



MONTHLY REPORT

AUGUST 2019

BY

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SUCCESS STORY: ORANT CHARITIES EDUCATING THE YOUTH IN MALAWI



John Nyirenda, young man age 24 who cannot afford to hide his smile and joy after the completion of his long-term training in nursing under the sponsorship of Orant Charities Africa. John comes from a humble background and in the beginning, he struggled to attain secondary education due to school fees challenges. His family could not afford to send him to school. One day he shared his story with Bowe parish priest who linked him up with Orant charities in the year 2012. “It has not been easy, and I did not imagine that one day I will complete my studies, high and above in nursing field which is highly competitive” said John while smiling. ‘I am very thankful to Orant Charities for the unlimited support rendered to me’, said John with a grateful voice.

Currently, John is doing volunteer work at Kasese Health Centre while waiting to write final exams by the Nurses council of Malawi that will enable him to be registered and practice a qualified nurse. ‘As a qualified nurse, I will able to assist more patients in our community and I will be able also to support my family’, concluded John.

MISSION TRIP: 17th-24th AUGUST

Summer is one of the best times to spend in Malawi. And in August, OCA received a wonderful team of volunteers which included; Tom & Susan Brennan, George Brennan, Tom Hunt, Mike Heatley, Dr. Li and Dr. Schmitt, and their Daughter Katrina who assisted us in our health care, agriculture, education and water programs.



Cheering newborn's in the Maternity, viewing a Borehole drilled by OCA & Attending Mass in Bowe

SPECIALIST DOCTORS

In the month of August, we had visitors from the US. Among these visitors we were also privileged to have a 2 medical specialists, a dermatologist (Dr. Lucy Li) and allergist (Dr. Eric Schmitt). In the area of dermatology, Dr. Li screened and treated a number of patients with dermatological conditions both at static and outreach clinics. Among these patient are people with albinism, she screened and treated 12 patients with albinism. Ideally, she was supposed to see more that number but due to other problems some patients with albinism failed to come to the clinic during her time at Kasese. Those with albinism were not only treated but also provided with a number of items such as long sleeve shirts, sun cream lotions and glasses for protective use.



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There were a number of dermatological conditions that Dr. Li treated and these include; Paronychia, Onychomycosis, Pellagra, Eczema, Scabies, Boil, Tinea capitis, Impetigo, Vitiligo, Chicken pox, Pityriasis Rosea just to mention some. It total, more than 50 patients were treatment.



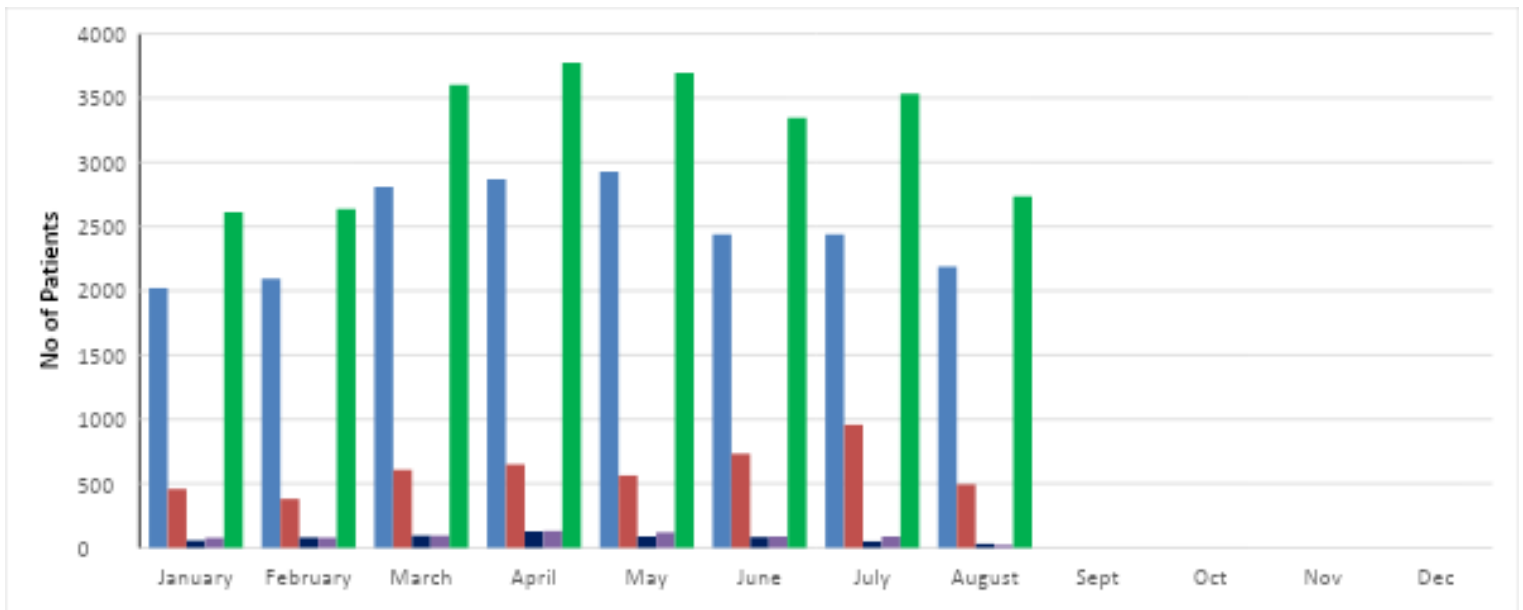
'It was indeed a good experience to have and work with specialists and it is our home that such arrangements will continue for the benefit of the people of Kasese and Bowe', said George on of the Clinical officers. On the other hand, Dr. Schmitt also saw more than 20 patients (Spirometry was conducted for seven patients) and trained our clinician and also a Health Surveillance Assistant in Spirometry. We are also thankful for the medical supplies brought by the Specialist Doctors.



