children's observation ward which was championed by Wilson.

George Matapandeu, Clinician Outreach



George holds a Diploma in Clinical Medicine and BSc in Nutrition and Food Science from the University of Malawi. George has over 17 years working as a Clinician in various hospitals. George joined OCA in 2015 and he is the current Program Manager for Mobile Outreach Clinics where he supervises 8 employees. He is passionate about public health and provision of medical assistance to rural masses. George also oversees the Peanut Butter Project whose goal is to improve nutrition of children.

George has one publication to his name which was published with American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene titled, "An Outbreak of Pellagra in the Kasese

Catchment Area, Dowa, Malawi”
(<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5417224/>).

Linda Phiri, Head Nurse



Linda is a Nurse and she holds a certificate in Nursing and Midwifery and also a BA degree in Health Systems Management. Linda Joined OCA in 2016 and has contributed significantly in maternal and child health with OCA. As a Lead Nurse she supervises fellow nurses and patient care attendants. Prior to joining OCA she worked with various hospitals including Daeyang Luke in Lilongwe and she has over 15 years experience in the nursing career.

Mayamiko Mwenda, WASH manager



Mayamiko joined Orant Charities Africa (OCA) in September, 2020 as a WASH Manager. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Water Resources Management and Development from Mzuzu University. In addition to his studies, Mayamiko also holds a certificate in Project Monitoring and Evaluation from Mpemba Staff Development Institute (SDI). Mayamiko has over 4 years work experience in the WASH sector especially in Project management and implementation of donor funded projects.

Mayamiko previously worked with GOAL Malawi, Basic Services Development Agency (BASEDA). Since joining OCA Mayamiko has been leading in borehole drilling & repairs, training of water point committees (WPCs), fostering stakeholder partnerships, community mobilization, promotion of sanitation and hygiene as well as development of monitoring and evaluation of the Orant water program. In his free time Mayamiko likes watching soccer, movies and socializing with friends.

Lonjezo Chauya, Education Manager

Lonjezo obtained a Bachelor of Education Degree in Business Studies from the University of Malawi, The Polytechnic. She have been working with Orant Charities Africa as an **Education Support Program Manager** since February 2017. As an education program manager, She is responsible for all of the management of educational support programs to vulnerable students through tuition support and monitoring. She has two years' experience working with NGOs. Lonjezo is passionate about promoting the education of girls in Malawi because girls' access to education is very low and they have no decision-making power in the society as they are regarded as inferior to men.



Gracious Msimuko, Agriculture Manager



Gracious joined Orant in 2017 and he is the brains behind the success of the agriculture program. Prior to joining OCA, gracious worked with various NGOs and companies to provide agricultural extension. He worked with BOMFA, Churches Action in Relief and development (CARD) and Agriculture research and extension trust (ARET). Gracious holds a Diploma in agriculture extension. He is currently pursuing his Bachelor's degree through open distance learning. He manages irrigation

club projects and OCA farm

Tango Phiri, FEM Manager

Holds a bachelor's degree in education (business Studies) from the University of Malawi, the polytechnic. Additionally, she has professional qualifications in ACCA, project management, and gender studies. Tango joined Orant in 2021 as the Program Manager for **Financial Empowering**



Microloan (FEM). She is responsible for managing and improving program operations as well as overseeing future program expansions. She has over five years' experience working with NGOs. She is a passionate business developer, manager and gender specialist who loves working with women and the youths for the greater good.

Finess Tchawango, Finance and Administration Officer



Finess is an accountant by profession. She holds a Diploma In Financial Accounting from the Institute of Chartered Accountants In Malawi (ICAM). She also holds a certificate In Financial Accounting from the Public Accountants Examination Council (PAEC) at Lilongwe Technical College. Prior to joining OCA she has managed USAID funded projects in the Agriculture sector where she also engaged with famers, agriculture extension workers, cooperatives, agro dealers and seed companies in project implementation. At OCA she ensures proper finance and administration management.

OCA Board of Trustees

Ivy Chihana

Ivy is a lawyer by profession and provides Orant Charities Africa with legal advice and direction to ensure corporate compliance and that program implementation is inline with both international and Malawian laws. Before becoming a lawyer, Ivy was a secondary school Teacher and her 7 years experience in teaching helps with our education program and general program implementation. Ivy currently serves as a chairperson for Orant Charities Africa. Ivy holds a Bachelor's Degree of Laws (Hons) and also a degree in Education Humanities from the University of Malawi, Chancellor College. Ivy also holds an Executive Masters in Managing Peace and Security in Africa at the University of Addis Ababa at the Institute of Peace and Security Studies. Ivy is an innovative, dynamic and versatile leader who leads by example and has great passion to empower women in Malawi.



