



MONTHLY REPORT

APRIL 2019

BY

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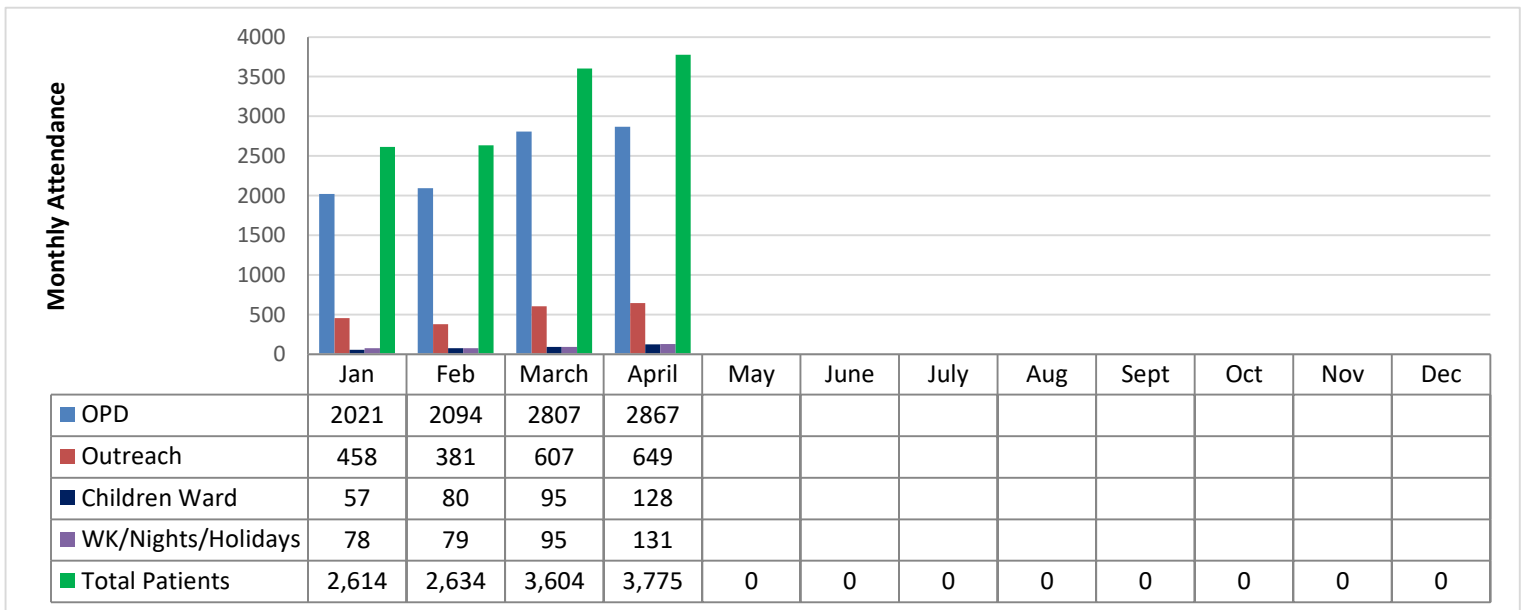
HEALTHCARE PROGRAM

Introduction

Orant Charities Africa (OCA) operates a rural health centre in the community of Kasese in coordination with the Ministry of Health through the Dowa district Health Office (DHO). Kasese Health Centre provide the following curative services; outpatients clinic, 24hrs children’s observation and admission ward, maternal health like obstetrics (Antenatal care & deliveries) and gynecology services, family planning and cervical cancer screening. OCA also conducts Outreach clinics once a week (Wednesday’s) and patients are provided with healthcare services right in their villages. Preventative health and promotion services are conducted through public health program (which includes nutrition, growth monitoring, and immunizations). The healthcare program in its provision of services also work in collaboration with other stakeholders like St Andrews hospital, and other non-governmental organizations such Reach Trust. The Kasese catchment area has a population of around 30,000 people.

Clinic patient’s attendance

The Health Centre saw a total **3,775** patients; children admitted were **128** and while **649** patients were treated at outreach clinics. Malaria remains the commonest disease, though the current mortality is much lower in comparison to few years ago. The graph below depicts patient’s attendance.



