



MONTHLY REPORT

AUGUST 2020

COMPILED BY

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HEALTHCARE PROGRAM

Introduction

OCA provides healthcare services through Kasese health Centre and mobile (outreach clinics). The health center provides in details the following services: outpatient's clinic, 24hrs children's observation ward, Maternal healthcare services like obstetrics (Antenatal care, deliveries, provision of family planning methods, cervical cancer screening). In addition, the health Centre provides preventive services through public health services like (nutrition supplements, growth monitoring and immunizations).

Population and Distance to the nearest hospitals

Kasese catchment area has a population of approximately 36,381. The distance to the nearest government hospital is 78km (Dowa district hospital) and to Madisi hospital under Christian health association of Malawi (CHAM) is 5km.

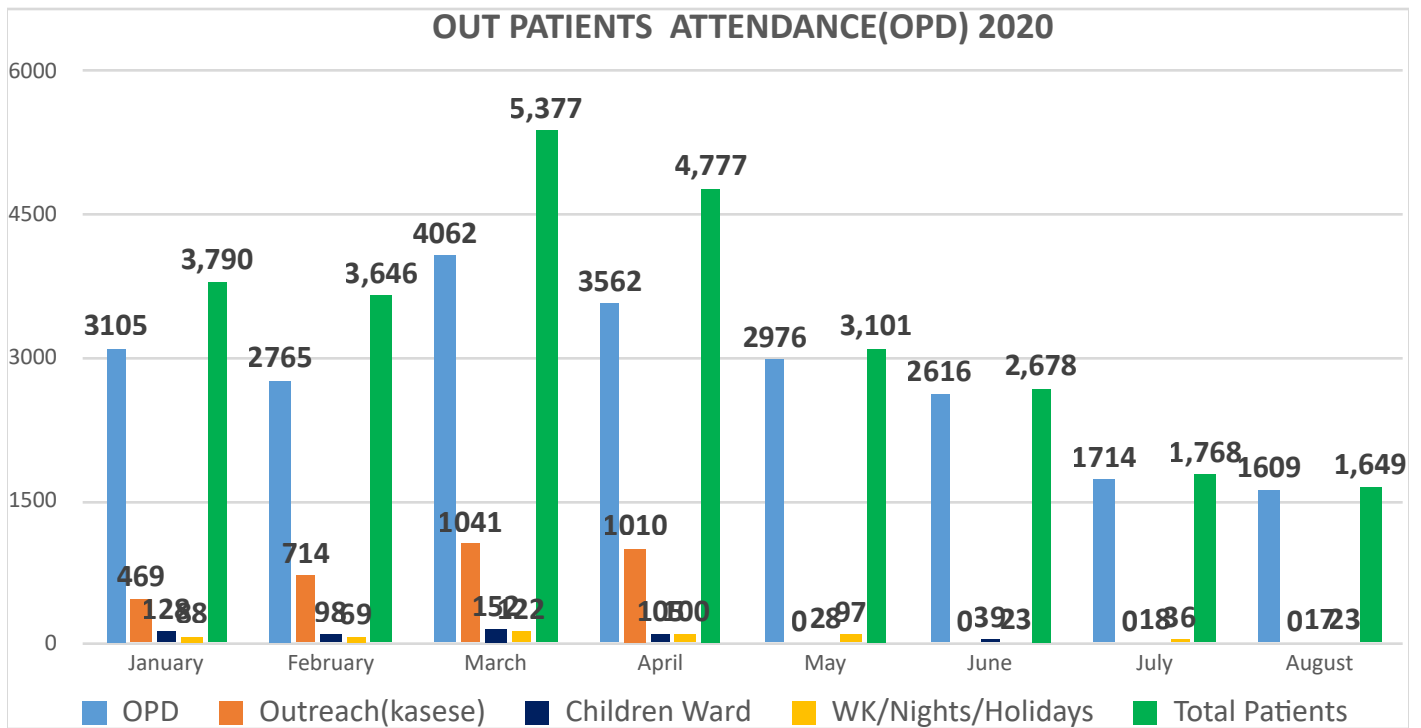
Monthly Attendance

Orant charities Africa provides high impact health care interventions that have improved substantially the health of communities within Kasese catchment areas and beyond. As for the month of August 2020, the health Centre attended to **1649** patients, the numbers have slightly dropped, which is common at this time of the year as the wet season favorable for malaria is gone. The commonest problem at this time is a skin disease called scabies. The health centre admitted **17 children** aged between 2 months and 12 years. Maternity department had **33** deliveries, 7 women were referred for cesarean section at Madisi hospital. **54** patients benefited from the Nutritional therapeutic program (peanut butter) and the highest number are children. The aim of the peanut butter program is to contribute to the reduction of the incidence of malnutrition and improve public health in general. A total 160 cartons of peanut butter each with 150 sachets were purchased in July to support malnourished children and other patients in the community.