Joyce Mataya

Joyce has Over 15 years' experience in organizational development at the local and international level, over 7 years' experience in program management including liaising with donors and other stakeholders and over 20 years of experience in designing and facilitating organizational development interventions and training programs. Joyce assists OCA in strategic planning and organization development. Joyce has spent most of her career in non-profit organizations and consulting. Joyce holds a Masters of Science in Industrial and Organizational Psychology (UNICAF) and a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from Bunda College of Agriculture, Malawi. Previously she has served in 5 boards both in the public and private sector. Joyce has worked outside Malawi on short term assignments in more than 8 countries.



Dr. Melda Phiri

Melda Phiri is a medical doctor by profession. She obtained her BSc with biases in Biology and Demography in 1998, MBBS in 2014 and Post graduate diploma in child health in 2018 from University of Malawi (Chancellor College), University of Ghana Medical School and College of Medicine and University of Sydney (Australia) respectively. Currently she is pursuing her Master's Degree in International Public Health with Liverpool John Moores University. Since



her childhood, she has had a desire to serve others. Dr. Melda is an enthusiastic and passionate researcher especially in the areas of pediatrics, women and nutrition.

Through her research expertise and collaborations, she continues to effectively influence policies at various levels in the health and nutrition sector both locally and globally. Some of her research works have been widely published by the New England Journal of Medicine, Journal of Global Health Reports, British Medical Journal and European Respiratory Journal among others.

Dexter Chipilingu



Dexter is a business man specializing in agriculture and logistics. His expertise revolves around warehousing, marketing, value addition, speculation, community interaction and logistics. Dexter is also a farmer and his expertise assists OCA in advising about agriculture programs. Dexter

thoroughly understands the rural logistics of Malawian agriculture. Dexter is the general manager of Katayanzuli traders. Dexter is known for his business acumen and popularity in the community. This helps him to advise OCA how to work better with people at the grassroots level.

Thomas Brennan

Tom grew up in a small farming community in upstate New York and moved to Texas in 1972. He holds a degree in Construction Management from Wentworth Institute, Boston, MA, and a BA from the University of Texas, Austin (UT). He is one of the founders of GeoShack, North America. He has been involved with Orant since 2013. Tom is an active parishioner at Christ the Redeemer



Catholic Church, and a supporter of Covenant House. Happily married to his wife, Susan, for 40 years, they have two wonderful sons, one of whom has joined Tom for two life-changing trips to Malawi. He looks forward to continued work with this remarkable organization.

Michael Tenny



Michael Tenny has advanced knowledge in direct marketing, fundraising, management, operations, entrepreneurial start-ups, and surplus goods procurement. His management experience includes call centers, warehouses, and mid-size companies. He has business skills in financial management, business reporting, banking relations, and directing staff. His operational skills include facility design and layout, material handling, shipping, construction and

developing site plans. Michael has been self-employed and has run private companies that vary from five to 200 employees. Michael is an expert at developing goals, decision making and small group dynamics. Michael graduated in 1979 from the University of Missouri with an Undergraduate Degree in General Agriculture, specializing in grain crops, animal husbandry, biology, water resource systems and agricultural economics. Michael has Masters Degrees in Applied Economics and an MBA in Marketing. Michael is a co-founder of Orant Charities and travels regularly to lead teams to Malawi. Michael enjoys camping and hiking. He has a keen sense for wilderness survival, advanced first aid and emergency preparedness. Michael is also an Eagle Scout.

Orant Charities US Team

The **US based Orant team consists** of three individuals, who work in concert with the Malawian team to provide marketing support, fundraising, and management expertise.

Acronyms & Abbreviations

ADC	Area Development Committee
ANC	Antenatal Care
BOMFA	Bowe Mission Farmers Association
CDSS	Community Day Secondary School
CONGOMA	Council for Non Governmental Organizations in Malawi
EMR	Electronic Medical Records
EPA	Extension Planning Area
EPI	Expanded Program of Immunization
FEM	Financial Empowerment Microloan
HSA	Health Surveillance Assistant
KHC	Kasese Health Center
MOC	Mobile Outreach Clinic
MoH	Ministry of Health
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
OCA	Orant Charities Africa
OPD	Outpatients Department
RUTF	Ready to Use Therapeutic Food
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SMEDI	Small and Medium Enterprises Development Initiative
VDC	Village Development Committee
VSL	Village Savings and Loans
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene