



MONTHLY REPORT

APRIL 2020

COMPILED BY

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HEALTHCARE PROGRAM

Executive Summary

Orant Charities Africa (OCA) operates Kasese Health Centre in coordination with Ministry of Health (MOH). Apart from operating Kasese Health Centre, OCA has a mobile team of seven qualified medical personnel who go to remote areas and brings medical services right to the community. Efforts from Kasese Health Centre together with the Mobile Outreach Clinic is improving lives of many patients both in Dowa and Kasungu districts.

Monthly Patients Attendance

Orant charities Africa provides high impact health care interventions that have improved substantially the health of communities within Kasese areas and beyond. As for the month of April 2020, the health Centre saw **4,877** patients a number which is fewer than last month because outreach team stopped its operation due to COVID 19 pandemic. 105 children age between 2 months and 12 years were admitted in 24 hours children's ward, majority having malaria and they all got parenteral treatment of artesunate. While the community mobile outreach clinics team saw **1,010** patients in Kasese catchment area. The mobile clinic team also saw **473** patients in Bowe catchment area. Maternity attended to **48** mothers, delivered **39** babies, referred 10 to Madisi hospital for C/sections (see figure 2).

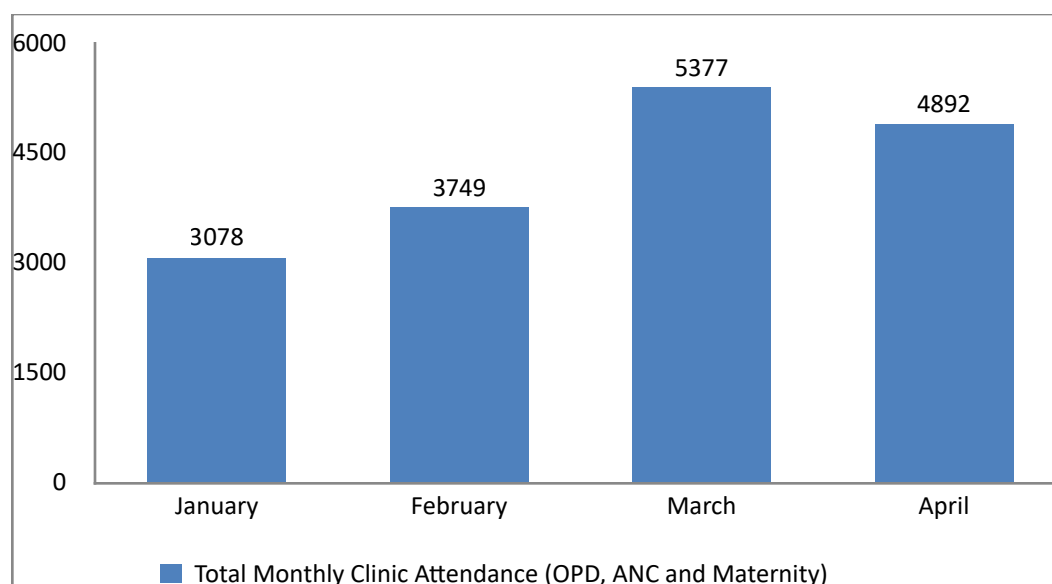


Figure 2: Summary of total Monthly patient attendance at Kasese health Centre (OPD, ANC, and Maternity.)

Corona virus (COVID -19) preventive measures.

Kasese Health Centre continues to monitor with keen interest the daily updates on the coronavirus (COVID 19) pandemic. Clinicians and nurses are kept a breast with its latest science of evidence based medicine. By the time the report was compiled, the country had

confirmed 56 cases, 9 recoveries and 3 deaths. Majority of the cases are from Lilongwe and Blantyre cities. Most of the cases are imported, and few local transmissions. The biggest worry is that the country borders are still open and our neighboring country Tanzania has registered more than 450 cases and there is a lot of cross border trade and movements between the two countries. Among the 56 cases, 5 are healthcare workers based in Blantyre.

During the same month of April, the following preventive measure are continuously being enforced at the facility.

- Hand washing hygiene (with 0.05% Chlorine) at the gate entrance and frequently hand sanitizations in between patients consultations by frontline healthcare workers.
- Respiratory hygiene and the use of facemask by all the staff.
- Social distancing, 1.5 metres minimum is being encouraged.
- Daily Health education talks to patients at waiting bay is done.
- Construction of temporary Isolation ward for suspects is almost complete. Confirmed cases will be transferred to Dowa district quarantine centre
- Covid-19 surveillance is intensified by disease control and health surveillance assistance (DC&HSA).
- OCA staff were briefed on the preparation of disinfectant which includes 0.5% chlorine.



Figure 5: Above shows handwashing facility place at the campus entrance, sits stickers for patients (, and staff teaching fellow colleagues on how to prepare 0.5% disinfectant chlorine.

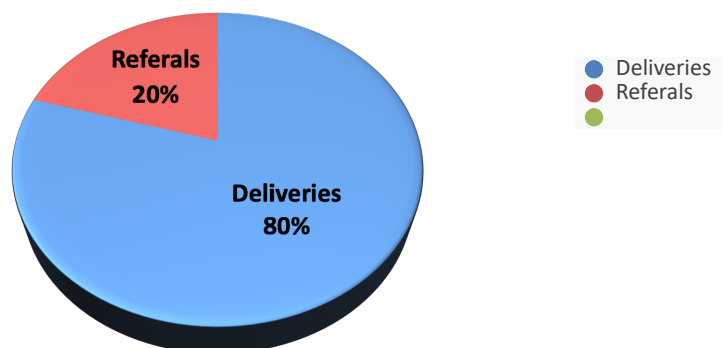
Maternal and child healthcare

During the month of April 2020 the number of deliveries at the facility were 39. 3 (three) neonate were born on transit to the hospital (BBA), 3 babies received Resuscitation, 10 mothers were referred to Madisi hospital for caesarian sections (c/s). There are still challenges with neonatal deaths, as there was one neonatal death during the month.

Figure 6: Maternity attendants for April 2020

Total maternity attendance for April. 2020

Total attendance- 48



Cervical cancer control clinics report

Cancer of the cervix remains a public health problem in Malawi and amongst the top three leading cause of cancer death in Malawi (MOH, *National cervical cancer strategy 2016-2020*). In addressing this problem, the health Centre conducts routine visual screening of cervix using acetic acid to women of childbearing age between 25 to 49 years . Below is a table showing monthly total cases screened and positive results.

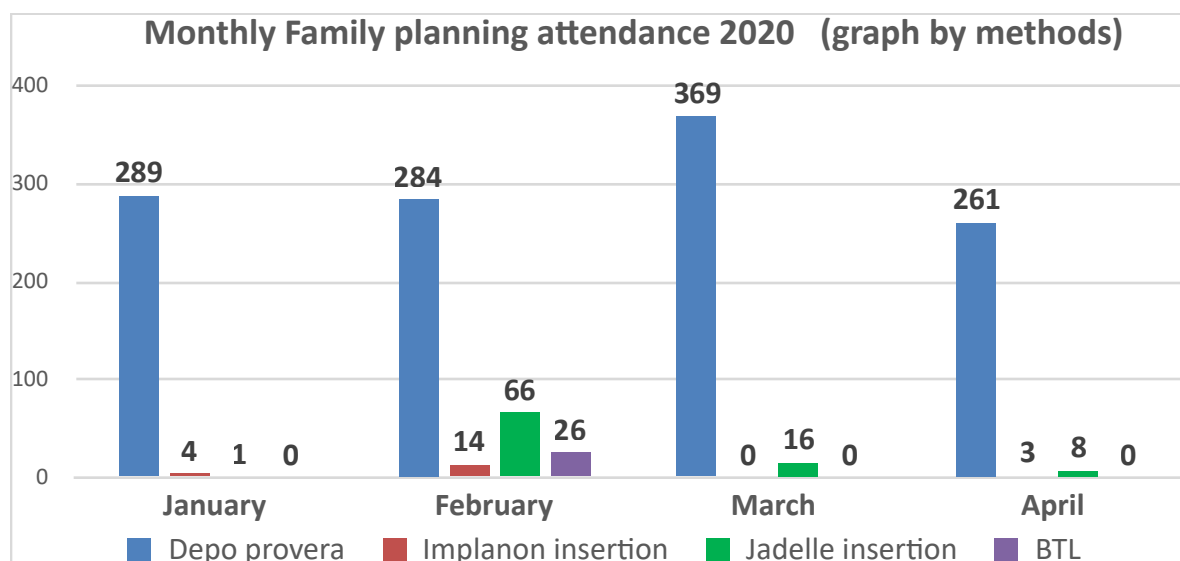
Table 1: Monthly number of clients screened for cervical and their outcomes