A child enjoying RUTF

Summary of total Monthly patient attendance (Excluding ANC and Maternity)



Communicable diseases of public health importance for the month of August

Non communicable diseases for the month of August

Health Centre Corona virus (COVID -19) Responses

COVID 19 situation in the country has improved, the pandemic graph seems to be flattening, average daily new cases for the past few weeks is at 30, many recoveries, and death rates have dropped. Not sure if this is a true reflection of what's on the ground as the country experiences a frequent shortage of test kits. Some classes in schools have reopened. Kasese Health Centre has not registered any new case and the health center continues to adhere to Covid 19 precaution measures like respiratory hygiene (use of facemask) etc, at the same time continues assessing for the risk factors. Orant Charities Africa is working with four tailors who are sewing cloth masks in Kasese Health Centre campus. Wearing of masks is mandatory and cloth masks are being sold at a subsidized rate of MK100 to ensure that everyone in the community has

access to the masks. The Communities within our catchment areas have been reached with COVID 19 awareness messaging directly by a mobile vehicle mounted with loud speakers or through Outreach clinics visits, HSA and the staff at Kasese static clinic.

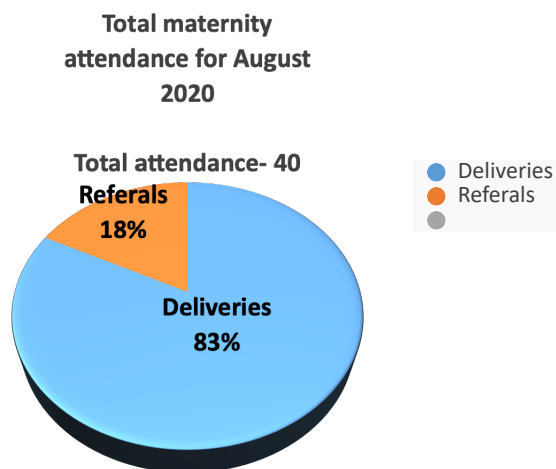


Wearing of cloth masks at an outreach clinic (left) and a sample of a mask (right)

Maternal and Newborns health

The health centre continues to provide excellent maternal and neonatal health care. All women access high quality care during pregnancy, delivery and postnatal care. All received quality medicine and most of them, except those born before arrival (BBA) at the health centre are attended by skilled healthcare workers. Those in need of referrals to hospital are timely taken care of which is evidenced by good maternal and newborn outcomes, as the health centre has never experienced maternal related mortality for the past five years. As for the month of August 2020 the maternity department had **40** attendees, **33** deliveries, all through spontaneous vertex deliveries (SVD). **One** neonate was born on transit to the clinic (BBA), **7** mothers were referred to Madisi hospital for cesarean section (C/S). The health center had no neonatal death.

Maternity attendance



Cervical Cancer Control Clinic

Cancer of the cervix remains a public health problem in Malawi and amongst the top leading cause of cancer death (MOH, *National cervical cancer strategy 2016-2020*). In addressing this problem, Kasese health centre conducts routine visual screening of cervix using acetic acid to

women of childbearing age between 25 to 49 years. As for the Month of August 2020, **18** women were screened and two had VIA Positive. The two suspected of having cancer lesions were referred to Kamuzu central hospital for biopsy and further management. Furthermore, they were all supported by OCA in terms of hospital bill payments and bus fares. Below is a table showing Monthly total cases screened and positive results.

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	28	31	30	18	
positive	0	1	5	4	2	2	1	2	

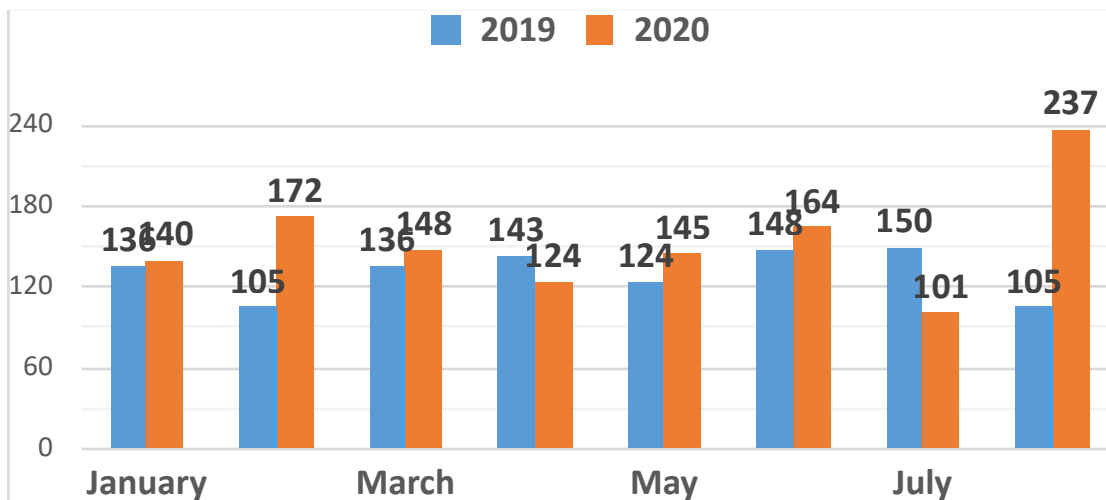
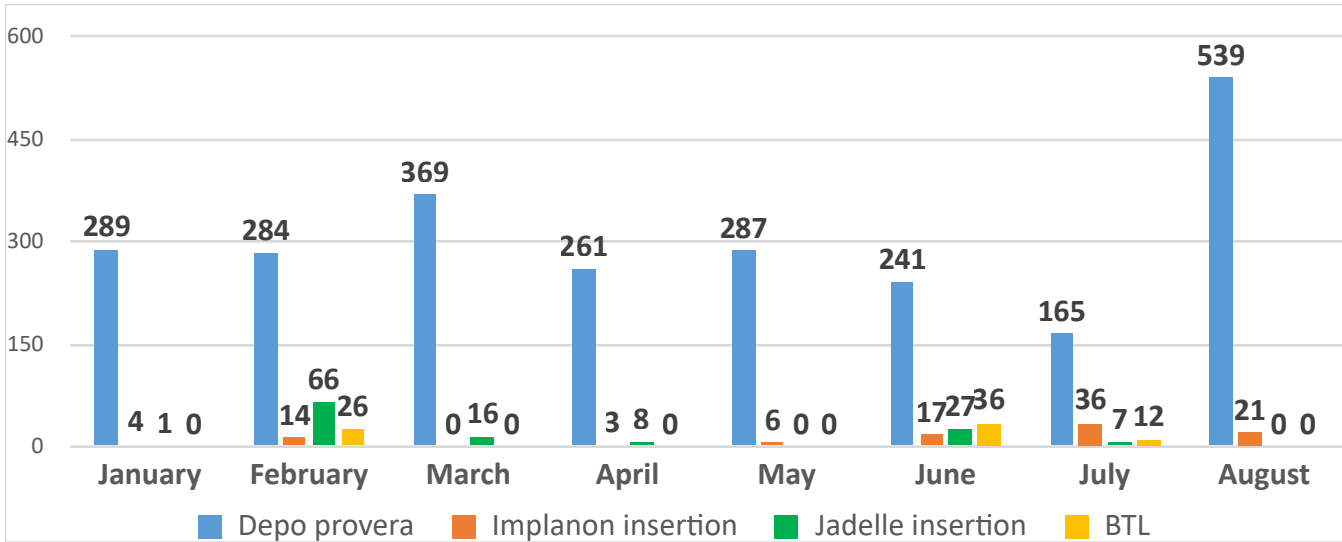
Family Planning Services

The health centre conducts family planning clinics once a week on Wednesdays, In accordance to the ministry of health (MOH) policies and coordination with Banja la Mtsogolo (BLM). OCA understands that Family planning increases maternal and child survival through timing spacing of pregnancies and by helping couples plan pregnancies during the healthiest time within a woman's reproductive cycle. Furthermore, OCA understands that preventing unintended pregnancies, especially among the high risk group and vulnerable in society is key to improving Maternal and newborn child outcomes.