Dr. Schmitt training our team in Spirometry

HEALTHCARE PROGRAM

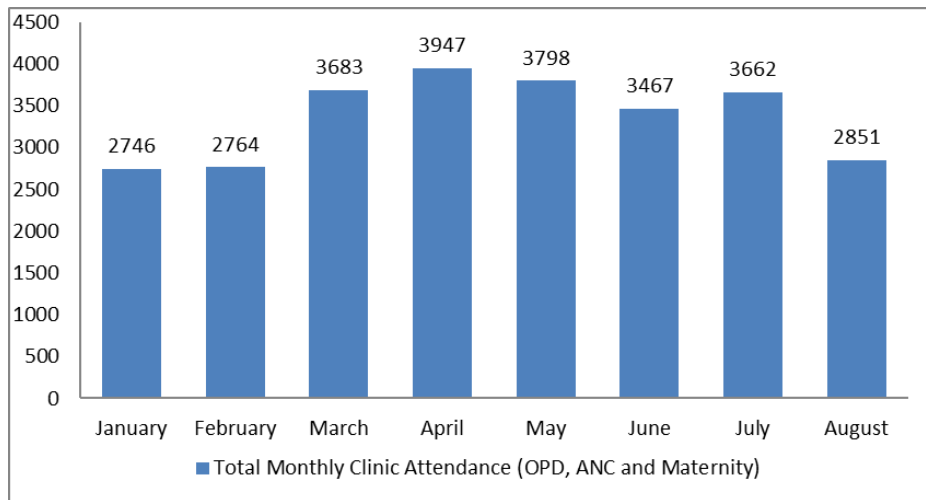
Clinic patient's attendances (OPD, outreach, children's ward and weekends / nights)



The Health Centre saw **2733** patients in the OPD, Outreach (within Kasese) and 24 hours observation ward. Admitted 31 children age between 2 months and 12 years in 24 hours' children's ward, outreach clinics team saw **494** patients, in Kasese catchment areas and many now access healthcare, as the outreach clinics has been intensified from once a week to daily in many localities.