Maternal and neonatal healthcare

The health Centre received **76** mothers in labor ward, **71** delivered at the facility and five mothers with obstetrics complications was referred to Madisi hospital. Three newborns were stillbirth, (one fresh and two macerated). Therefore, born alive newborns are 68, 2 were done vacuum extractions and 1 breech

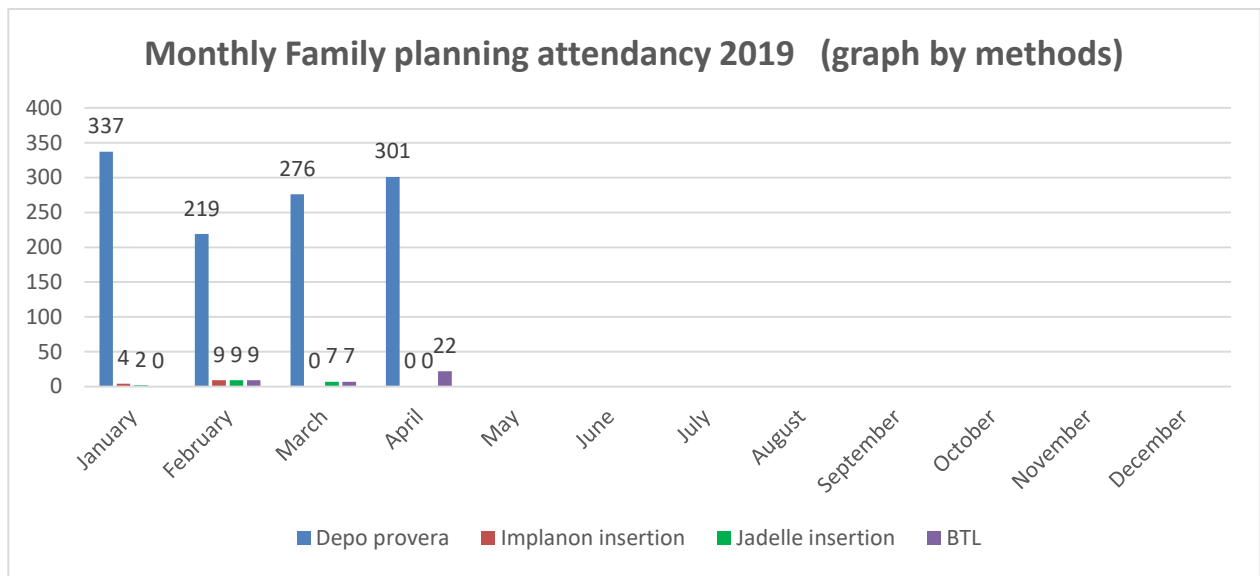
delivery. While, the newborn complication was as follows; one premature, three weighed less than 2500g, five asphyxiated, and all were resuscitated.

Cervical cancer screening (VIA)

The routine visual screening of cervical cancer using acetic acid was done, in total **34** mothers were screened aged between 25 to 49 years, one suspect of advance cancer of the cervix was referred to Kamuzu central hospital for biopsy and further management, which includes radical hysterectomy.

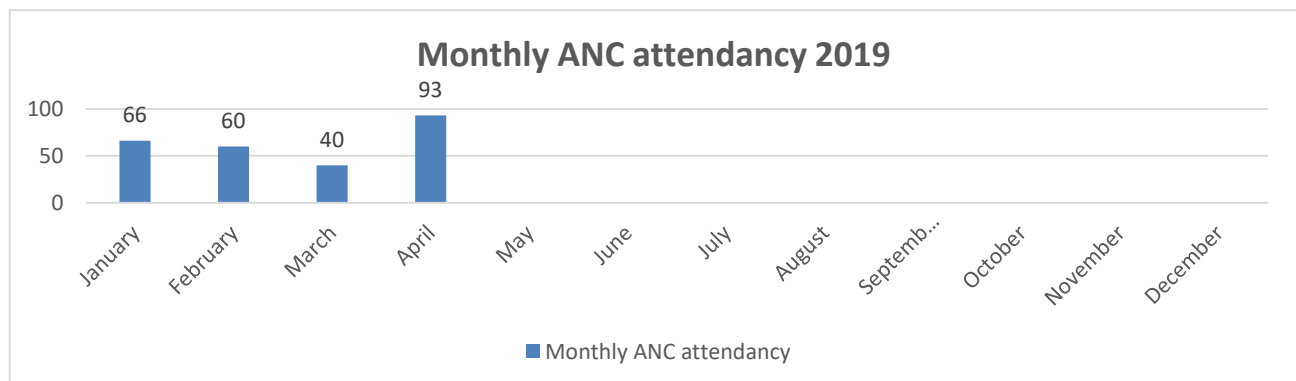
Family planning clinic

The graph below shows birth control methods. These methods reduce exponential growth of population in Malawi.



Antenatal Care (ANC)

The goal of ANC is to provide regular check-ups that allow doctors or midwives to treat and prevent potential health problems throughout the course of the pregnancy and to promote healthy lifestyles that benefit both mother and child. Below is the graph showing monthly antenatal attendance.



Laboratory reports

The health Centre does basic Lab tests, mostly rapid tests and basic microscopic tests (TB and malaria). The total malaria test done were **2,436** those positive were **1,430** and negative test were **1,006**, this represent over **50%** positivity rates. For Under 5 years, out of the total of **1,450** tested; **807** were positive and **643** were negative. For Over 5 years'; total test done were **986**, those positive were **623**, and those negative were **363**. As for pregnancy test, total test done **50**, and **33** were negatives. For TB microscopy, out of 5 five suspects, only one was positive. As for Syphilis tests, 4 patients were found positive. H pylori's total test were **58**; those positive were 17, and those negative were 41. For Hepatitis test, only one was positive out of 4 tests.

Clinic administration

In preparation for autonomous outreach clinic to resume soon, advertisement was placed in newspaper. OCA intends to recruit a team of 7 people which includes clinician, nurse, pharmacy assistant, laboratory assistant, driver and patient care attendants.

The Lead clinician represented OCA in a one-day meeting (annual general assembly) organized by Dowa civil society network in Mponela. In the meeting, new office bearers were elected and Orant charities Africa was elected as members of the committee, the position is expected to run for 3 years. Dowa civil society network is composed of 35 non-governmental organizations doing different works in the district.

Clinic User fee collections

The user fee collection is the little money the patients pay at the clinic. However, those who do not have are not barred from accessing the service, while others exempted according to the user fee policy. As for the month of April, the clinic managed to collect **MK 1,257,500** and exempted **90** patients. The healthcare program also assisted a good number destitute patients with bus fair and payment of hospital bills amount.

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, 2019 which included; Borehole drilling and construction, Borehole Repairs and Community Based Management (CBM) trainings. 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	Planned Activities	Target	Achievement	Beneficiaries / Participants		
				Male	Female	Total
1.	Borehole Drilling and Construction	1	1	NA	NA	386
2.	Water Quality Testing	1	1	NA	NA	NA
3	Pre-drilling and Post drilling Community Based Management training	2	2	6	6	12
4	Borehole Repair	NA	07	NA	NA	NA
5	Refresher CBM Trainings	3	3	17	19	36

Borehole drilling and construction

A new borehole was drilled in Chiyazu village under GVH Makombwa, this is the first borehole to be drilled in 2019. The borehole is expected to serve 386 households from within Chiyazu and the surrounding villages. The borehole was drilled to redeem the targeted beneficiaries who were previously drinking from unprotected wells which are susceptible to contamination.

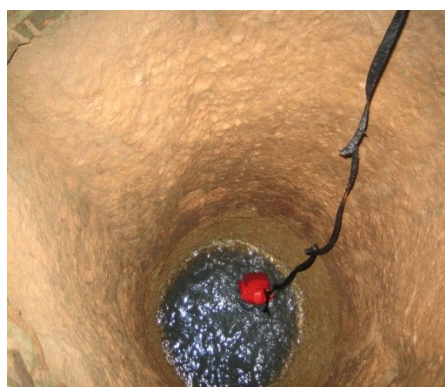


Image (left) showing a hand dug well with dirty where the communities used to draw water from and the new borehole (right).

Water Quality Testing and Analysis

Following the drilling of a new borehole in Chiyazu village, there was need to ascertain the quality of water if it was fit for human consumption as per World Health Organization (WHO) and Malawi Bureau of Standards (MS) standards. OCA thus engaged the Central Water Laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture

Irrigation and Water Development to carry out a full biological and chemical analysis. The water samples were analyzed for results indicated that the water was fit for human consumption.