As such, there is good linkage with government health system, non-governmental organizations like (BLM) in family planning provision, whereby government provide supplies and trainings to healthcare workers and the health centre provide the service. The methods offered includes oral pills, injectable and Implanons to women of reproductive age as per their choices and medical indications. As seen from the graph below many clients opt for injectable Depo- Provera family planning method because it is easy to administer. The month of August, a total of **539** patients received depo provera injection. While **21** clients opted for Norplant's method, as it's the second most liked method. None received Permanent family planning methods e.g. bilateral tubal ligations (BTL). Due to funding, BLM organization stopped their Outreach Clinics services in the Dowa district and at our facility, this has slightly affected the number of clients accessing the family planning methods, especially permanent methods like BTL.

Family Planning Clinic Attendance and methods provided.

Figure shows Number of Adolescents (12-24year) accessing Family Planning Methods for the year 2019 and 2020.



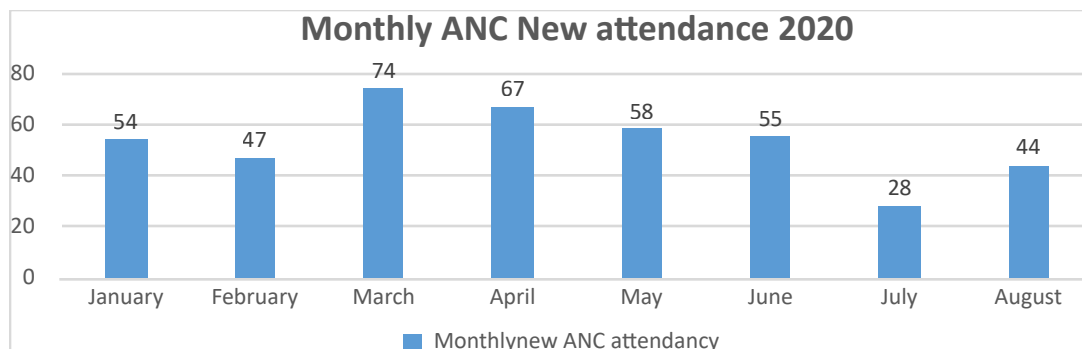
Antenatal Care (prenatal care)

The health centre conducts prenatal (antenatal) clinics twice a week, on Tuesdays for those enrolling for the first time and Thursdays for subsequent visits. The recommended visit by the World health organization (WHO) for ANC is more than 8 visits which should start as early as possible. However, according to the data many women do not comply due to several reasons, like cultural knowledge of pregnancies and risk related to it, others it could be lack of access to healthcare services due to factors like distance. However, for those who start on time, 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 and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Monthly antenatal attendance

AIDS Clinic

HIV/

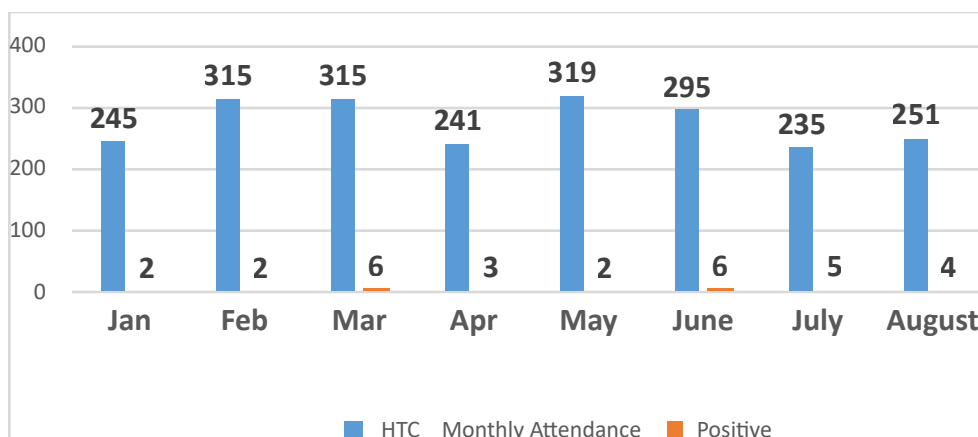


continues to provide excellent ART/ TB care as depicted by the quarterly award of certificate of excellence by the Malawi Ministry of Health (MOH) through HIV/AIDS unit. The clinic has **241** patients alive on ART medicine, exposed children are **7**. Good percentage of patients continue to get their viral results which are routinely done at every visit according to their milestone. The clinic continues to switch patient's treatment from 5A to 13A which is DTG based regimens (DTG/3TC/TDF). Due to the COVID 19 pandemic and in order to reduce clinic congestion, the health center continues to provide 6 month bottle supply of ARV to all clients who are stable on ART.

