



AUGUST, 2022

# ORANT CHARITIES AFRICA MONTHLY REPORT



GABRIEL KAPANDA  
Orant Charities Africa,  
P/bag 365, Lilongwe  
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# HEALTHCARE PROGRAM

## Executive Summary

Kasese Health Center is in Traditional Authority Chakhaza, Dowa District along M1 road (Kasungu – Lilongwe) in Malawi, Africa. The Health Center is operated by Orant Charities Africa in coordination with the Ministry of Health (MOH). Orant Charities Africa healthcare program assists patients through Kasese Health Center (static clinic) and Mobile Outreach Clinics (MOC) which reaches parts of Kasungu District.

For the month of August 2022, Kasese Health Center (KHC) saw **605** patients at (OPD). Children Ward admitted no patients. Only **37** patients were seen during weekends and nights. Total patients seen in the month of August is **642**. MOC in Kasese catchment areas saw **618**. Kasungu (Bowe) Outreach clinic saw **3822** clients. MOC total patients seen is **4440**. Total patients seen in the month of August 2022 is **5082** (KHC: **642 (13%)** & MOC **4440 (87%)**).

The Laboratory department tested **625** for Malaria, out of which **31** were positive, representing a 5% positivity rate.

The Maternity department admitted **37** mothers and referred **5**. A total of **32** babies were born and **5** had complications (**1** Prematurity, **2** Asphyxia and **2** Weight < 2500g).

The Public Health department with the help of Health Surveillance Assistants (HSAs) administered **335** doses of Pfizer and **3** doses of J & J. Cumulatively, **2266** vaccines were administered (Astra-Zeneca **895**, Pfizer: **1053** & J & J: **318**).

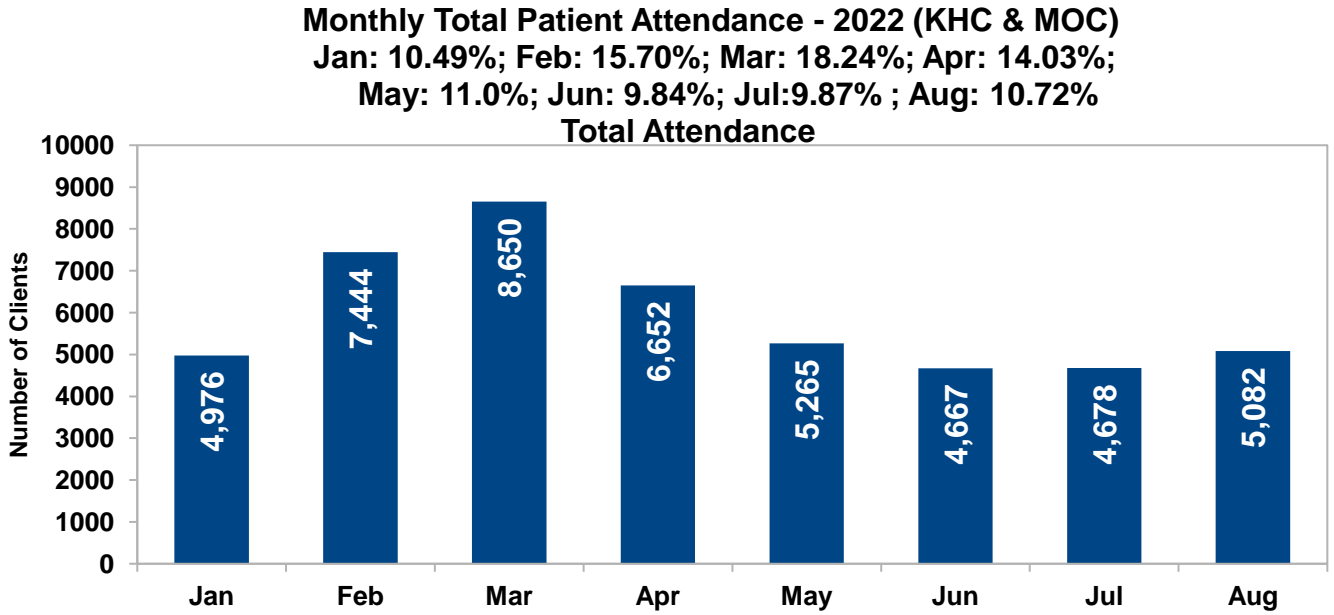
The HTS department tested **204** clients out of which **2** were positive, representing **1%**. Total patients seen at the eye clinic by an outsourced clinician is **88** and **10** were booked for surgery. **15** women were screened for Cervical Cancer and **No** VIA positive.

Table 1 Below shows monthly patients seen in both KHC and MOC.

<b>Months (2021)</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Total</b>
OPD Static Clinic	2138	2484	3178	1892	1921	1675	1295	605	<b>15188</b>
Bowe Outreach	2174	4242	4661	4091	2773	2444	2617	3822	<b>26824</b>
Kasese Outreach	618	589	686	550	495	492	711	618	<b>4759</b>
Children Ward	16	85	79	70	35	35	25	0	<b>345</b>
Nights/Holidays	30	44	46	49	41	21	30	37	<b>298</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4976</b>	<b>7444</b>	<b>8650</b>	<b>6652</b>	<b>5265</b>	<b>4667</b>	<b>4678</b>	<b>5082</b>	<b>47414</b>

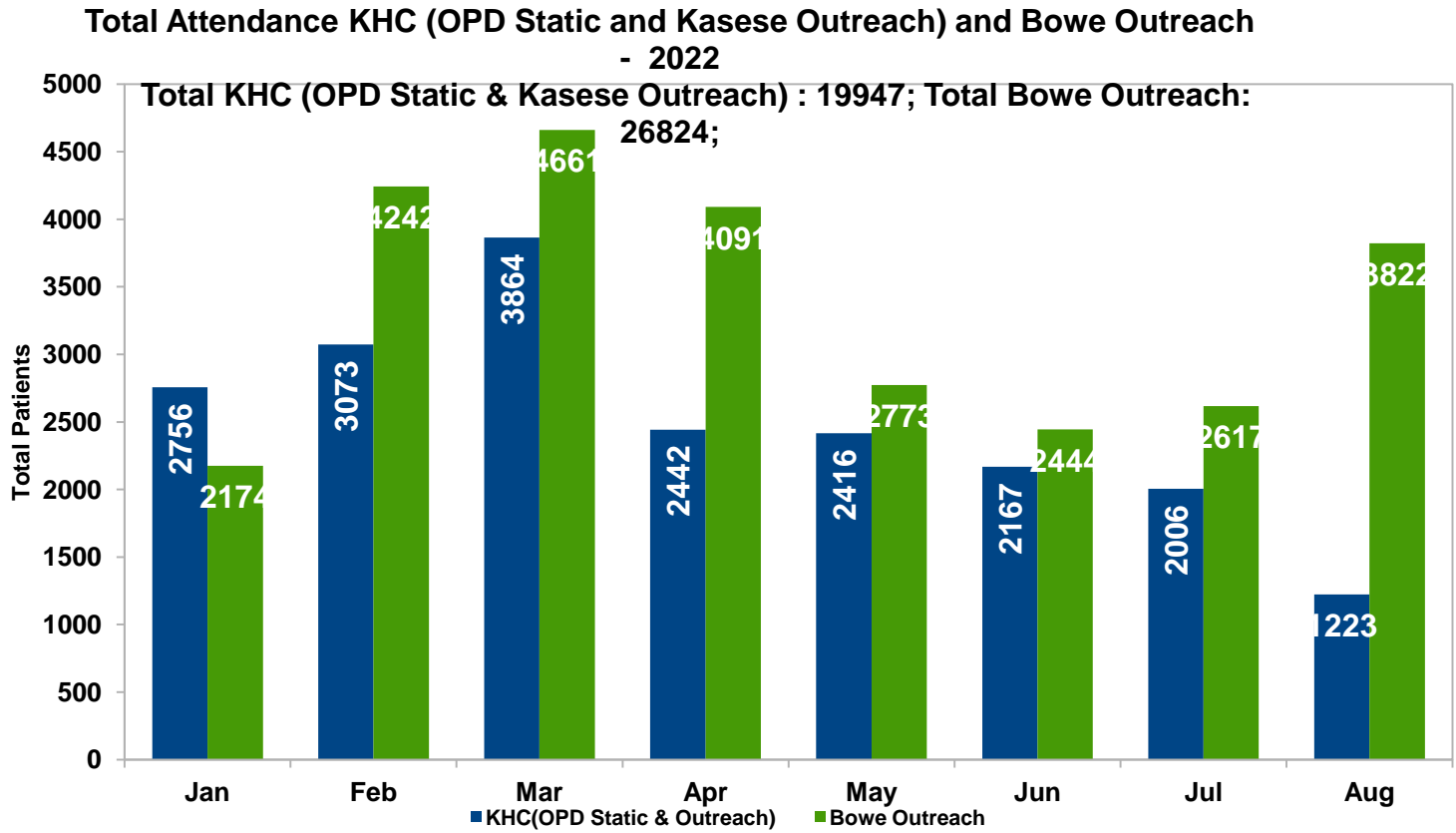
**Table 1 : Total monthly patients seen at KHC and MOC (2022).**