Pre-drilling and Post drilling Community Based Management (CBM trainings)

Before borehole drilling Malawi government guidelines requires that a Water Point Committee (WPC) be instituted and trained in borehole drilling supervision to aid them successfully supervise the drilling process on the ground throughout. OCA facilitated the formulation of such a committee and gave it a day long predrilling training session.

Soon after the drilling and construction works. The WPC underwent a 5 day CBM training whose objectives were to;

- 1) Equip the WPCs with knowledge and skills necessary to carry out preventive maintenance activities on their borehole.
- 2) Equip the WPCs with knowledge and skills necessary to maintain sustainable sanitary and hygienic conditions around the water point.
- 3) Enable WPC members to manage group dynamics and equip them with general managerial skills.

The trainings were facilitated by the Water Monitoring Assistant, Health Surveillance Assistant (HSA) – both from Government departments as well as OCA’s field assistant. The training was successfully done and it envisaged that the community will be able to sustainably operate and maintain the water facility.

Borehole Repairs

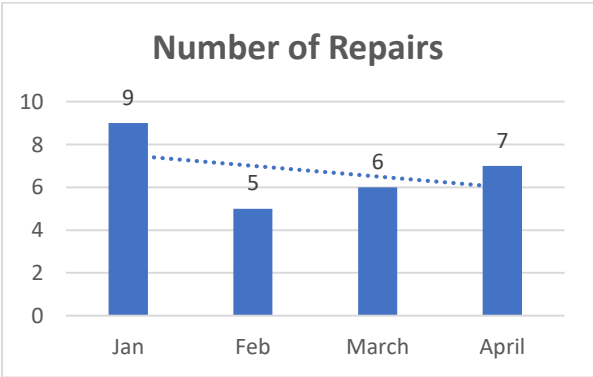
OCA is advocating for Community based management of water supply facilities in which the community take charge and ownership of water supply facilities using communities’ own human, material and financial resources. However, there are some repairs which the communities’ need to be supported. OCA supports communities with major repairs. A total of 7 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.

SN	GVH	VH	Repair(s) Done
01	Nkhungulu	Lungu	10 rod centralisers, 4 Bush bearings, 1 hunger pin, 1 fulcrum pin, 1 rubber flapper and 6 pipes 6 pipes centralisers.
02	Nankumba	Chazaila	4 sockets, 1 fulcrum pin, 4 bearings ,4 bolt and nuts 12 rod centralisers, cylinder, 4 pipes, 6 rod steel, 5 pipe centralisers

03	Nkhungulu	Kauma	12 pipes, 2 sockets, 12 Rod centralisers, foot valve, 4 bush bearings, 1 fulcrum pin, cylinder, pump head, handle and rope
04	Sonkhwe	Sonkhwe	9 pipes, 11 rod centralisers, 4 bearings, 1 rubber flapper 1 cup seal, foot valve, brass plunger, pump handle.
05	Sonkhwe	Sonkhwe 2	4 rod steel, 11 rod centralisers, 6 sockets, 4 bush bearings, 4 pipes, 9 pipe centralisers
06	Ndalama	Ndalama	8 sockets, 4 rod steel, 12 rod centralisers, 4 bearings, foot valve, 5 pipes, 1 cup seal, fulcrum pin, hunger pin .
07	Bweya	Kamsale	Complete overhaul



The images above show the major rehabilitation works being conducted at one of the sites, at this site there was only a hole with no pump, OCA rehabilitated the facility to install a hand pump and do the civil works which included construction of an apron. The above picture (right) shows a new pump installed and apron (covered with sand to cure) constructed. Below is a graph showing major repairs conducted this year.



Preparatory meetings for community water self-supply initiative.

As a follow up to the previous months' preparatory activities to roll out self-water supply approach in Kasese, OCA engaged into a meeting with management of PumpAid to formalize the partnership. The meeting yielded a draft MoU which is being reviewed and will be signed if the two parties agree.

Refresher CBM Trainings

It is common knowledge that most communities face problems in maintaining and operating their water supply facilities (boreholes), the root cause of this problem is that most members of Water Point Committees are not trained and do not have knowledge in proper operation and maintenance of Afridev pumped boreholes. In order to enhance communities' capacity in this respect, OCA conducted refresher CBM trainings to three (3) – ten (10)-member Water Point Committees. A total of 30 WPC members plus 6 chiefs making a total of 36 participants attended this training. These were 3-day training sessions facilitated by Health Surveillance Assistants (HSAs), OCA water program staff, Water Monitoring Assistants (WMAs) as well as Area Mechanics who were helping in the practical sessions; the WPCs came from Nambamba, Kapachika and Gauzi villages.