HIV Testing and Counselling

The health centre conducts HIV counselling and testing to the general public and Antenatal mothers as prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT). The HIV prevalence rate is at 1.2% against the national prevalence rate of 8.2%.

Graph below shows monthly HIV testing and counselling (HTC) attendances and number of HIV Positives cases.



Laboratory Services



The health centre Laboratory service continues to conduct and provide reliable tests befitting primary health care level, mostly the rapid test, basic microscopic tests for example TB , Malaria tests (MRDTS) and HIV tests. The health centre conducted the following tests;

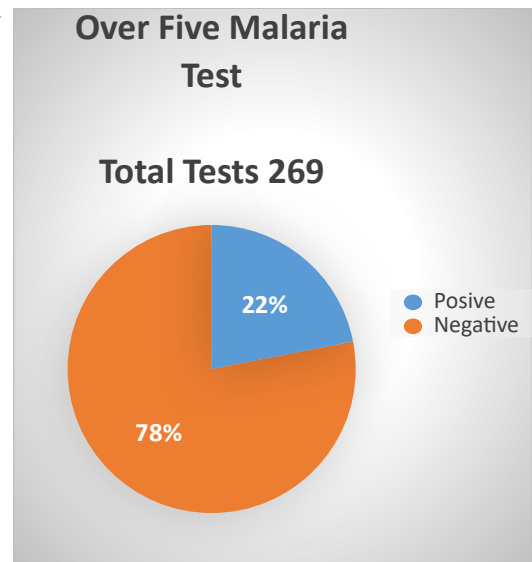
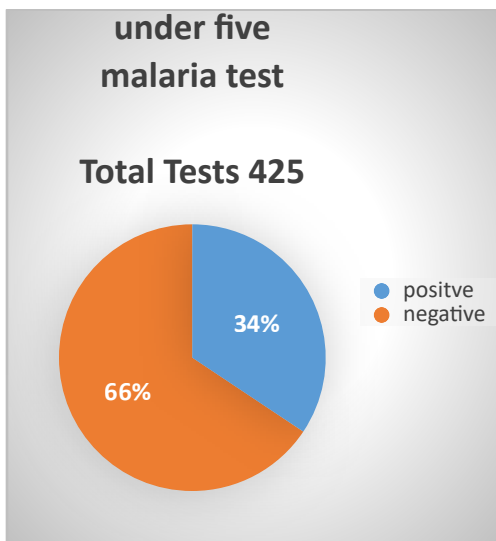
Complete blood count tests.

The health centre conducts full blood count tests to only special cases and for this month 54 tests were conducted.

Malaria test (MRDTS & microscopy)

The Malaria test is conducted both rapid test (MRDTS) and microscopy blood smear slides. The Malaria epidemic is lower at this time around. A total of **694** Malaria tests were done and those positive were **205**, negative tests were **489**, this represents about **30%** positivity rates. For children under five years, total tests done were **425**, those Positive were **146** (34%). For those who are above five years, total tests done were **269**, those with Malaria were **59** representing **22%** positivity rate.

Figures below Shows Malaria tests for under five and over five percentages.