Figure 1 below shows total patient attendance for both KHC and MOC in 2022



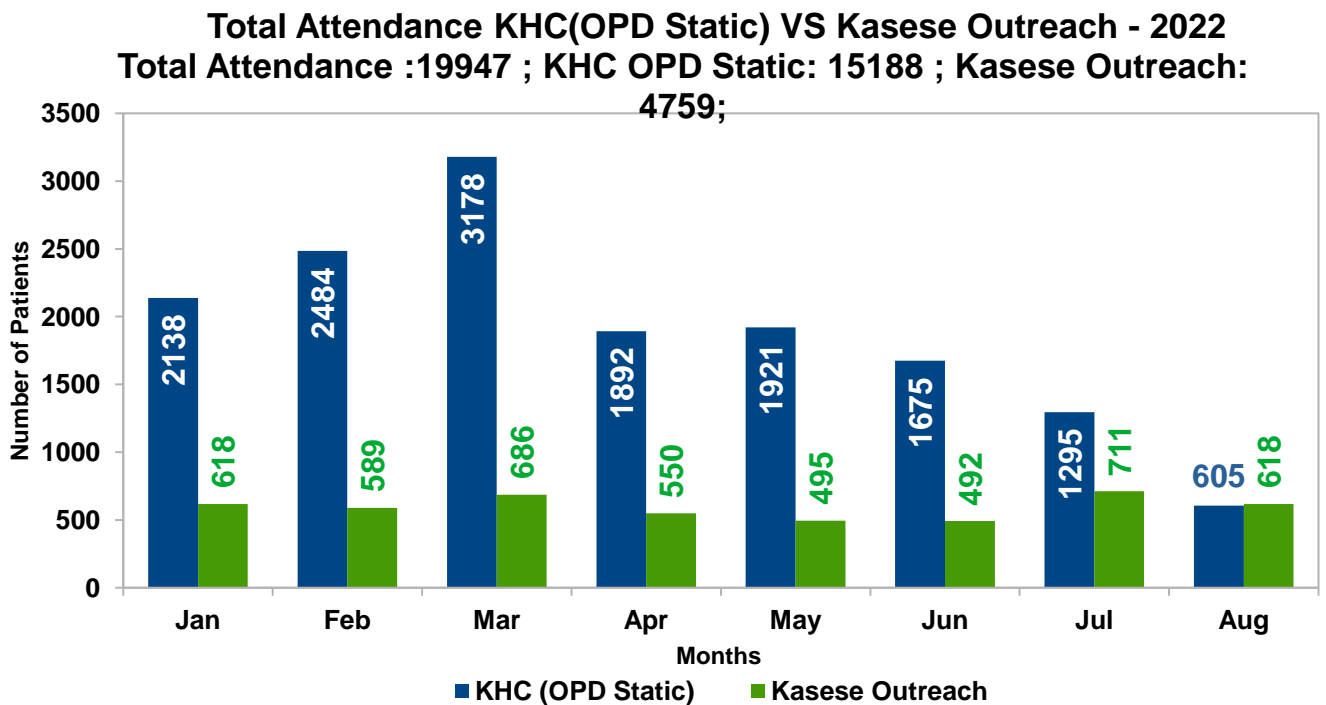
**Figure 1 : Total monthly patient attendance – KHC & MOC (2022).**

Figure 2 below shows the total number of patients seen at KHC (OPD Static and Kasese Outreach ) and Bowe Outreach.



**Figure 2: Total patients seen at KHC (OPD Static & Kasese Outreach) and Bowe Outreach – 2022.**

Figure 3 below shows total number of patients seen at KHC (OPD Static) and Kasese Outreach.

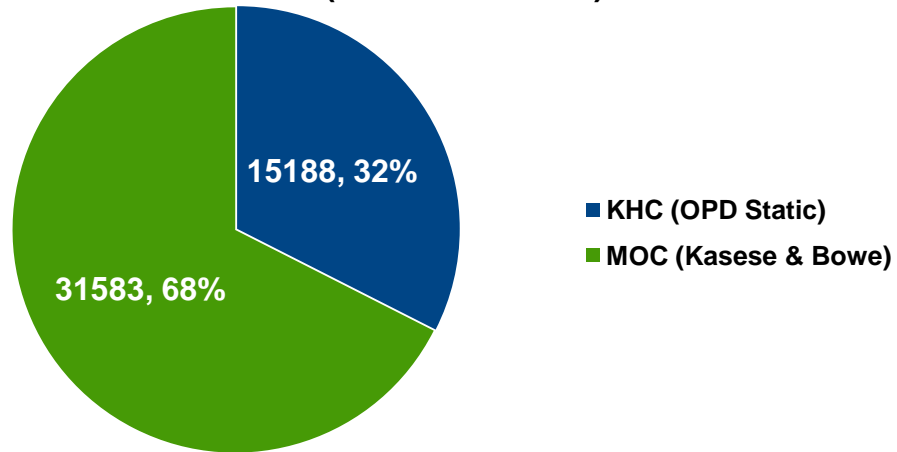


**Figure 3: Total Attendance KHC (OPD Static) and Kasese Outreach – 2022.**

Figure 3: shows the total number of patients seen at KHC (OPD Static) and MOC (Bowe & Kasese Outreaches). Despite the decline in patient’s attendance in both clinics, mobile outreach clinics continue to see more patients in comparison with static clinics, partly due to its accessibility to the community.

Figure 4 below shows the total number of patients seen at KHC (OPD Static) and MOC(Bowe & Kasese Outreaches).

**KHC OPD Static VS MOC (Kasese & Bowe) - 2022**



**Figure 4: Cumulative patients seen at KHC (OPD Static) and MOC (Kasese & Bowe).**

### **COVID 19 Situation Updates**

The COVID 19 situation in the country remains low and in August 2022 no test was conducted. The Health Center continues to provide vaccines at the facility and in our communities and also the clinic continues to observe the preventive measures(face masks, social distancing and hand washing/sanitizing).

#### **3.1 Cumulative COVID 19 Data – KHC Static.**

Table 2 below shows Cumulative COVID 19 Data.

	<b>Staff(OCA/HSA)</b>	<b>Others</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Cumulative Tests</b>	4	35	<b>39</b>
<b>Cumulative Positives</b>	0	12	<b>12</b>
<b>Cumulative Deaths</b>	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>August Tests</b>	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>August Positives</b>	0	0	<b>0</b>

**Table 2: COVID 19 Cumulative Data.**

### 3.2 COVID 19 Vaccine (Pfizer) – KHC Static.

Table 3 below shows Vaccine Doses Administered in 2022

<b>Dose</b>		<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Dose</b>		49	54	<b>103</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Dose</b>		111	121	<b>232</b>
<b>Balance Forward</b>	<b>Brought</b>	379	339	<b>718</b>
<b>Cumulative</b>		<b>539</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>1053</b>

**Table 3: Pfizer Administered at KHC Static (2022)**

### 3.3 COVID 19 Vaccine (Johnson & Johnson – J&J) – KHC Static

Table 4 below shows Vaccine Doses Administered in 2022

<b>Vaccine Type</b>		<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Johnson &amp; Johnson (J &amp; J)</b>		1	2	<b>3</b>
<b>Balance Forward</b>	<b>Brought</b>	154	161	<b>315</b>
<b>Cumulative</b>		<b>155</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>318</b>

**Table 4: J & J Administered at KHC Static (2022)**

### 3.4 COVID 19 Vaccine (Astra-Zeneca) – KHC Static.

Table 5 below shows Vaccine Doses Administered in 2022

<b>Dose</b>		<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Dose</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Dose</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Balance Forward</b>	<b>Brought</b>	364	531	<b>895</b>
<b>Cumulative</b>		<b>364</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>895</b>

**Table 5: J & J Administered at KHC Static (2022)**



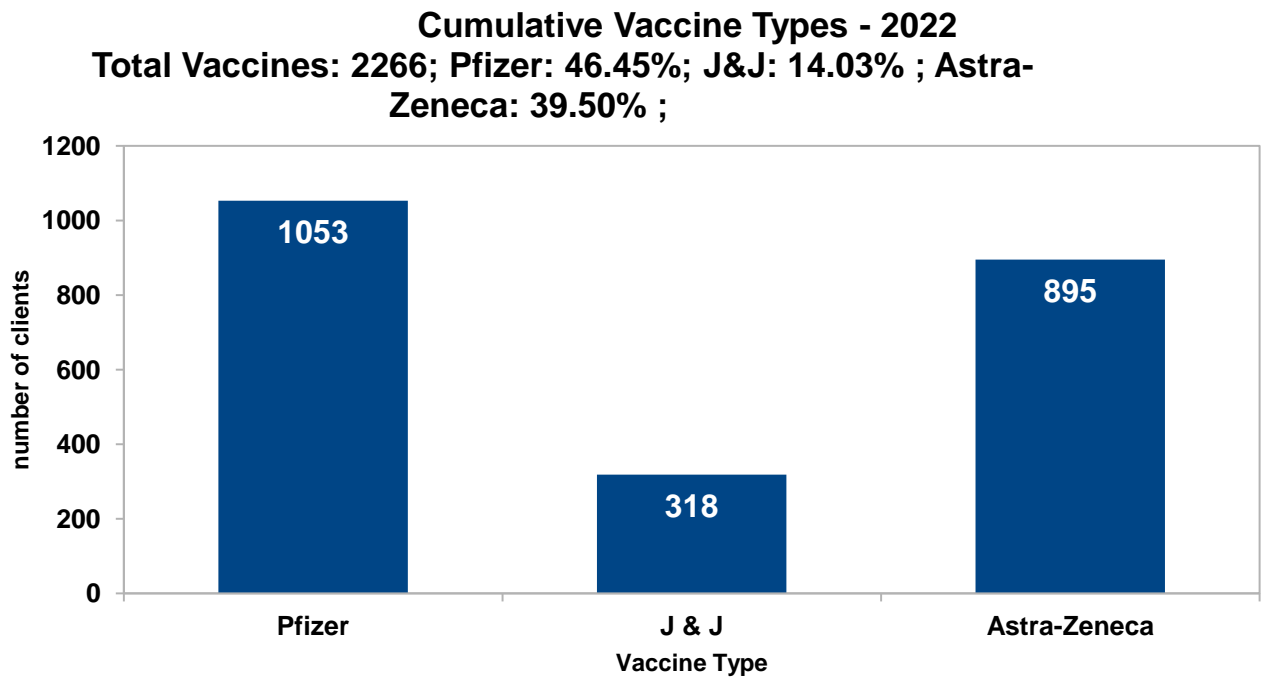
### 3.4 COVID 19 Vaccine Status – KHC Static.

Table 6 below shows Vaccine Status in the month of August 2022

Vaccine Type	Beginning Balance	End Balance
Astra-Zeneca	0	0
J & J	45	0
Pfizer	150	0

**Table 6: Astra-Zeneca Status at KHC Static (August 2022)**

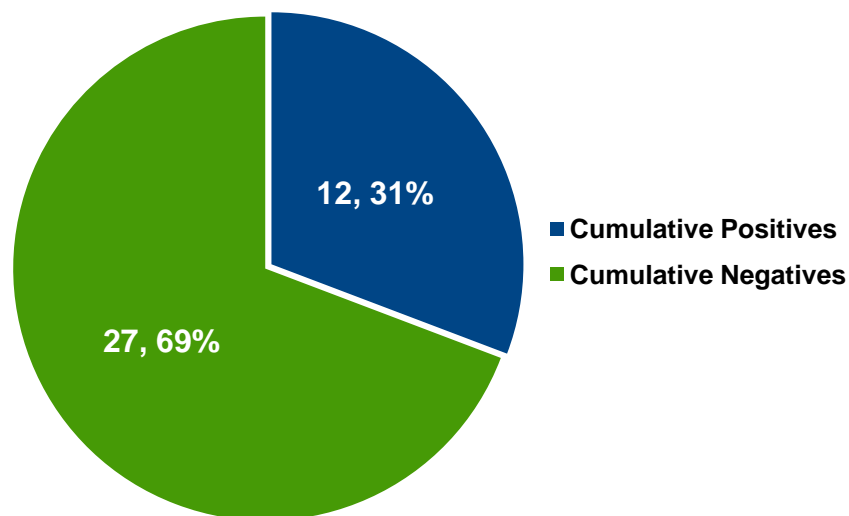
Figure 5 below show cumulative vaccines administered at KHC in the year 2022.