Conclusion

The month of April 2019, was another great as the water program managed to serve communities as per its plan. Additional 386 people now have sustainable access to water through the new borehole that has been given and hundreds others from 7 villages have been given a chance to enjoy good health.

AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

During the reporting month of April 2019, Agriculture department carried out several activities with an aim of supporting people to be in better position in farming so that lives are improved. The agriculture program thrives to see that smallholder farmers realize that farming is a business and that they follow good agriculture practices for them to maximize harvest. The activities in this month included; Irrigation projects, Lead farmer initiatives, school garden and OCA farm demonstration.

Irrigation Projects

Irrigation farming activities mainly focused on sowing of tomato seeds, pesticides application and transplanting of tomato seedlings.

Trainings of irrigation clubs

Kasangadzi irrigation club has 21 members and was trained in sowing of tomato. The beneficiaries from this training were stallholder farmers who are also members of the club. The training focused much on land preparation which involves activities such as land clearing; dip ploughing and levelling of the land for even distribution of water. The club members were further trained on proper nursery bed making where by 3m length by 1m width and 5cm high beds were constructed for good aeration. During sowing process, manure was applied using broadcasting method with an aim of improving soil structure. The training was

conducted for the benefit of farmers so that they can be equipped with new knowledge and skills on how to produce health tomato seedlings which also determine good crop stand. Through the training conducted, smallholder farmers will be transformed from the use of old methods of production which was giving them low yields to modern systems of production which will help farmers have better harvest hence improving economic status and reducing hunger problems in villages.



Figures above shows sowing process of Tomato seeds

Timvane irrigation club was also trained on application of manure after transplanting. Application of manure was done with an aim of improving water holding capacity, nutrient quantity and improving root penetration.

Extension Support and Monitoring of Irrigation clubs

Extension support and monitoring visits were done to Ndalusa and Timvane irrigation clubs. Ndalusa was involved in tomato transplanting and monitoring was done to check if the seedlings are free from any disease attack, proper spacing has been followed and are being transplanted at its proper time. Application of fertilizer was monitored as well at Timvane irrigation club where NPK fertilizer was applied using cup number 5 per planting station. This monitoring process was done with an aim of directing smallholder farmers to minimize use of a lot of inputs in production cycle and harvesting very little.

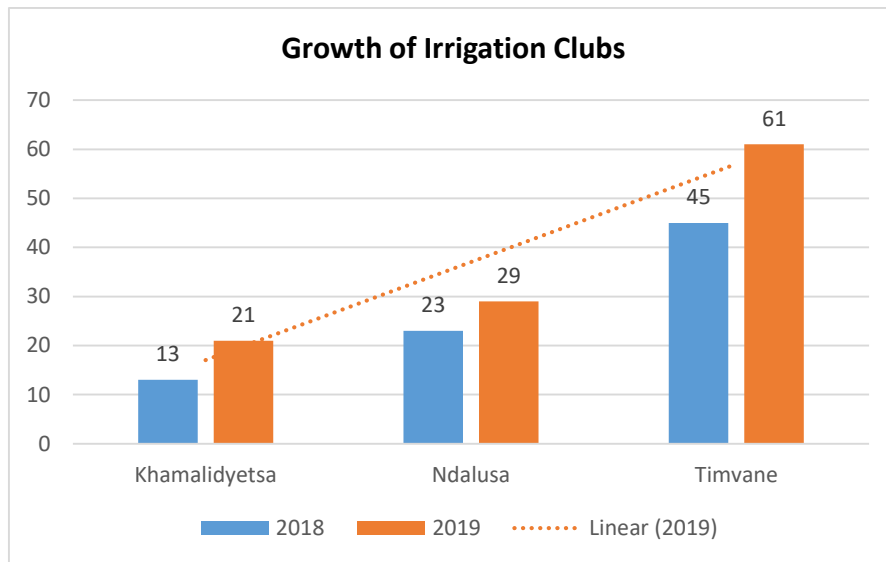


Figure above shows tomato seedlings ready for transplanting

Timvane, Ndalusa and Kasangadzi irrigation clubs were monitored again in pesticides application. Timvane irrigation was one of the irrigation clubs which was highly affected with pests and proper measures were taken and it was observed that after 4 days the field was free from pest attack.