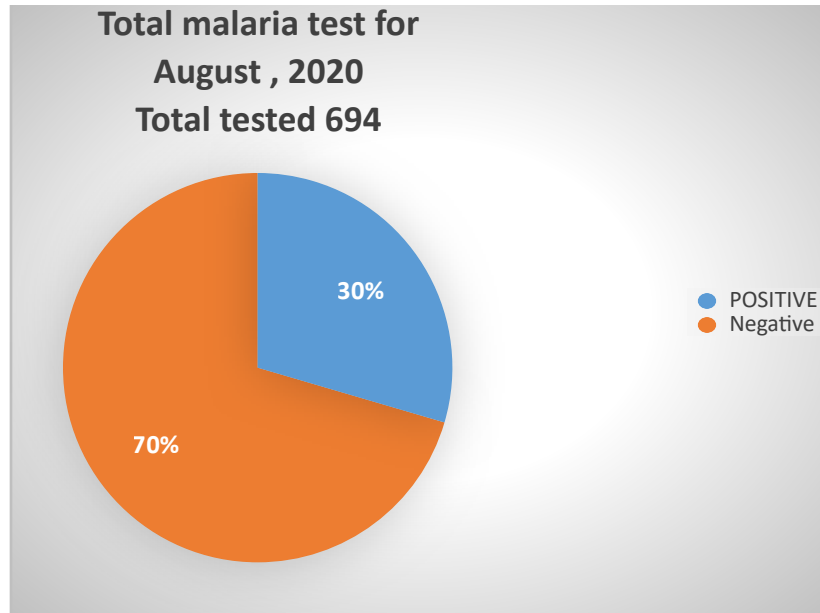


Table shows other Laboratory tests conducted

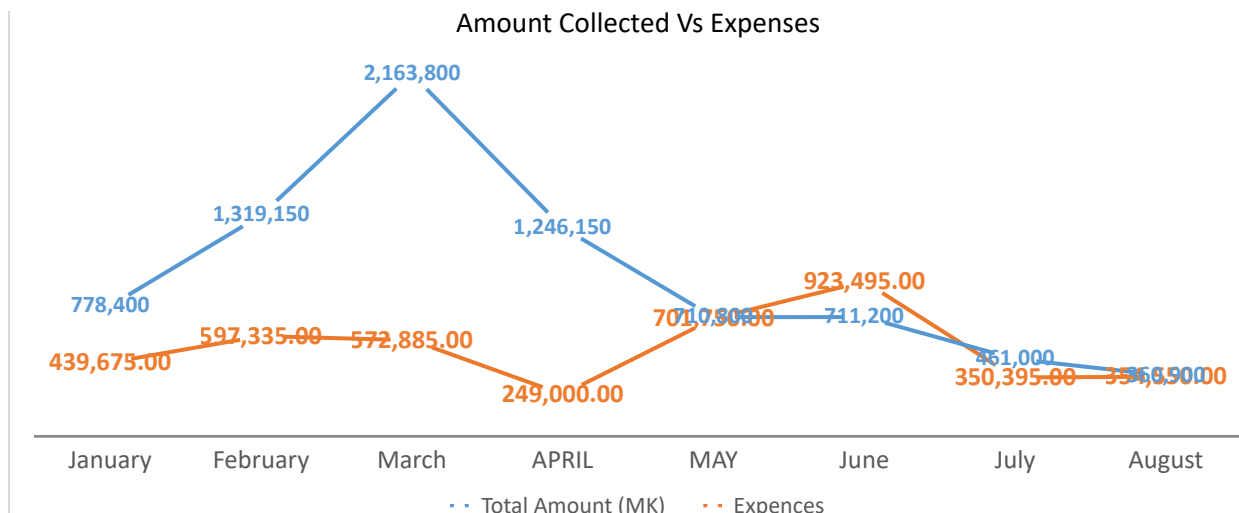
Tests	Total tests	Result(pos)
H. PYLORIS	33	6
Salmonella	9	1
Hep B	2	0
VDRL	4	0
HCG	25	6
TB MICROSCOPY	4	0
GLUCOSE	30	0

Clinic Administration

- ❖ The Mobile outreach clinic team resumed services for both in Kasese cathment area in Dowa and Kasungu district.
- ❖ Clinicians received the call allowances as per earlier request.

Health Finance

For August, Kasese health centre collected a total of **360,900** (USD489) and at the same time assisted a good number of destitute patients with bus fare and payment of hospital bills, which amounted to **MK 354,550**.(USD 480). The user fee collected goes back to the community through various charity work.