Month	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept
TOTAL	36	48	80	31					
positive	0	1	5	4					

Family Planning

From the graph below many clients opt for injectable Depo- Provera family planning method because it is easy to administer, In the month of April 2020 a total of **261** patients received deprovera injection. While **11** clients opted for Norplant’s method, as it’s the second most liked method. **None** chose long-term permanent family planning methods bilateral tubal ligations (BTL).

Figure 7 : Family planning clinic.



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 subsequence visit. The recommended visit by world health organization (WHO) for ANC is more than 8 which should start as early as possible. However, according to the data many women do not comply. For the month of April 2020, the health Centre antenatal clinic registered **67**new mothers. During the Antenatal clinics, mothers receive; two doses Tetanus toxoid vaccines, 3 doses of SP, FEFOL tablets, albendazole, Insecticides Treated Nets(ITNS) and get tested for syphilis .

HIV Care Clinic

The health Centre continues to provide excellent ART/ TB care as depicted by quarterly award of certificate of excellence by the Malawi ministry of health through HIV/AIDS unit. The clinic has **285** patients alive on ART medicine. Good percentage of patients continues to get their viral results which are routinely done at every visit according to milestone. The health clinic continues to switch patient's treatment from 5A to 13A which is DTG based regimens.

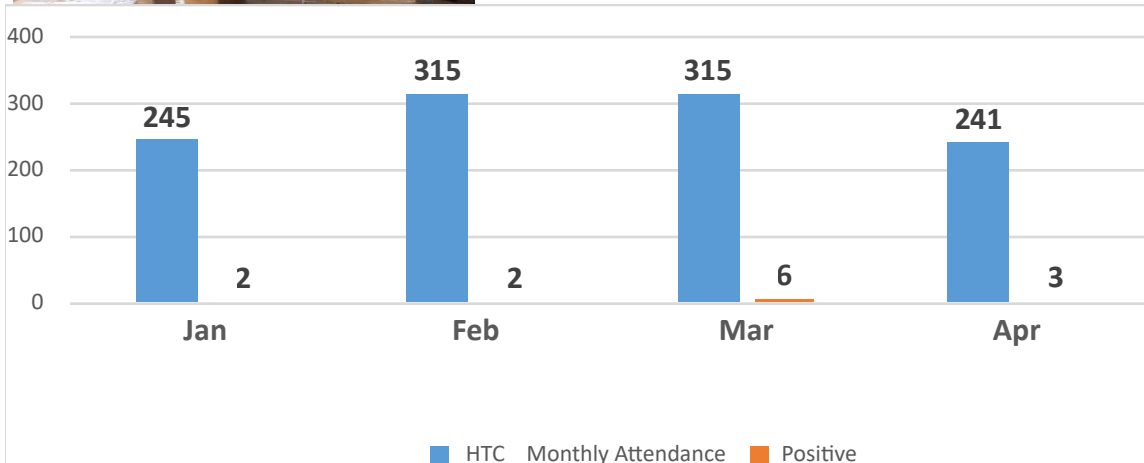
Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the health center continues to provided 6-month bottle supply of ARV to all clients who are stable on ART. The health center received routine supply of antiretroviral medicine (ART) from the ministry of (MOH) through the department of HIV unit .

Beside picture shows lead clinician and pharmacy technician crosschecking the received supplies.



HIV TESTING AND COUNSELLING

The health center conducts opt in HIV counselling and testing, the prevalence rate is at 1.2% against national prevalence rate of 8.2%. Graph below shows monthly HTC attendances and number of HIV Positives cases.