**Figure 5: Cumulative Vaccine Doses Administered at KHC (2022)**

Figure 6 below shows cumulative COVID 19 tests done in the year 2022.

**Cummulative COVID 19 Tests - 2022**  
**Cumulative Tests: 39**



**Figure 7: cumulative COVID 19 Tests (2022).**

## Reproductive and Family Planning Health

### 4.1 Maternal and New-born Health Care

Months (2022)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Total
<b>Admissions</b>	21	26	29	29	24	27	38	37	<b>204</b>
<b>Referrals</b>	2	5	2	14	13	9	10	5	<b>51</b>
<b>New Babies</b>	22	26	29	29	24	27	40	32	<b>202</b>
<b>Alive Babies</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>38</b>	32	<b>198</b>

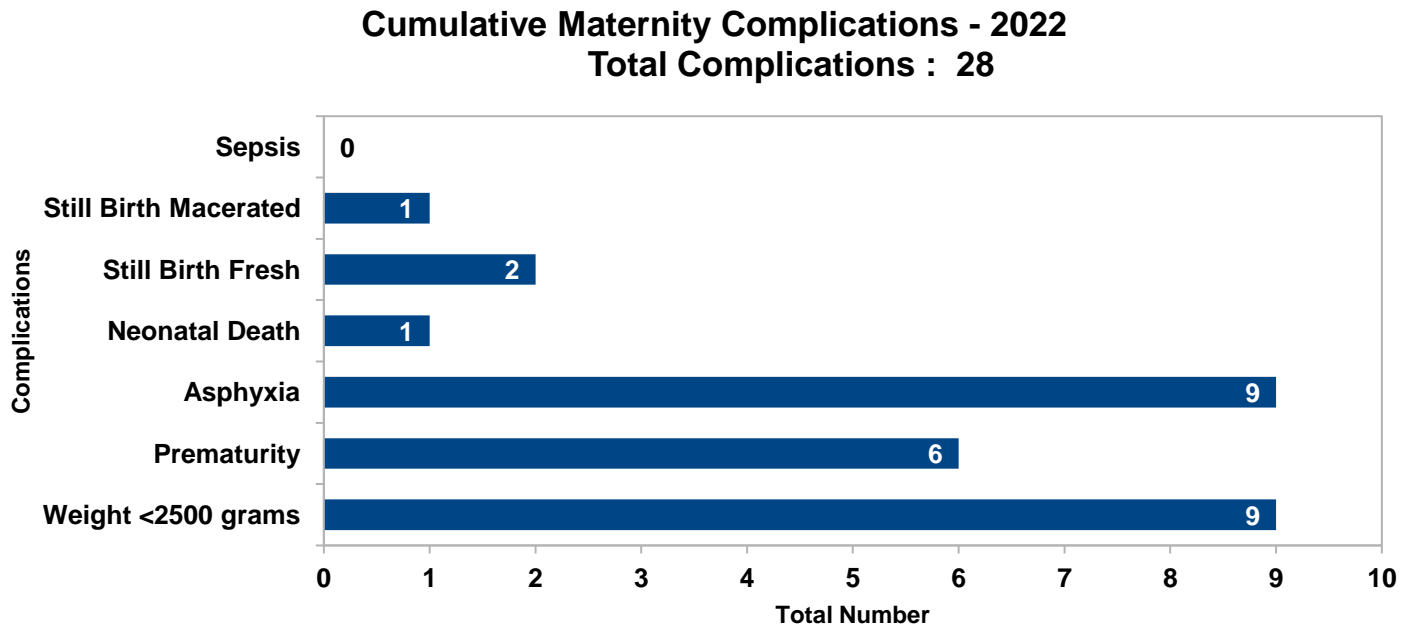
**Table 6: Maternity Data - 2022**

Table 7 below shows Maternity Data of new babies with complications for the year 2022.

Months (2022)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Total
Weight <2500 grams	1	1	1	0	1	0	3	2	9
Prematurity	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	6
Asphyxia	1	0	5	0	0	1	0	2	9
Sepsis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Still Birth Fresh	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
Still Birth Macerated	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Neonatal Death	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>28</b>

**Table 7: Newborns with complications - 2022**

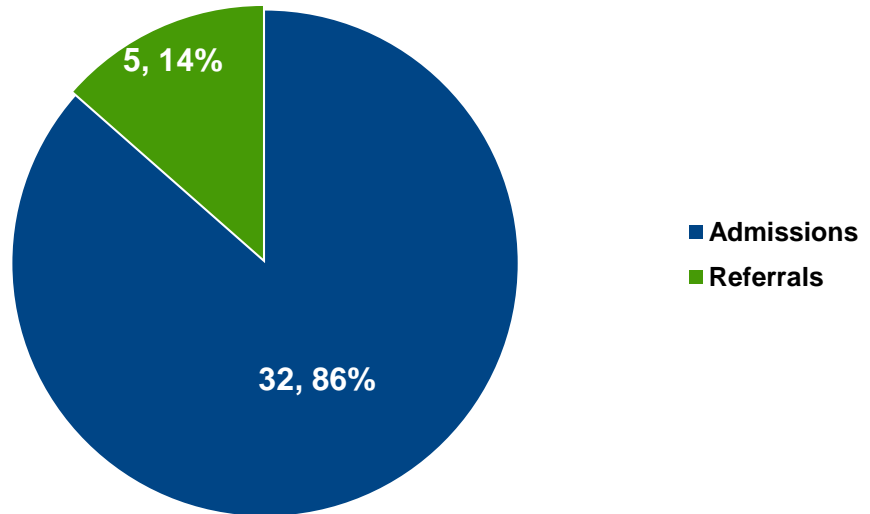
Figure 8 below shows total Cumulative Maternity Complications for the year 2022.



**Figure 8: Cumulative Maternity Complications – 2022**

Figure 9 below shows total monthly Maternity attendance.

**Maternity Attendance - August 2022**  
**Total Attendance: 37**



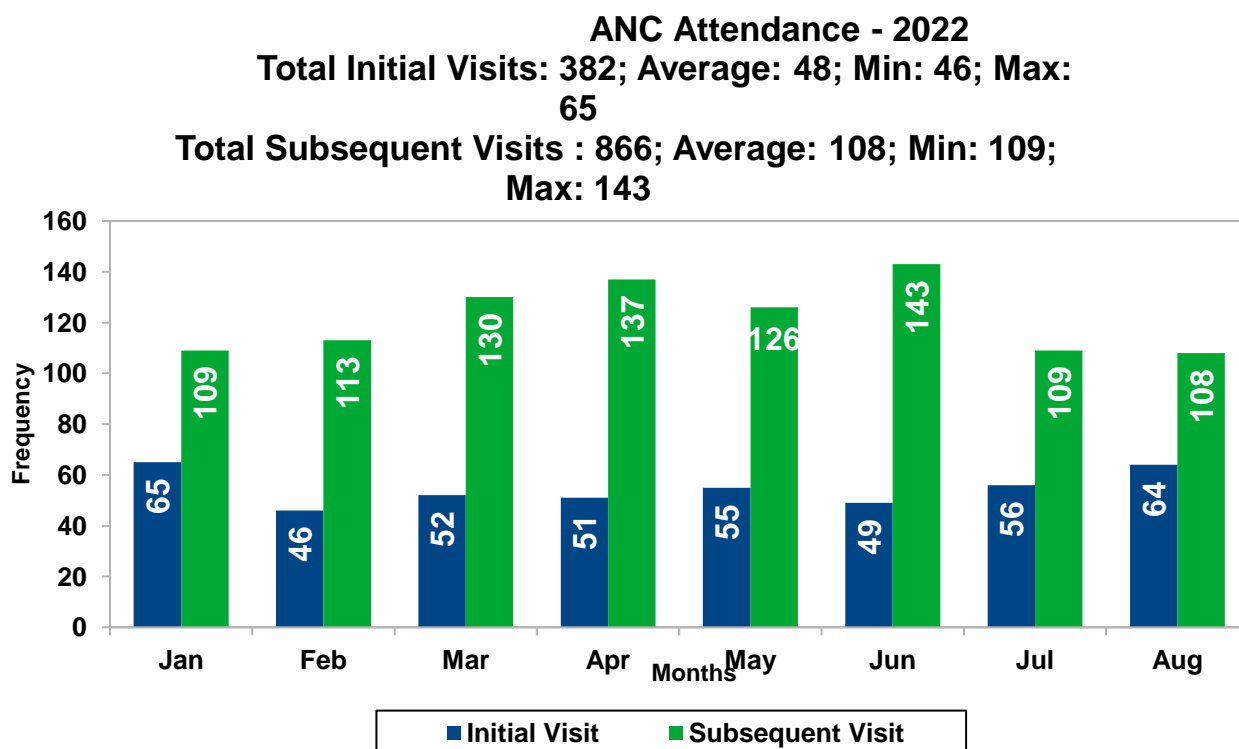
**Figure 9: number of Admissions and Referrals (August 2022)**

Table 8 below shows the reason for the referrals

<b>Referral Reason</b>	<b>Number of Clients</b>
Cephalopelvic Disproportion (CPD)	<b>2</b>
Short Stature	<b>2</b>
Young Prim	<b>1</b>

**Table 8: Referral Reasons - August 2022**

Figure 10 below shows ANC New attendances.



**Figure 10: ANC New Attendances (2022).**

#### 4.2 Cervical Cancer Control Clinic Report

Table 9 below shows 2022 Monthly Cervical Cancer Screening.

Month (2022)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
<b>Total</b>	15	22	22	15	5	10	13	15
<b>VIA Positive</b>	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	0

**Table 9: Monthly Cervical Cancer Screening 2022 Table.**

The monthly Cervical Cancer screening remains to be low, there is a need for more community sensitization.