WATER PROGRAM



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Month of August has been a transition phase for OCA Water Program following the departure of 2 members of staff and recruitment of new member's staff hence fewer activities implemented. The new members of staff are; Mayamiko Mwenda and Yona Maloto who have filled positions of Water Program Manager and Water Field Assistant respectively. During this period the following Milestones were achieved in line with the program objective of improving access to water supply, sanitation facilities and good hygiene practices;

- 04 Water well repairs
- Borehole drilling in Nyanda and Kasese 2 villages
- Meeting with local leaders and assessment of areas to drill water wells

DETAILED NARRATION OF ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN THE MONTH

Water Pump Repairs

No	Name of the village/Borehole	Repairs Done
1	Inje 1	4 Pipes, Pump rods, 4 pipe centralizers
2	Kachigwada	Pump Head, Bush bearings (4), 1 Fulcrum pin
3	Joseni	Cylinder (1), pipes (5), foot valve (1)
4	N'deka	Plunger (1), Foot valve (1)

OCA continues to repair water wells in the community and four wells were repaired this month.

Borehole Drilling in Nyanda and Kasese 2

Despite being included in this report, the two boreholes were drilled in the first week of September, 2020 but they were planned for August, 2020. This was a result of the transitional period following departure of water staff. OCA is happy to report that these boreholes will save lives through clean water.

a. *Borehole drilling in Nyanda Village, GVH Nkhande*

Nyanda village is situated along Bua river and the people were relying on Bua river for water used at home. Walking to the nearby borehole was a great burden as the women and young girls had to walk a long distance.



Before women were drawing water from the Bua river posing a threat to health after consumption. Children and women were in danger of crocodiles



Community participation during drilling



Completed borehole (not yet in use) and the community is building a fence using its resources

Boreholes in both Nyanda and Kasese 2 were drilled following a collaborated assessment made by both OCA Water Program staff, Community and Government Health Surveillance Assistants (HSAs).



Discussion meeting with Group Village Headman (GVH) Nkhandwe, Senior GVH Joseni and Village Headman Nkhandwe on borehole drilling in Nyanda village

Drilling started on 1st September, 2020 at around 6: 00am and ended around 1:00pm the same day in Nyanda village. Following the drilling process pumping test and civil works were conducted on the following day.

b. Borehole drilling in Kasese 2 village, GVH Kalungulu



Kasese 2 Borehole during Pumping Test and Apron construction

Kasese 2 village is situated opposite OCA campus and has been having challenges of water and people were crossing over the M1 to get water. One of the challenges has been finding good quality water as the area has a history of aquifers with salty water. Water quality testing will be conducted later on. Drilling started on 1st September, 2020 and was completed 3rd September. On the 4th of September, 2020, pump tests and civil works were done.

Meeting with Chiefs



Participants posing after the meeting

A planning meeting was held with chiefs who are in the water committee among group village headmen. In attendance of the meeting was also the head of health surveillance assistants, OCA Country Director and also the new Water Field Assistant. This was a planning meeting for new water wells and repairs. Involving local leaders is important in ensuring increased participation and sustainability of the project.

2. Conclusion

The transition of duties within the Water Program between the old and new staff has been smooth and this has promised desired continuation of the activities and improvement of the

program in the months to come. More importantly preexisting OCA staff have also provided a good rapport to the new staff hence ensuring a good platform to exercise their duties.

AGRICULTURE PROGRAM



Introduction

In the month of August 2020, several activities took place in irrigation clubs and some at OCA farm and the activities have been explained below.

Fertilizer application

Kapachika irrigation club has 20 members of which 88 percent are women. OCA likes to see women empowered in economic activities such as irrigation farming. Kapachika club is cultivating maize on 1.5 acres' land. Farmers who are benefiting from this development are from the villages of Kaleso, Tembo and Kapachika. Currently the crop has been applied with basal dressing fertilizer and club members were trained on proper time of basal dressing application, recommended fertilizers, rate of fertilizer per station and distance from the point where the fertilizer will be applied to the crop. Other irrigation clubs such as Ndalusa, Madzimayela, Kasangadzi and Mantchedza club were also involved in fertilizer application.



Maize intercropped with sugar beans

Planting and sowing

Planting has to be done very carefully for bumper harvest and it has to start with good choices of the crop variety and good land preparation activities. Chigona club is located under Buza village and it was involved in land preparation activities and planting. Planting was done following good agricultural practices where by 1 seed per planting station was encouraged to be planted. Total land of 1.3 acres was planted and watering is being done using watering canes. Other clubs such as Kasangadzi, Ndalusa and Mvunguti planted their crops.