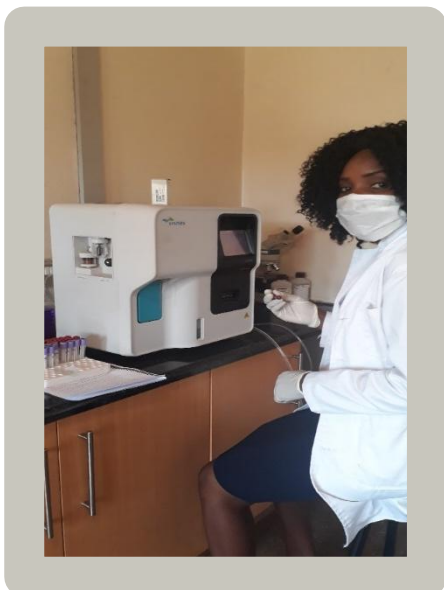


Laboratory Services

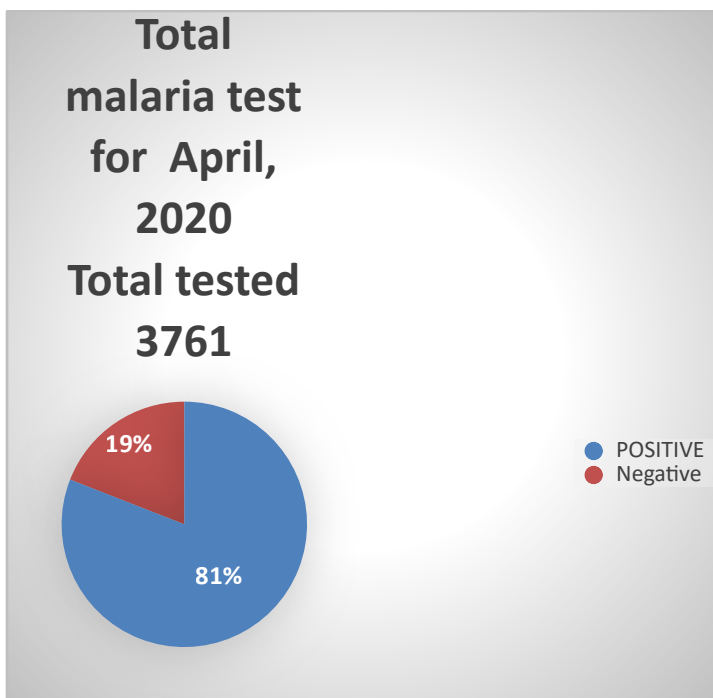
The Health Centre Laboratory services for clinics continues to conduct and provide reliable test befitting primary health care level, mostly rapid test strips, basic microscopic tests for example Tb microscopy test, malaria tests and HIV test. As for the month of April 2020, the Centre conducted the following test;

The Complete Blood Count

The donated complete blood count (CBC) machine commonly known as the full blood count machine in Malawi (FBC), is in proper use and last month **63** tests was conducted.

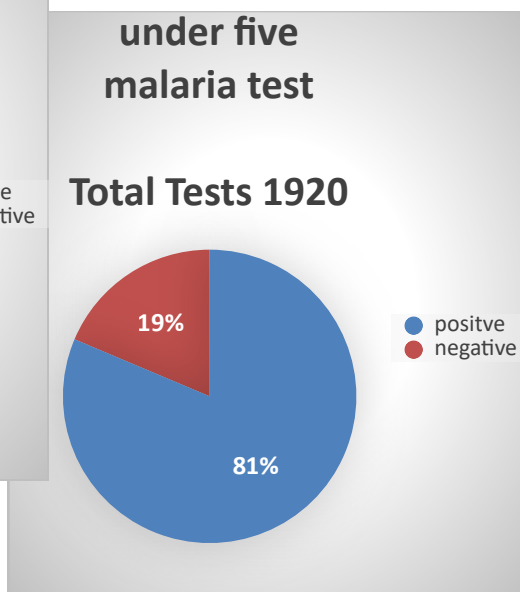
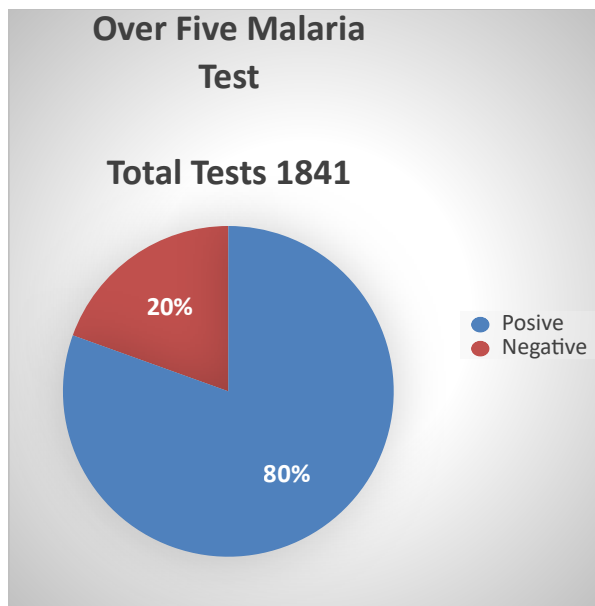