#### 5. Eye Clinic

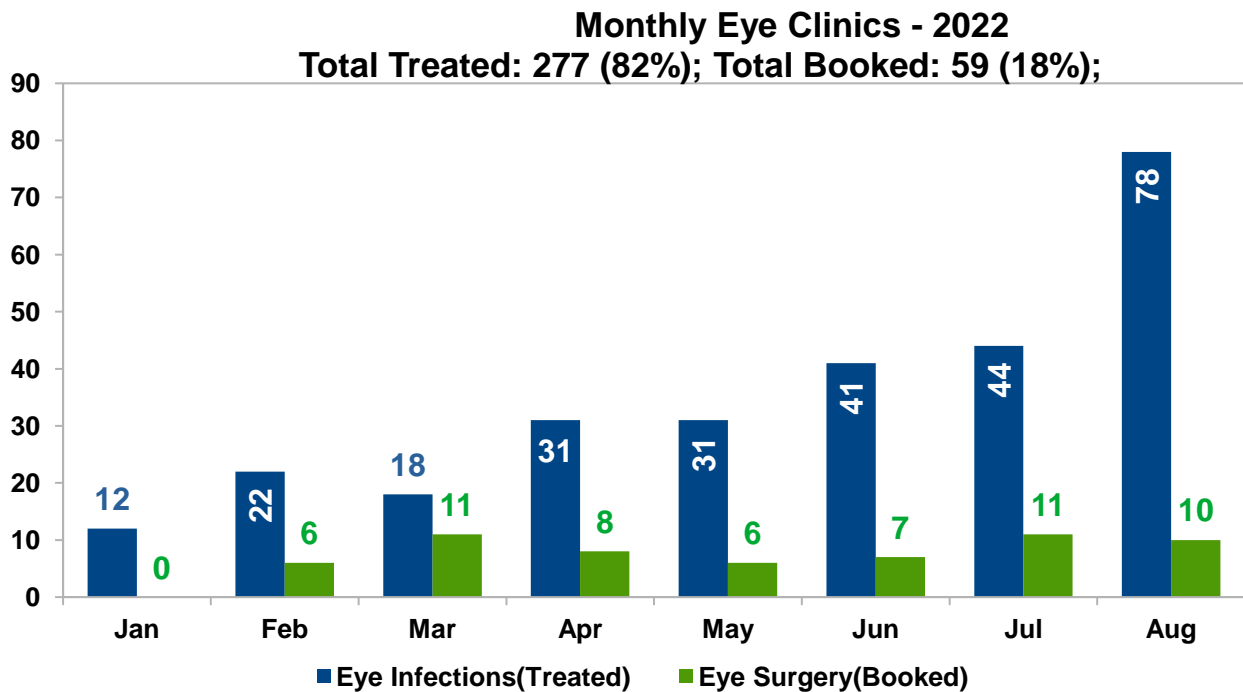
The outsource eye specialist continue to provide service in Kasese Health Center and operation is done at Kasungu District Hospital.

Table 10 below shows the total number of clients treated for eye infections and those booked for surgery.

Month (2022)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Eye Infections (Treated)	12	22	18	31	31	41	44	78
Eye Surgery (Booked)	0	6	11	8	6	7	11	10
<b>Total Seen</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>88</b>

**Table 10: Monthly Eye Clinic Table - 2022.**

Figure 11 below shows the Monthly Eye Clinic in the year 2022.



**Figure 11 : Monthly Eye Clinic – 2022.**

### Malaria Report

Table 11 below shows Malaria tests for August 2022

	Total Tested	Positives	Negatives	Positivity Rate
<b>Under 5</b>	335	9	326	2.7%
<b>5 Years and Over</b>	290	22	268	7.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>5%</b>

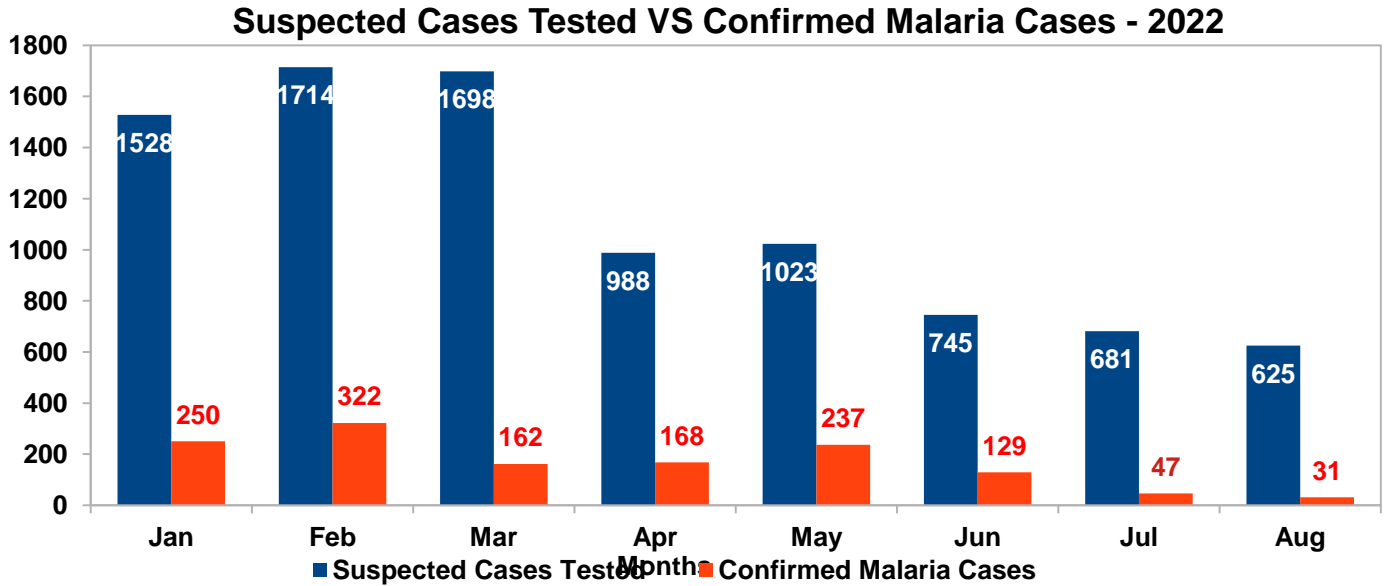
**Table 11: Total Malaria Tests (August 2022).**

Table 12 below shows total Malaria Cases (MRDT's Positive), LA Issued and Dispensed(Kasese Outreach Included)

<b>2022</b>	<b>January</b>	<b>February</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>August</b>
<b>Suspected Malaria Cases</b>	1535	1722	1707	988	1023	754	684	625
<b>Suspected Cases Tested MRDT</b>	1528	1714	1698	988	1023	745	681	625
<b>Confirmed Malaria Cases</b>	250	322	162	168	237	129	47	31
<b>New Malaria Cases Registered</b>	257	330	171	168	237	138	50	30
<b>LA Dispensed</b>	257	330	171	168	237	138	50	30
<b>LA Issued</b>	690	300	600	270	2470	645	0	30

**Table 12: Total Malaria Cases, LA Issued and Dispensed Table.**

Figure 12 shows Suspected Malaria Cases Tested against Confirmed Malaria Cases in the year 2022

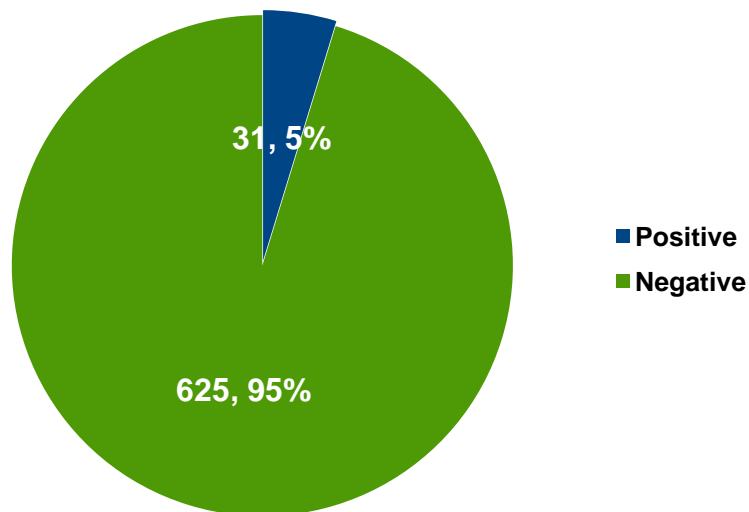


**Figure 12: Malaria Suspected Cases Against Confirmed Cases - 2022**

The Health Center continues to observe a drastic decline in malaria cases this year following timely interventions which include distribution of insect treated nets and its usage education in the community.

Figure 13 shows total KHC (Static and Kasese Outreach) Malaria tests (August 2022)

### Total Malaria Test - August 2022 Total Tests: 625



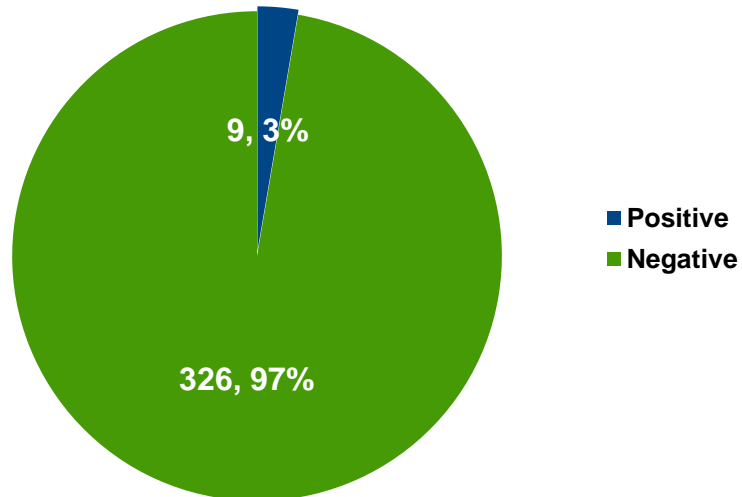
**Figure 13: Total KHC (Static and Kasese Outreach) Malaria tests (August, 2022).**



Figure 14 shows total KHC (Static and Kasese Outreach) Under 5 Years Malaria tests

**Under 5 Malaria Tests - KHC (Static & Kasese Outreach - August 2022)**

**Total Tests: 335**

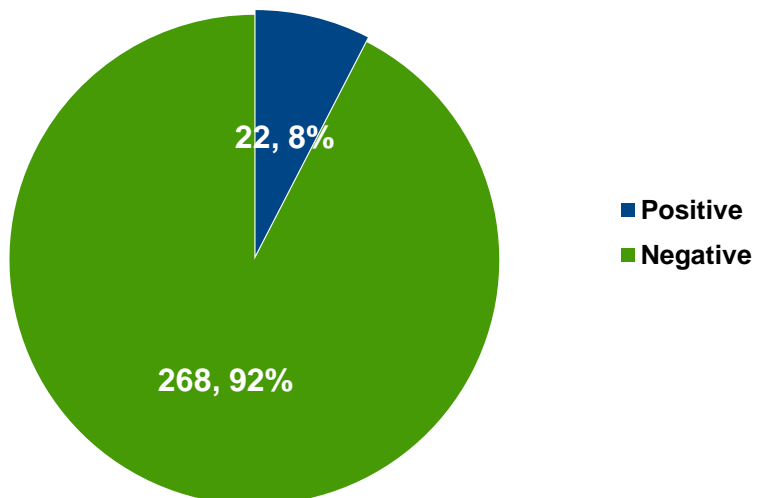


**Figure 14: Static and Kasese Outreach, Under 5 Years Malaria tests (August, 2022).**

Figure 15 shows total KHC (Static and Kasese Outreach) 5 Years and Over Malaria tests