Timvane club has sown tomato seeds. Sowing activity began with land preparation and seeds



were sown in beds using lines which were spaced at 10cm for good aeration. Other activities such as weeding and fertilizer application were also done. The sown seed grew very well but it has been attacked with new dangerous pests which attacked leaves of the seedlings and the seedlings started wilting

and died hence the nursery has been condemned. These dangerous pests have attacked more irrigation clubs. The club has been advised to choose another crop other than tomato hence Maize has been chosen to be cultivated.



Tomato seedlings affected with pests

Harvesting

In irrigation clubs of Ndalusa and Mvunguti, harvesting has been finalized where tomato was produced. The production process for this cycle went well and the members managed to come out with profits through the markets which were secured and they have paid the loan which they



took from OCA. OCA gave microloans to irrigation clubs and they pay back just 50% of the loan until they are fully established. These clubs have ventured into the second irrigation cycle and have started preparing land for the next crop cultivation. Tionezina club which is cultivating onions and vegetables have also begun harvesting onion and it is being sold within the community and partly is being sold to the big markets.

Manure making

Kasangadzi club members were trained on manure making and the training focused on Chimato manure and the importance of using manure in our farms. Chimato is simple manure to be made by smallholder farmers because it uses locally available materials. The materials used for making Chimato manure include water, crop residues and animal droppings. The manure becomes ready for farm use within the period of six weeks. Chimato manure was demonstrated to the farmers and it was encouraged to be done in their respective homes hence expected to have a lot of manure for the farmers from Kasangadzi club.

Club members trained on manure making

Watering equipment



SF1 Future pump and tank for Matchedza

Matchedza club will benefit from improved watering equipment from OCA. This includes a portable solar pump and tank (5000L) for a good and simple way of watering crops. This development has started and construction of the tank stand is in progress. The members of the club have shown their interest in the project contributing enough Bricks, quarry stones and

sand. The club members are very happy with this project because the burden of watering with canes will be reduced immediately and they expect bumper harvest. Plans are underway to install drip kits on this site.



Club members participating on construction of water tank stand

OCA Farm

The tenant who cultivated OCA Farm has finalized storage processes of the produce attained from OCA farm. The produce has been stored in OCA containers and crop share has not yet been done and is expected to be done immediately after the tenant comes back from his home (Kenya). The total bags harvested are 714, each weighing 50 kilos. The harvest has not come out as expected due to some challenges such as theft by surrounding villages and short rain season which resulted into maize wilting early before its maturity days.

EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM

Executive Summary

In the month of August 2020, the President of Malawi announced the government's plans to reopen schools early September, despite a surge in Covid-19 cases. In his national address, the president said only schools which meet the government's safety standards on coronavirus prevention will be allowed to reopen. And this decision stems from strides Malawi is making in its fight against Covid-19.

Education Situation Amidst Covid-19

In the education cluster of the task force, guidelines have already been developed on what schools need to do to reopen safely. The move to reopen schools is a welcomed idea to OCA because the closure of schools was jeopardizing the future of students, especially girls. Hundreds of girls across the country have fallen pregnant and others are getting married since the schools closed. So far OCA has three reported cases of secondary school girls who have fallen pregnant since the lockdown of schools. This is very unfortunate.

In the same reporting period, schools were being assessed by the Malawi government so that only schools that meet safety standards can reopen. Therefore, it was announced that schools will open on 7th September and only those classes writing National exams (form 4 and standard 8) and final year college students will be the first to reopen followed by others after a Month (in October). OCA has no standard 8 students but only three form 4 students at Nkhamenya girls secondary school. OCA has plans to visit these students once schools reopen to assess the situation and monitor how they are preparing for exams. Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE) exams will start early October.

Guidelines have been announced for school authorities to follow once schools reopen in order to avoid the spread of COVID-19. These include; temperature check, documentation of persistent cough or shortness of breath, and routine documentation of students from families affected by COVID-19. The ministry of Health also recommended washing of hands with soap and water or using hand sanitizer for students, wearing a face mask and observing physical distance.

Conclusion

Finally, OCA has a third year student at Malawi University of science and Technology (MUST) who has started e-learning whilst waiting for the school to reopen. Another student from Salima technical college, Princess has also reported on 7th September, 2020. The rest of the students will report to school on 12th October, 2020. OCA is now sponsoring a total of 94 students subtracting the three who have dropped out amidst COVID-19 lockdown of schools. Plans to replace the girls who have dropped out. Furthermore, the girls who have dropped out are encouraged to go back to school when the situation is favorable for them.