It has been observed that people are seeing the benefits of conducting irrigation farming. This is evidenced by the increase of the number of smallholder farmers joining irrigation clubs which are working with OCA.

The graph below shows difference in number of club members some irrigation clubs in 2018 and 2019.



Distribution of farm inputs

Farm inputs were distributed in Irrigation clubs and the distribution process was carried out as follows:

No	Name	Materials distributed
1	Timvane club	NPK Fertilizer, Chrolipyrifos, Copper, Diathen, Seed and Cypermethlin
2	Kasangadzi club	NPK fertilizer, Seed and Decis
3	Ndalusa	NPK Fertilizer and pesticides

School garden project

School garden project aims at improving lives of primary school going children through provision of vegetable garden for practical use and improving the standard of their school through income gained after selling the produce from the garden. Through this project primary school learners have access to better hands on experience in agriculture activities.

As the school is in process of selling its garden produce, the community is also benefiting from the project since they have access to fresh vegetables and readily available. On the other hand, the school is raising money for the support small school projects.

Students were briefed and encouraged to add vegetables on their daily diet since it is good sources of vitamins A, B and C which are more important to the human body to fight against diseases. Vegetables are also source of mineral salts and fibre.



Figure above shows vegetable production in school garden program

Pre-harvest training to lead farmers

Under the lead farmer program, OCA trained lead farmers in pre-harvest of Soya, Maize and Groundnuts. The aim of the pre-harvest training was to avoid crop losses during harvesting time due to heavy winds, hail, disease and insect damage. A total of 98 smallholder farmers attended the training. It is envisaged that after the training the farmers will be able to properly handle their harvest and minimize losses.

OCA Demonstration Farm

OCA planted crops of such as Maize, Soya, Groundnuts, Sunflower and Sweet potatoes on its demonstration plot. For the 2018/2019 growing season, the demonstration area on OCA farm was done in partnership with companies such as Bayer (formely known as Monsanto seed), Farmers world, AFAP, and Seed-Co. The crops have been harvested and shelling/threshing will be followed ready for bagging. Harvesting on the farm was hastened when it was observed that some people were stealing the produce at the farm. However, it was not a significant theft. The crops affected were Maize, Ground nuts and sweet potatoes.

Harvesting on OCA leased farm has also started and follow up is being done always to check on quantity harvested for easy crop sharing program.

Meetings

OCA was invited to attend meeting with Area Stakeholder Panel (ASP) at Extension Planning Area (EPA) offices in Madisi. The meeting involved all companies and NGO's working in Madisi EPA in agriculture. ASP is the committee that looks after the needs of smallholder farmers in villages and they are responsible in taking smallholder farmers queries to the government. The members present on this meeting were from the following companies and organizations; Tiyeni Malawi, ELDS/ELCM, DAPP, JTI, Limbe leaf, SPRODETA, Farmers world and Care Malawi. This was mainly an introductory meeting to know one another, the programs the organizations have brought in this year of 2019 and the catchment area. Another meeting was conducted at Nankumba village under GVH Nankumba. Farmers in this area showed

a big interest in irrigation farming by forming a club and making all structures required on a club such as nominating the committee members. The farmers have already formed a club and which is known as Matchedza club. The club has a total of 27 members and ready for irrigation farming this year. As a club, they are more interested in extension services and partly being supported in farm inputs. This shows that, the club members are more interested in learning better ways of farming to change their living standards. OCA intends to work with this club in accordance to availability of resources.

EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM

The education sector in Malawi has a lot of challenges. One of the challenges is that high percentage of students drop out of school especially due to lack of tuition support. Female students are the ones who suffer most due lack support as the society usually favors the education of male students. Education is central to all and especially to girls/women in the fight against poverty and discrimination. However, access of girls to education in Malawi is very low. This is because of several reasons. The first cause is poverty itself. Secondly some girls also dropout of school due to early pregnancies. The problem of girls is the problem of the society as a whole. Their challenges should be counteracted to create better world for women. Poverty reduction programs and other policies should consider the gender issues especially in education. It is within this background that Orant Charities Africa (OCA) helps girls to rise out of poverty through education.