**5+ Years Malaria Tests - KHC (Static & Kasese Outreach - August 2022)**

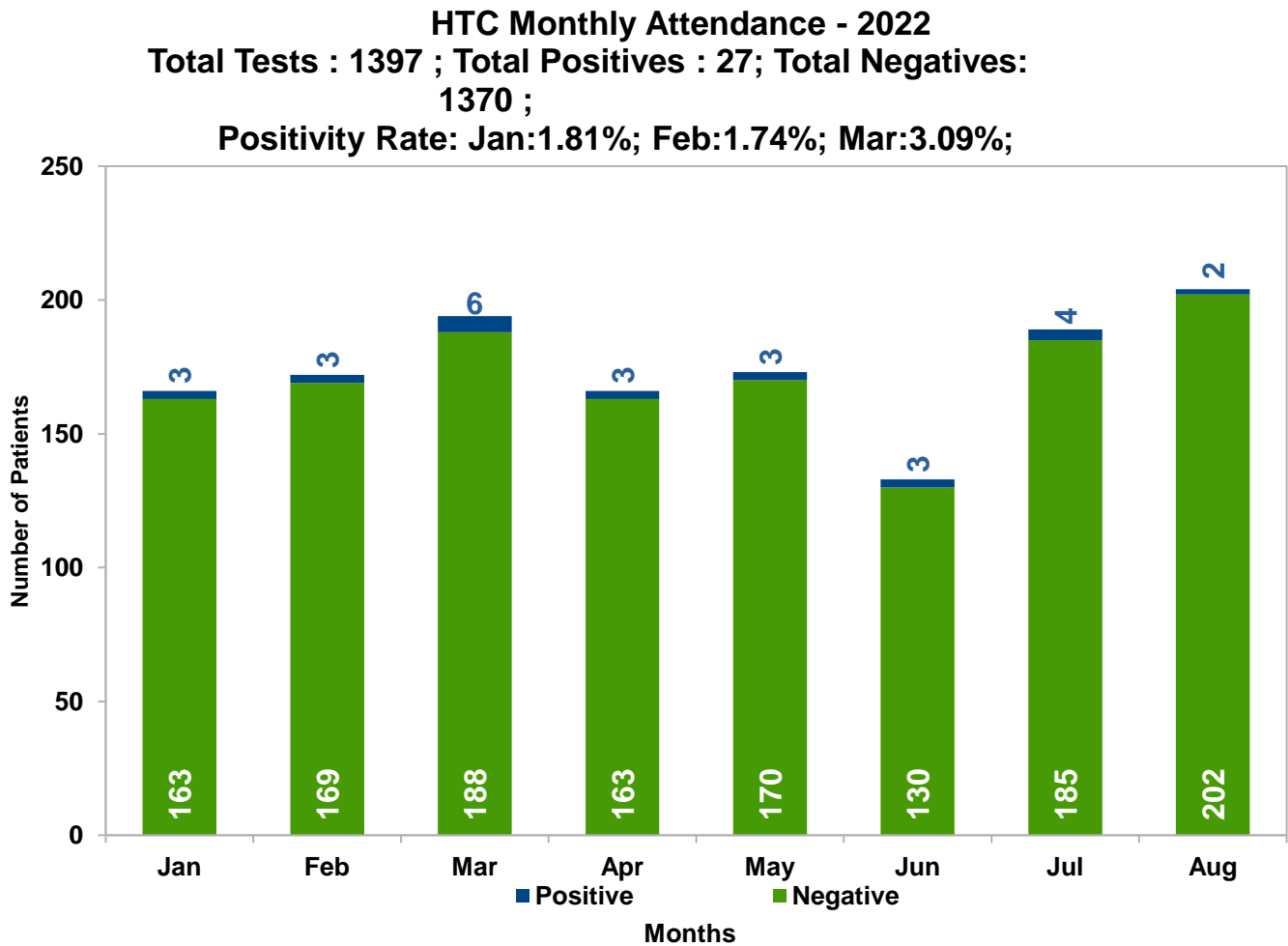
**Total Tests: 290**



**Figure 15 : Static and Kasese Outreach, 5+ Malaria tests (August, 2022).**

## 7. HIV Testing Services (HTS)

Figure 16 below shows HTC Monthly Data (2022).



**Figure 16: HTC Monthly Data 2022**

Kasese catchment area positivity rate remains to be low, this could indicate that, people adhere to HIV/AIDS preventive measures.

## 8. Laboratory Services.

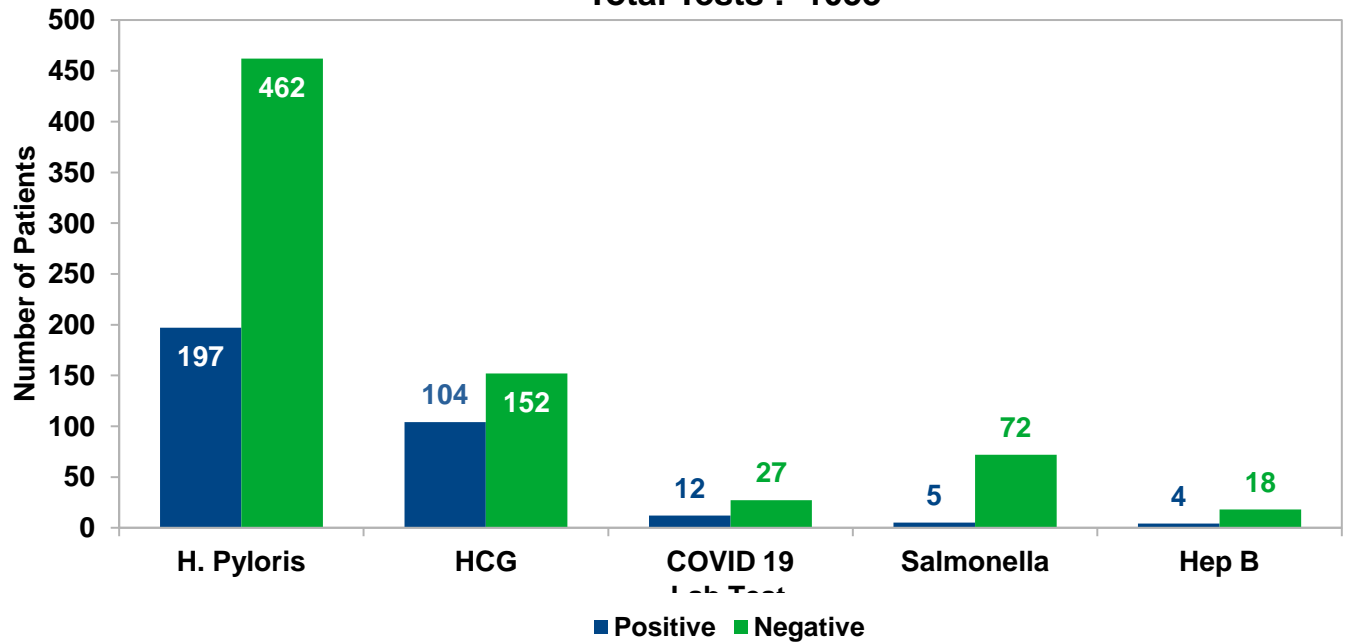
Table 13 Below shows qualitative Laboratory tests conducted in the year 2022 (KHC Static and Kasese Outreach).

	<b>H. Pyloris</b>		<b>Salmonella</b>		<b>Hep B</b>		<b>HCG</b>		<b>COVID 19</b>	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Pos</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Pos</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Pos</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Pos</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Pos</b>
<b>Jan</b>	69	26	6	2	2	2	30	8	30	12
<b>Feb</b>	88	24	16	0	1	0	41	17	3	0
<b>Mar</b>	79	21	17	0	2	0	43	15	2	0
<b>Apr</b>	80	25	7	0	4	1	19	0	1	0
<b>May</b>	85	25	5	0	1	0	41	17	1	0
<b>Jun</b>	82	34	1	0	4	0	42	18	2	0
<b>Jul</b>	92	25	8	0	2	1	43	16	0	0
<b>Aug</b>	84	17	17	3	6	0	39	13	0	0
<b>Tota l</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>12</b>

**Table 13: Qualitative Lab Tests Data Table for KHC Static - 2022.**

Figure 17 below shows qualitative lab tests 2022

**Qualitative Lab Tests - 2022**  
**Total Tests : 1053**



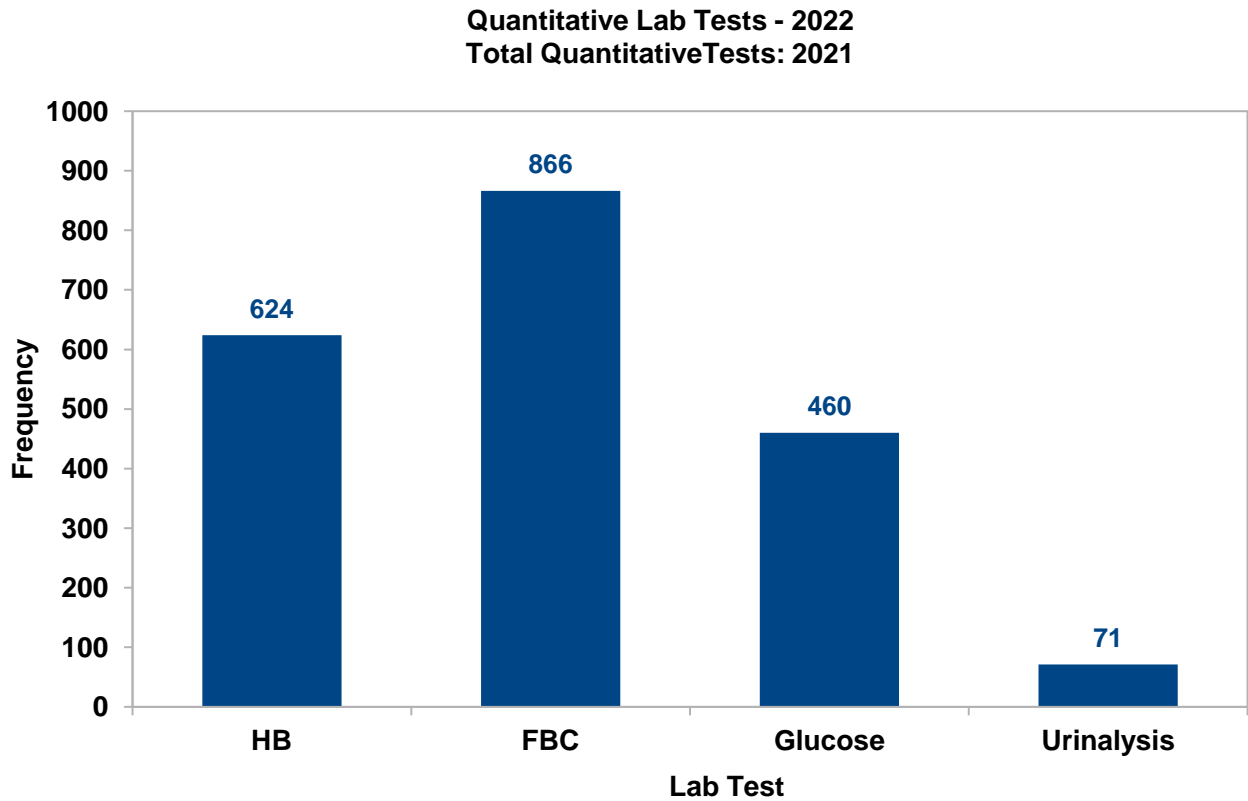
**Figure 17: Qualitative Lab Tests – 2022.**