Malaria test (MRDTS& microscopy)



The malaria test is conducted both rapid test (MRDTS) and microscopy blood smear slides. The malaria epidemic is high at this time of the year. A total of **3,761** malaria tests done and those positive were **2,694** and negative test were **717** this represent more than 81% positivity rates. Children under five years, total test done **1,920** Positive **1562 (81%)** and **358 (19%)**. For those who are above five years, total tested for malaria, **1,841** those with positive malaria **1,482** **positivity rate 80%**.

Figure 9 : shows under five, over five percentage of malaria tests.



SUPERVISION BY MOH STAFF.

On 27/04/2020, Laboratory department received supervisor from ministry of health, their main objective was to conduct external quality assurance and mentorship, with specific focus on last quarter test done. During their supervision they said that the lab is well kept clean, conducive for conducting lab test and it's a busy laboratory. However, there are some areas which need to be improved.

- There is need to improve on documentation; page summary in laboratory registers is needed.
- Laboratory hand washing facility should be placed in the room used for staining the slides.
- Reagents were few hence lab technician is asked to order some from DHO office.
- Quality documents for example, TB manual books, clients hand books, and SOP guidelines should be available.
- Presumptive screening of Tb clients to be intensified.

Figure 10: table shows other laboratory tests conducted.

Tests	Total tests	Result(pos)
H. PYLORIS	32	9
salmonella	6	1
Hep B	3	0
VDRL	2	0
HCG	36	13
TB MICROSCOPY	3	0
GLUCOSE	31	

Clinic administration

- Due to COVID 19 pandemic and subsequent announcement by the Malawi government on the lockdown with effect on 18 April 2020. Among many steps to protect the employees and to prevent the spread of the pandemic, the health Centre management team decided to temporarily suspend the mobile outreach Clinic and merge them with the static clinic team(KHC) in a bid to discourage gatherings which can fuel the spread of the disease especially in areas where hygiene is an issue.
- As a measure to ease the impact of lockdown imposed by government, all OCAs staff received allowances of MK 45,000 which was meant to assist in buying food and other groceries during lockdown period.

- Following the routine transfers by the ministry of health (MOH) of its employees, the health centre has received a new head health surveillance assistance(HHSA) her name is Mrs Nkwezalamba (replacing Mr. Kamuyambeni), her duties and responsibilities include supervision of 17 health surveillance assistance stationed at different villages in Kasese health centre catchment area.

WATER PROGRAM



Introduction

In pursuit of the goal to ensure sustainable access to water and sanitation services, the water program conducted various activities in the month of April, 2020 which included; Community sensitization on COVID-19 as well as Well repairs. In this report a detailed account of these activities has been provided, it starts by providing a summary of the progress of activities against the work plan followed by a detailed narration.

Progress on work Plan

No	P l a n n e d Activities	Target	Achievement	Beneficiaries / Participants		
				Male	Femal e	Total
1	Borehole Repair	NA	07	NA	NA	NA

2	Community Sensitization on COVID-19	5 events	5 Events			500
3	Distribution of HTH chlorine	2 0 0 Kgs	200Kgs			
4	Distribution of Hand Washing Facilities in Market centers and	26	26			

Borehole Repairs

OCA is advocating for Community based management of water supply facilities in which the community take charge and ownership of water supply facilities using communities' own human, material and financial resources, there some repairs which the communities' need to be supported. OCA supports communities with major repairs. In the month of April, 07 repairs were conducted as indicated in the table below, the repairs included one major rehabilitation of a borehole that included installation of a new pump and its accessories as well as redoing civil works at Chioza Village.