Orant Charities Africa (OCA) operates an education sponsorship program that pays the school fees for students attending primary and secondary schools and university in Malawi. OCA education program currently has 3 funding streams; Geo-Shack, Rotary and Orant Charities US donors. Previously, OCA had a small program that sponsored students directly by Orant Charities or by individual sponsors in the United States. These students are in primary schools, secondary and university. In 2017, OCA found support from Rotary International (District 5810) donors who started sponsoring education of girls in boarding secondary schools. In 2018, Geo-Shack came through with a sponsorship of girl's education also in secondary schools. These programs focus on secondary school girls and is continuous for four years (form 1-4). In Malawi, students graduate from secondary school after four years with a Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE).

OCA STUDENTS

I. Secondary students

OCA education program had 15 secondary students in total. 14-day school students and 1 boarding student. However, the education program is saddened to report the withdrawal of its two students in a day secondary school. These students are all from Tchale Community Day Secondary School (CDSS). They have withdrawn while in form 2. Reasons for withdrawal is that the students have been married. Their names are; Treeza Mwale and Vanessa Banda. Vanessa has withdrawn due to pregnancy and she is now married.

Below are the students who have withdrawn from school;



Treeza Mwale. 17years old



Vanessa Banda. 17years old

Upon talking to Treeza, she said that she dropped out of school because she was staying with her grandparents who were not able to provide for her domestic needs such as food. When OCA enquired from her grandparents they said that she lied to them that her uncle has supported her to go for self-boarding since she is a Day scholar. All in all, OCA is still investigating these stories and will involve both parents, chiefs and other relevant authorities. This is one of the challenges Day scholar students face.

It is believed that there is horrible poverty in Malawi and due to this the parents want their daughters to be engaged in household routines and activities such as petty trading that produce income for them. Besides, they want their daughters to be married because during their marriage processes or ceremony; gifts, money and grants can be obtained which can upgrade the families' income. Because of these reasons they don't want girls to spend longer time school. The other cause for girls' low enrollment in secondary schools and universities is social problem that prevails in the community. The community at large believes that educating girls is of no use. It is also believed that girls are born to serve the household, support mothers at home and be good wife. Besides girls have no decision making power in the society as they are regarded as inferior to men. All these have affected girls not to freely go to school.

II. University students

OCA education program has two university students. One student (John) is in his final semester studying Nursing at Ekwendeni College of nursing. Another one is Alick who is in third year at Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST) studying Metallurgy and Material engineering. Alick opened school in the month of April but he has not yet reported for school. Reasons for not reporting are on academic grounds. OCA education program manager is making enquires to find out the main reason behind and to ensure that he goes back to school as soon as possible.

III. Primary student

Christopher, Modester and Omega have gone to school to start their third term in the month of April. OCA education program provided them with groceries to help them in school. The groceries include; bathing and washing soap, notebooks, pens, sugar e.t.c

ROTARY STUDENTS

OCA education program has 30 secondary boarding students being sponsored by Rotary International. All these students closed for a two weeks' holiday and have reported for their third term in the month of April. These students are supported with none other than school fees. The Education program to start

paying school fees this month (May). In the same month, the education program updated the database for all Rotary students.

GEO SHACK STUDENTS

OCA education program has 42 secondary students. 38 boarding students, and 4 day students. all these students reported for their third term in the month of April. Apart from tuition, these students are provided with some school materials in form of books, school bags, sanitary pads in order to support them in school. The education program to provide these materials together with school fees this month (May).

In addition, Geoshack students have started finding pen pals (friends) from its Geo-shack donors. One student from Dowa Secondary school, Alepha Lodzeni have found a friend and a mentor, **April Pasley** to be communication through letters/ emails. Alepha will start writing a letter to April this term.



Alepha Lodzeni. A Form 1 student at Dowa secondary school

CHALLENGES

- Lack of role models in the communities where most of our students live. Most our students, especially day students do not have role models in the communities as they go to school. This is because most of the people especially women are uneducated and some students thinks its normal not to finish school.

RECOMMENDATION

- OCA education program to provide advocacy and career guidance to the students through role models
- The education program to fully understand the dynamics behind the students' dropout and to help bring them back to school since they are all under age