Table 14 Below shows quantitative Laboratory tests conducted in the year 2022 (KHC Static and Kasese Outreach).

	<b>Glucose</b>	<b>HB</b>	<b>Urinalysis</b>	<b>FBC</b>
<b>Jan</b>	47	93	4	102
<b>Feb</b>	30	84	2	98
<b>Mar</b>	36	82	4	109
<b>Apr</b>	33	81	1	84
<b>May</b>	30	48	11	113
<b>Jun</b>	107	74	8	130
<b>Jul</b>	82	76	21	130
<b>Aug</b>	95	86	23	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>866</b>

**Table 14: Quantitative Lab Tests Data Table for KHC Static.**

Figure 18 shows quantitative lab tests for the year 2022

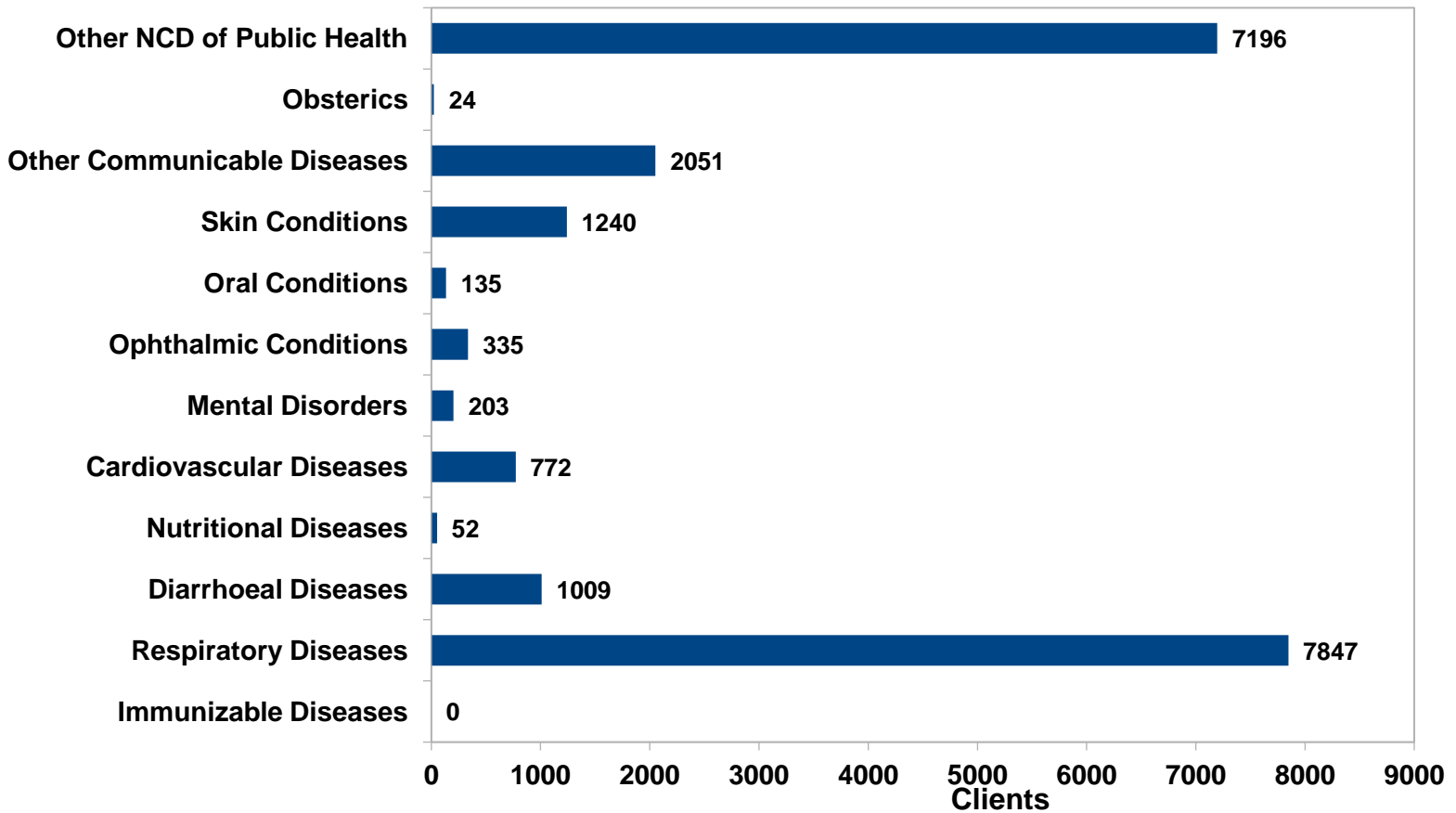


***Figure 18: Quantitative Lab Tests – 2022.***

### **9. Disease Group Trends.**

Figure 19 below shows diseases occurrences for August 2022

### Disease Occurrences - August 2022



*Figure 19: Disease Occurrences (August, 2022).*

### Healthcare Finance and Administration

Table 15 shows the clinic finance table for 2022.

2022	Amount Collected	Amount Spent
January	MK 2,008,000	MK 388,170
February	MK 2,509,100	MK 506,506
March	MK 2,821,910	MK 503,235
April	MK 2,141,250	MK 467,235
May	MK 2,600,250	MK 554,705
June	MK 2,415,300	MK 613,115
July	MK 2,681,250	MK 419,800
August	MK3,282,000	MK383,850

## Achievements and Challenges

### Success Highlights

1. **Continuous Professional Development (CPD)** - The healthcare workers continue to conduct powerpoint presentations on different medical topics every Friday, this is to ensure that all the staff continue to get updates of medical knowledge and skills.
2. **Human Papiloma Virus Vaccines (HPV)** – in a bid to control the cancer of the cervix, the Health Center through the Ministry of Health (MoH) and Health Surveillance Assistants continues to administer the vaccine to girls aged 9-14, targeting the primary school going girls and those not yet sexually active and for the month of August 22 girls received the vaccines.
3. **Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)** - The Health Center continues to routinely screen patients for non-communicable disease like hypertension and diabetes in the outpatient department including those getting antiretroviral drugs.
4. **Board Members Visit** – The Health Center was blessed to receive a team of board members from the USA. During the visit they also had time to conduct supportive supervision, and according to their report, they were impressed with the work at the Health Center and made few recommendations which include posters to be pasted at the clinic walls and harmonization of user fee charges both for outreach and static clinics.
5. **Pharmacy** -The Health Center procured medicine and medical supplies according to the budget, and the Health Center didn't run out of essential medicine.
6. **Malaria Control** - The Health Center continues to observe a record sharp decrease in malaria cases now at **5%** positivity rate from **6.7%** seen last month.
7. **Staff Rotations** - the staff have started monthly rotation between outreach and static clinic.

### Key Challenge highlights.

1. There is a fuel crisis in the country, and it has affected the ambulance services.
2. The Health Center continues to register a lot of patients, mostly children with chickenpox. Luckily, few are presenting with no severe signs and symptoms.
3. The 24 Hours Children ward night admission has been suspended for a few months as the numbers dropped due to reduced cases of Malaria.
4. There is an imminent outbreak of cholera in our district following a report of an outbreak in 19 districts in the country.

## Water and Sanitation Program



### **Introduction**

The month of August was a success in program implementation for the WASH program. The biggest highlight for the month was the completion of the first two school pit latrines blocks at Nambola primary school. More importantly, the WASH program completed the implementation of all planned activities for August 2022. In summary, the WASH program achieved the following milestones in line with the program goal of reducing morbidity and mortality of people of Kasese through improved access to water supply, sanitation facilities and good hygiene practices;

- Water point repairs
- Borehole drilling (Amos & Zindo 2 village)
- Water Point Committee (WPC) training for Mvulayakata and Nambela boreholes
- Completed construction of latrines at Nambola primary school
- Meeting with school management for Kapini school (latrine construction community mobilization meeting)
- Meeting with Chiefs from Zindo village



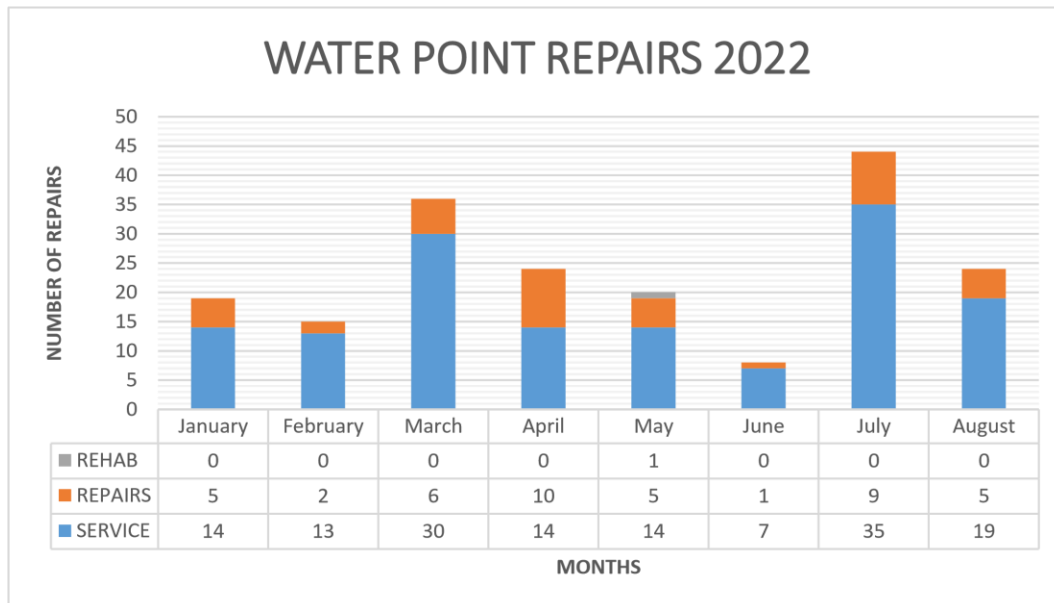
## DETAILED NARRATION OF MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