SN	GVH	VH	Repair(s) Done	Number of Users on the Repaired Borehole
01	Bweya	Mphongole	1 0 Rod centralizers, 4 Bush bearings, 4 double-end socket, 5 Pipes, Solvent cement, Cylinder, 5 pump rod.	1015

02	Chimamba	Mndinde	<p>6 Double end Sockets, 2 pump Rods, 11 Rod centralizers, 1</p> <p>Cup seal, Solvent cement, 1 O ring, 1 Bush Bering, 1</p> <p>Rope, Foot valve, 2 Bobbin, 1 Fulcrum pin, 1</p> <p>Hunger pin,</p> <p>4 bolt and nuts.</p>	816
03	Katalima	Chilemba 2	<p>12 Rod centralizers,</p> <p>1 Rubber corn,</p> <p>6 double end sockets, 2 Bobbin Bush bearings, 4</p> <p>Solvent cement, 1</p> <p>Foot valve.</p>	942

04	Namkumba	Chazaila	2 Pump Rods, 2 D o u b l e - e n d Sockets, 4 Bush bearings, 12 rod centralizers, 1 Hunger pin, solvent cement, foot valve, 1 cup seal, 2 bobbin	616
05	Chidya	mtandadza	1 Pump rod, 6 double sockets 1 cup seal, 1 1 R o d centralizers, 4 bush bearings, 2 Bobbin, 1 O ring	418
06	Namkumba	Namkumba	1 0 R o d centralizers, 4 Bush Bering, 1 Cup seal, 2 Bobbin, 4 Pump Rod, 4 d o u b l e e n d sockets	1090

07	Mphamba	Chioza	Rehabilitation of civil works, full inner parts replacement and pedestal	450
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Part of the borehole rehabilitation works

Community Sensitization on COVID-19

During the reporting period, OCA continued to sensitize communities on COVID-19. OCA carried the message on COVID-19 prevention and management to the communities within Kasese catchment area. The activity was done by way of community meetings with small groups of people in villages together with government Health Surveillance Assistants. A total of 5 villages were reached in April with such messages. An estimate of 500 people were reached with messages.

Distribution of HTH chlorine

The distribution of chlorine to communities was aimed at making it possible for communities to use antiseptics for hand washing since most of them cannot afford soap. The exercise extended to all villages within Kasese catchment through the 17 HSA zones. A total of 200KGs of HTH Chlorine was distributed. During the exercise health education talks were delivered mainly on COVID-19 prevention.

Distribution of Hand Washing Facilities in Market centers and Churches

As part of Covid-19 response OCA is implementing an area wide sanitation drive. Having disseminated messages on prevention, OCA went further to provide facilities that would make prevention possible in public places such as markets and churches. In the reporting period, OCA distributed handwashing facilities in market centers and churches. At the time of compiling the report, OCA had distributed a total of 26 handwashing facilities, 5 of which are market

centers (Kasese, Mtambalika, Makonola, Kachigamba and Chiliphiza) , 1 health post (Mtambalika) and 20 churches. The buckets supplied to churches will also be used for communal handwashing in villages.



Images showing Handover ceremonies for hand washing facilities

Conclusion

Despite the challenges that came with the outbreak of COVID-19, the water program still managed to serve people by ensuring constant water supply in these times when water for hand washing is needed most, in the month of April, OCA intends to increase the proportion of people with access to potable water by drilling one more well.

AGRICULTURE PROGRAM



Introduction

The following activities were conducted in the month of April 2020;

Irrigation project

Irrigation farming activities focused on Pruning, staking and tying up of tomato plants, sowing, transplanting, manure and fertilizer application and also weed control.

Pruning

Irrigation clubs of Ndalusa and Mvunguti are producing tomato and pruning was done. Pruning is an important activity in the process of tomato production as it improves the penetration of light and air circulation. Pruned tomato plants produces good size and quality tomato fruits. Pruning is done with proper care to avoid spread of disease via hands or any tools used for pruning. Proper care is done by cleaning tools used for pruning regularly and burning or burying all pruned leaves to avoid disease infections. Farmers are also advised to do pruning during morning hours on a sunny day so that the wounds can dry quickly.