### Water point repairs and rehabilitations



*Pump repair session in Mandevu village during the month*

To promote the sustainability of water points the WASH program supports rural communities in water point repairs. To achieve this, the WASH program promotes preventive maintenance of water points, conducts major water point repairs in collaboration with local artisans; Hand pump Area Mechanics (AM), and provides spare parts for major water point repairs. During the month the WASH program repaired a total of **24 water points (Service/preventive: 19; Repairs: 5)**. The graph below shows the water points repaired and serviced by the WASH program in 2022 so far;



*A graph showing the number of repairs conducted between January to August 2022*

## Borehole drilling and construction



*Left – Old water source in Zindo 2 village, right – New water point constructed by OCA in Zindo 2 village*

To promote access to improved water services the WASH program drills new water points in Kasese. Under this initiative, in August, the WASH program drilled 2 water points in Zindo 2 and Amos village. Before this initiative, these two villages were accessing water from unprotected hand-dug wells which left communities from these villages at the risk of water-borne diseases such as Cholera and diarrhoea. The two newly drilled water points are now in operation, the water point in Zindo 2 village is expected to benefit approximately 300 people while the one in Amos village is expected to benefit a total of 200 people. The two new water points take the total of newly drilled water points to 8 out of the annual target of 15 in 2022.

## Water Point Committee (WPC) training



*Left -A classroom session during water point committee training for Nambela borehole, Right – Practical session during water point committee training for Mvulayakata borehole*

To ensure active participation in water points management the WASH program trains rural communities in Community Based Management (CBM) of water points. In this initiative a total of 10 volunteers (forming a water point committee) from each community benefiting from a new water point are trained in minor water point repairs, water point maintenance funds management, community mobilization, water handling and water

point sanitation. In August, the WASH program trained **2** WPC from **Nambela** and **Mvulayakata** villages. The water point in Mvulayakata village was drilled in June 2022 while the water point in Nambela village was drilled in July 2022. The two training sessions were conducted in the two respective villages for 5 days. In each village, the chief was also invited to attend the training.

### **Construction of latrines at Nambola Primary School**

Late in July, the WASH program began the construction of latrines at Nambola primary school. Latrines in schools are constructed to promote good sanitation among learners with the aim of reducing sanitation-related diseases. By the end of August, the WASH program managed to complete all two pit latrines blocks at Nambola primary school. Each of the two latrine blocks has 4 doors, the latrines have been allocated to boys and girls respectively. The latrines are expected to benefit a total of **385** learners from the school. Nambola primary school is located in Kabwinja Education Zone and covers standards 1 to 5. Following the successful completion of a latrine's construction project at Nambola, the WASH program will begin construction of latrines at Kapini primary school in September 2022.



*The new latrine blocks constructed by OCA at Nambola Primary school*

### **Meeting with Kapini Primary School Management Committee**

In August the WASH program organized a meeting with the Kapini school management committee. The meeting was organized to strategize the modalities for latrine construction at the school. Kapini primary school is one of the two schools expected to benefit from the OCA school latrine construction initiative in 2022. Among key discussions during the meeting was the role of OCA and the school community during latrine construction. During the meeting, it was agreed that OCA will provide payment for labor for mason, and purchase of latrine construction materials which cannot be sourced within the school community such as Iron sheets, cement, paint, etc. On the other hand, the community volunteered to provide bricks, sand and quarry stone for the project.

Latrine construction at Kapini school is expected to start in early September and is expected to be completed by the end of September 2022. OCA plans to construct two blocks of latrines; one for boys and the other for girls. Each block of latrines will be made of 4 individual latrine cubicles.



*A section of participants during a meeting with the Kapini Primary school management committee*

### **Meeting with Chiefs from Zindo Group Village Headman**

During the month the WASH program was invited to a community mobilization meeting in Zindo village. This meeting was aimed at resolving disputes on borehole fundraising in Zindo village. During the meeting, the WASH program was represented by the WASH field Assistant. Other members in attendance during the meeting were Chiefs from around Zindo, community members and the Group Village Headman (GVH) Makombwa 1. During the meeting, the WASH field assistant highlighted the importance of the borehole maintenance fund, by-laws on borehole management and the importance of servicing a borehole at least once every three months. New by-laws on borehole management for the village were agreed upon by all members present.

### **Conclusion**

The month of August ended on a high note, with a visit of board members from Orant Charities US. August was a successful month in program implementation, during the month the WASH program achieved all its plans according to the work plan set earlier in the month. The WASH program is optimistic for the new month of September which is another step towards sustainable access to safe water and sanitation for the people of Kasese.

# Agriculture and Business

## Agriculture



### **Introduction**

Farming is one of the important activities which are building the economy of Malawi. Smallholder farmers depend on farming to improve their economic status and feed their families. OCA supports smallholder farmers in equipping them with knowledge on commercial farming. The activities are done in both irrigation and rainfed farming through provision of farm inputs as microloans and agriculture expertise. Activities conducted during the reporting month have been explained below.

### **Marketing of Produce**

During the rainy season of 2021/2022, OCA agriculture office trained farmers in commercial farming. Farmers cultivated crops such as Soya beans and groundnuts. The program targeted smallholder farmers from villages around OCA farm and only those with limited land for crop production, had passion for farming as business and had funds challenges were selected. Those selected farmers formed a club which is called Mwayiwanthu farm club. Members of the club were trained and monitored in all necessary areas of crop production up to Marketing. There was agreement with club members to store the produce at one place and sell the produce at once so that they can get better markets and prices for their produce. The crops produced were of good quality since there was good management which resulted into good markets for the produce. The crops produced by Mwayiwanthu farm club have been sold at Mk5,500/tin (20 litre bucket) as for Groundnuts and Mk750/kg as for Soya. Every member of the club who was on this program has made profit and been able to pay back the loan. The program has shown to be more helpful to the community as it was the first time for the farmers to make

such big profits in farming. Below are tables showing breakdown of the production process with Mwayiwanthu farm club.

### Groundnuts production

Name	# of pales sold	Price/pale	Total cost	Loan	Take home
Daniel Lingison	85	5,500	467,500	160,750	306,750
Labson Kambwita	101	5,500	555,500	164,500	391,000
Elias Gidion	99	5,500	544,500	215,750	328,750
Monica Banda	102	5,500	561,000	183,750	377,250
Feleyi Jestar	102	5,500	561,000	219,500	341,500
Teleza Banda	136	5,500	748,000	190,875	557,125
<b>Total</b>	<b>625</b>		<b>3,437,500</b>	<b>1,135,125</b>	<b>2,302,375</b>

### Soya Production

Name	kgs sold	Price/kg	Total cost	Loan	Take home
Regina Phiri	558	750	418,500	90,550	327,950
Aaron Chiwale	431	750	323,250	97,700	225,550
Dumancy Mtengowaminga	682	750	511,500	128,300	383,200
Lyness Nkhungu	502	750	376,500	95,550	280,950
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,173</b>		<b>1,629,750</b>	<b>412,100</b>	<b>1,217,650</b>



*Mwayiwanthu farm club selling groundnuts*

### **Pump installation**

One of the big challenges which irrigation farmers are going through is poor irrigation mechanization. Most of the irrigation clubs which OCA is working with use Petrol water pumps and buckets. Petrol water pumps are expensive to use since it requires fuel for its operation. This mostly results into high cost of production hence farmers making very low profits. During reporting month of August, OCA supported irrigation clubs of Chigona and Mvunguti with big solar pumps which will reduce problems of watering. Club members were very excited with the support of solar pumps as it will reduce production cost. Total number of 56 members from Chigona and 18 members from Mvunguti irrigation club benefited from this development.



*Solar pump installation*

### **Loan payment**

Irrigation clubs are supported with farm inputs such as seed, chemicals and fertilizers as microloans. For this year there are 11 irrigation clubs currently working with OCA and

these clubs are cultivating crops such as Tomatoes and Maize. The production process for this year has started very well with good crop stands in most of these irrigation clubs which are working with OCA. Currently some irrigation clubs which are cultivating tomatoes are in process of harvesting and marketing of the produce. Loan repayment is also taking place in those irrigation clubs which are selling their produce which are Matchedza, Madzimayela, Chigona and Mvunguti.

Mwayiwanthu farm club has sold their produce and have finalized loan payment which was composed of farm inputs such as groundnuts seed, soya seed, inoculants and chemicals. These clubs are encouraged to use mobile loan payments which include banks or Airtel money.

### **Training Irrigation Clubs**

Training was conducted under irrigation farming where farmers were trained on good practices to be followed when doing irrigation. Total number of 75 farmers were trained who were from irrigation clubs of Chigona and Tchale. The main topics under discussion on this training are

- awareness on water user association,
- Savings (farming as profit),
- Water management and scheduling,
- Impact of climate change and
- Work plan

The training helped most smallholder farmers with knowledge on how to save the little they get from the irrigation farming, the recommended distance from the source of water to the field and the importance of marketing the produce at club level. Farmers were also trained on roles the executive members have to play to the club. The irrigation club members were also reminded of the type of people the club holds, which are people with the same problems so that they can share their ideas and help one another in solving the problem. Farmers were also trained on how to conduct group discussions in order to get views from different members and come to conclusion as a group.





*Training on proper irrigation farming*

### **Land clearing (OCA Farm)**

Weeds on the farm use soil moisture and nutrients for its growth hence removal of growing shrubs and grasses on the farm is important to reduce nutrient losses. Removal of shrubs and grasses on OCA farm was done during the reporting month to keep soils healthy for the next growing season. The target was to keep the 32 acres OCA farm land clean to minimize nutrient and moisture losses hence maintaining soil quality.



*OCA Farm cleared*

## Business and Financial Empowerment Microloans

In pursuit of women’s empowerment so that they become financially self-reliant, Orant Charities Africa through its Financially empowering microloan (FEM) program continues to support women entrepreneurs with interest free microloans. In addition to the Microloans, OCA also tries to strengthen the capacity of women entrepreneurs in business management skills. In the month of August, the FEM program conducted a number of activities which contributed towards its goals.

### Activities carried out in the report month

#### Monitoring of Businesses

##### a. Women Entrepreneurs

In an effort to track progress for businesses, monitoring of businesses for the women entrepreneurs was conducted. The fuel crises and frequent power outages that the country has experienced in the reporting month were some of the factors that had affected business operations. Despite the effects, businesses were still blossoming as witnessed by the women’s ability to repay loans and at the same time be able to feed their families throughout the month.



Picture 1 Rebecca Maleta (Left) and a booklet where she records her weekly profits (Right)



During monitoring, it was further learnt that one of the Members by the name Mary Mndolo has moved from our catchment area. The move was as a result of being chased away from her matrimonial home a year after the passing of her husband. The positive side of it is that she has committed to be servicing the loan she took until the agreed period of time.

## **b. Goodwell Chimwaza**

From the monitoring visits it was also learnt that Mr. Goodwell Chimwaza, who is the first ever male beneficiary to be sponsored in the FEM program seems to be making headway as his business has been reignited through the loan he received from OCA. Being his first month in the program, he was able to invest the hundred-thousand-kwacha loan he took from Orant into making thirty watering cans. From there the watering cans were sold to farmers in Nyagala estate at MWK 5000 making total sales of Mwk 150,000. This translated to Mwk 50,000 profits, part of which he used to repay the first loan installment of Mwk 25000 and used the rest to support his personal needs.

### **Loan Recovery**

The month of August, 2022 marked the first month for loan repayment for the 2022 first loan period which commenced in June, 2022. Both Tikondane and Tiyanjane FEM groups had contracted loans amounting to Mwk 3,730,000 and 2,430,000.00 respectively. The monthly installments were purged at Mwk 932,500.00 for Tikondane FEM group and Mwk 607,500.00 for Tiyanjane FEM group. In the reporting month, OCA managed to recover loans amounting to Mwk 934,500.00 for [Tikondane Fem group](#). This amount represents a hundred percent (%) loan recovery rate and zero default rate for the month. [Tiyanjane Fem group](#) on the other hand managed to repay Mwk 496,000.00. The amount recovered represents 81% loan recovery rate and a default rate of 17% for the month.

### **Review of FEM Applications**

In July we had received applications from various women entrepreneurs running businesses at Kachigamba market who had expressed interest to be part of the FEM program. Reviews of the applications was done and fourteen women out of the thirty-two applications that were received by August, 2022 were shortlisted in line with OCA's FEM targeting criteria. Below is a list of shortlisted businesses who may be verified into the program as part of the third cohort.

*Table 1 Shortlisted candidates from Kachigamba section*

<b>Applicant's Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Primary Activity</b>	<b>Activity Type</b>
1. Lyness Banda	52	Restaurant	Shop/Restaurant
2. Florence Sanudi	23	French Fries	Food Production
3. Fatines Kalinda	37	Selling Goat meat	Food trade
4. Selina Kambani	50	Selling Shoes	Product trade
5. Mary Mtonga	42	Irish potatoes and vegetables	Food trade

6. Eliza Nkhoma	52	Maize Bran	Food Trade
7. Margret Mofati	40	Powdered soap	Product trade
8. Veronica Nkhuni	42	Sells self-home grown vegetables	Food trade
9. Idah Banda	31	Sells Maize and maize bran	Food trade
10. Alefa Devisoni	50	Clothes	Product Trade
11. Efrida Lolent		Selling Scones (Bulk)	Food Production
12. Jennifer Malomo	40	Mobile Money agent	Service Provision
13. Ireen mtundumula	43	Groceries	Shop/Restaurant
14. Veronica Chimwala	35	Powdered soap and Glycerine	Product Trade

**Weekly VS&L meetings**

Women entrepreneurs continue to meet for their weekly village savings and loan group to buy shares and share business experiences. Tikondane FEM group managed to host four meetings in the month, whereas the Tiyanjane FEM group hosted three weekly meetings and missed one meeting due to other community engagements. In one of the meetings, we were privileged to have a board member from the US, Lynda Baumgartner and also Jo Ann Kelly Graham who hosted a skills building class in knitting with the women entrepreneurs as well as give the women entrepreneurs a start-up knitting kit. The purpose of the class was that the women should learn the skill and consider it as a future business prospect for their group projects.



*Knitting class with Jo Ann*

**Conclusion**

Despite the different crises the country has experienced in the reporting month, women entrepreneurs still strive to make the best out of their businesses. The women entrepreneurs' livelihoods continue to improve through the microloans and capacity building classes that OCA provides, hence contributing to the realization of our goals.

## Education Support Program



### Introduction

The Orant education program focuses on equality, inclusion and diversity. The program does not just work in schools with teachers, but also includes communities, governments, religious leaders, family members and children in order to bring an end to gender inequality in education. The following activities were conducted by OCA education program in the month of August, 2022

### School Visits

The OCA education program visited sponsored students in their respective schools. Ngala CDSS, Chayamba and Dowa secondary were the schools which were visited. The aim of the visits was to monitor students' academic performance, encourage them to work extra hard and to provide them with school materials. The materials which were given to form four students in preparation for the Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE) exams includes; Mathematical instruments, scientific calculators, rulers, pens, pencils, erasers and sharpeners. Students in form one and three were given hardcovers, pens and

school uniforms. The school materials are given to the students in order to keep them in school and also that they are able to do better in class because their basic needs are met. The school does not provide these materials to the students and their parents cannot afford to provide for them because they are poor.



Students from Dowa sec(right) and Ngala CDSS (left) carrying school Uniforms given by Orant



Student from Chayamba sec. school after receiving school uniform and Hardcovers from Orant

Nkhamenya girls secondary school was also visited in the same reporting period. The visit was accompanied by visitors from the US which includes Board members. The aim of the visit was for encouragement, support, and progress. The visitors were warmly welcomed by the students and the entire staff, they also had a wonderful interaction. It was an inspirational visit and the students were greatly inspired from what was shared with them since they were encouraged to work extra hard so that they pass their end of term exams and Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE) exams with good grades. OCA is

supporting 31 students at Nkhamenya girls secondary school and 13 students are sitting for MSCE exams this year (2022).



Nkhamenya Girls secondary students getting inspired by Orant USA Board members and visitors



The USA visitors also had a short visit at Mndinga primary school. The aim was to have an overview of how primary schools around the Kasese catchment area operate. They were greatly welcomed and

they had a chance to experience how teaching is done in two classes; standard one and seven. The reason for experiencing this was to know the English speaking level among primary students within Kasese.

## **Mentorship of Students**

Students from two different schools; Tchawale CDSS and Madisi secondary school were visited for mentorship in the reporting period. The education program personnel together with one of OCA Board members from Malawi, Mrs. Ivy Chihana and two other entrepreneurs from Lilongwe visited the students. The students were encouraged to work hard in school and also to learn other skills like Baking, hair dressing, brick laying, Carpentry, Tailoring and designing e.t.c. which will help them to source income during holidays as well as after graduation while waiting to pursue their studies. These skills can also provide extra income when they have finished school and are working.



Students from Madisi sec (left) and Tchawale CDSS (right) getting inspired by IVY and friends

The Board member checked the students' school reports and asked them to share their views, challenges, and experiences in school. OCA was impressed and very thankful to Ivy and her friends for spending some time with the students to encourage them. Ivy is very much interested in visiting the students and is planning for a career guidance talk with the students. The students also received some material support from the OCA education program. They received school uniforms, hardcovers, pens, pencils, erasers and sharpeners.



A pose with students from Madisi sec. (right) and Tchawale CDSS (left) with school materials

## **National Exams**

### **Junior Certificate of Education (JCE) Exams**

In the month of August 2022, OCA had students who sat for the Junior Certificate of Education exams (JCE). JCE is written when students are in form two and a certificate is obtained. Out of the **134** students which OCA is sponsoring this year, **25** have written



JCE and are from seven different schools; one each from Madisi Sec. school, Ngala CDSS and Malosa Sec. school. Eight from Nkhamenya girls Sec. school, six from Tchawale CDSS, five from Likuni girls sec school and three from Natola CDSS. OCA is expecting good results from these students because they are all hard working and are performing very well.



JCE students from Nkhamenya girls sec. school

### **Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE) Exams**



Dowa Sec. school students carrying their writing materials ready for MSCE exams

50 OCA sponsored students from different schools started writing the Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE) exams in the same month. The exams will finish next month (September). MSCE exams are written when students are in form four and a certificate is also obtained, meaning that students have graduated from secondary school. OCA is expecting good results from the 50 students of which 42 are students sponsored by Geoshack and 8 are sponsored by OCA individual sponsors.

## Graduation ceremony



The OCA education program attended a graduation ceremony at Ngala Community Day Secondary School (CDSS). The graduation was for the outgoing form of four students and the education program personnel was

invited as the Guest of hour. Parents, Teachers, Chiefs and other stakeholders were also invited at the ceremony. The main reason was to inspire the students and encourage them to work extra hard in preparation of the Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE) exams. It was a great ceremony because the OCA representative acted as a role model to the students. They were so inspired and ready to go out and make a difference. It was a great honor for us to attend this graduation ceremony and encourage the students at Ngala CDSS since we are sponsoring 11 students at this school and Four students are writing MSCE exams this year.

## Drop out student

It is on a sad note to report the drop out of one OCA sponsored student. The student (Ketrina Mwatola) was in form one at Chayamba Secondary school. OCA found out that the student is married and has moved out of her parents' house and she is staying with her husband in another village in Lilongwe district. This is a sad development for our education program because OCA instills a hard working spirit in students, encourages them to stay in school and expects them to be future leaders and this behavior was not expected. OCA is now supporting the education of **132** students since the drop out of two students in 2022. However, OCA has noted that the dropping out of this student might be because of the closure of her school, among other reasons. Chayamba secondary school was closed for two months during the second term due to vandalisms which were caused by some form four students after their fellow students were expelled from school.

Chayamba was reopened in July 2022 but Ketrina did not report for school and is married.



### **Follow up on previous drop out student**

The OCA education program also had a follow up visit for one sponsored student (Bridget Mtingwi) who dropped out of school in form four at Ngala CDSS. The aim of the visit was



to follow up on how she is preparing for the MSCE exams since she said she will still write the exams even though she is pregnant.

The student is back to her parents' village (after dropping out of school she went to stay with her husband in another village) and is studying as well as participating in group discussions with her friends from Ngala CDSS. OCA provided her with some writing materials to be used during exams.