Pruning in progress



Staking and tying up

Staking activity on Tomato plants was done at Mvunguti irrigation club and farmers were trained on how to conduct the activity and importance of keeping tomato staked. Staking is done with the aim of keeping the fruit and foliage off the ground, increase fruit yield and size, reduce fruit rot, and makes spraying and harvesting easier. Tying of tomato plants to the stick is done to support the stems while they are growing. Tying is done loosely to the stick so that the stem is not damaged or is retied regularly as they grow.



Training club members on Staking

Sowing

The choice of the variety to be sown in particular area depends on local conditions and the purpose of growing particular crop. Some other factors that can result into choice of the particular crop include type of the fruit, shape of the plant, vitality and resistance to pests and diseases. Farmers mostly select varieties that performs better under local conditions. **Tionezina**

irrigation club was trained on sowing of Onions and Vegetables (English giant) were chosen as plants to be cultivated. Club members were also encouraged to apply manure during time of sowing with the aim of improving soil fertility. After sowing, mulch was placed on the sown beds to protect them from direct heat, erosion and heavy wind during first week of sowing.

Transplanting

Kasangadzi Irrigation club transplanted its Tomatoes. Most of the plants including tomato are normally transplanted because much better results are gained when seedlings have been raised in a nursery. The advantage of transplanting the seedlings include good and health plant seedlings can be selected to be planted in the main field before transplanting and the planting distance is more even than sowing directly in the field. Seedlings can be transplanted within the period of 3 to 6 weeks after sowing but a week before transplanting, seedlings should be hardened. Hardening is done by reducing application of water, but 12 to 14 hours before transplanting, the seedlings must be thoroughly watered to avoid excessive damage to the roots during time of transplanting. Club members are encouraged to conduct transplanting activity during afternoon hours or cloudy day to reduce the transplanting shock.

Manure and fertilizer application

Tomato plants need to be fertilized to get high yields. Smallholder farmers are encouraged to apply manure before transplanting followed by little application of fertilizer after transplanting. Manure works better by mixing it with the soil than just sprinkling on the ground. Manure has several benefits such as improving soil fertility and structure, and decreases application amount of NPK (Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium). **Mvunguti** irrigation club conducted activity of fertilizer application whereby cup number 5 was used per planting station.



Application of fertilizer in progress

Weed control

Ndalusa Irrigation club conducted weeding. Weeds are very dangerous in plants as they compete with the main plants for light, water and nutrients. They also provide shelter for organisms that can cause diseases to plants and reduce yield. Irrigation club members were

taught on benefits of keeping the field free from weeds and the activity was monitored to make sure that the field has kept free from any weeds that can bring losses in production activity.

Demonstration plots

OCA had several demonstration plots which was mounted on OCA farm with support from different partners such as Bayer, Seed-co, AFAP and Farmers world. During reporting month, harvesting was done which involved activities of stoking and stripping. Mature maize cobs which is ready for harvesting turns into a brown/khaki colour and in some varieties the dry cob drops down. There are high chances of incurring of losses if harvesting is delayed beyond this point.

EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM

The month of April 2020 marks the second month since the close down of school due to the pandemic of Corona Virus (Covid-19) disease. It has not been easy for the education program to conduct its day to day activities and to follow up on the students because they are in their respective homes. Education in Malawi has been greatly affected as there is delay in progress of the students and online learning is very limited because of access to internet challenges such as poor signals and computer illiteracy. OCA has 3 students who are graduating secondary school this year and they were supposed to write the Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE) in June 2020. With the status quo, it is unlikely that exams will be written in June, 2020.

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 are trying to do online classes but students have no access to internet as most have moved to rural areas where there is no electricity.

However, during the lock down of schools, OCA education program manager has been busy with Data entry. Since OCA has four programs (Education, Water, Agriculture & Health) and there is always team work, the education personnel has been helping in entering Malaria Data for the clinic. This data is from January 2020 up to date and the education program personnel is now entering Data for the month of February 2020. This Data will assist in monitoring and mapping of Malaria outbreaks.

Conclusion

While many students are falling behind in their learning journey because of prolonged school closures, the decision of when and how to open schools should be a priority. Once there is a green light on the health front in line with Covid-19, a whole set of measures will need to be in place by authorities to ensure that no student is left behind.