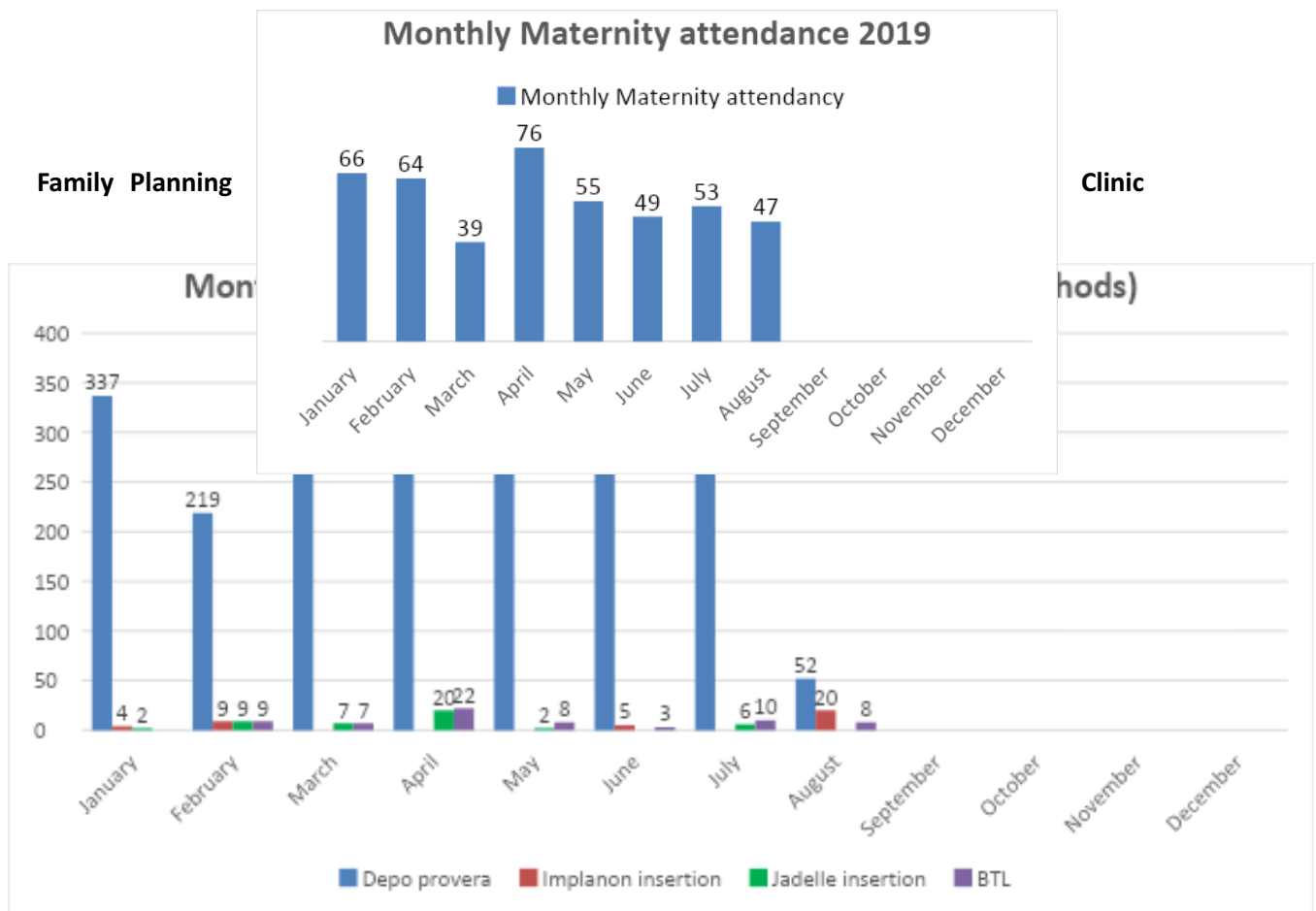
The chicken pox outbreak continues, 88 patients seen and majority of patients seen were children. There is an increase incidence of typhoid in some villages.

Below graph Shows-Summary of Total Monthly patient attendance (OPD, ANC and Maternity)



Maternal and child healthcare

The health Centre Continues to provide excellent maternal and neonatal health care. During the month of August the health Centre attended to **47** mothers in labour ward, conducted 42 spontaneous vertex deliveries (SVD), all attended by skilled nurses and referred **5** expectant mothers to Madisi hospital for further management, which includes C/S. Four neonates weighed less than 2500gram, there was no twin's delivery. However, there was one child born with Gastrochisis, a congenital abnormality, this happen to be the third case this year alone and we are wondering what could be the reasons. She got referred to kamuzu central hospital for surgery.



In accordance to with ministry of health (MOH) and partnership with BLM the health Centre provide family planning methods which includes: oral pills, injectable and Implanons to women of reproductive age as per their choice and medical indications. From the graph above, you will see that there are sharp decreases in family planning uptake due to the fact that BLM (family planning provider) did turn up to provide service due to transport challenge face by the organization.

Cervical Cancer Screening (VIA)

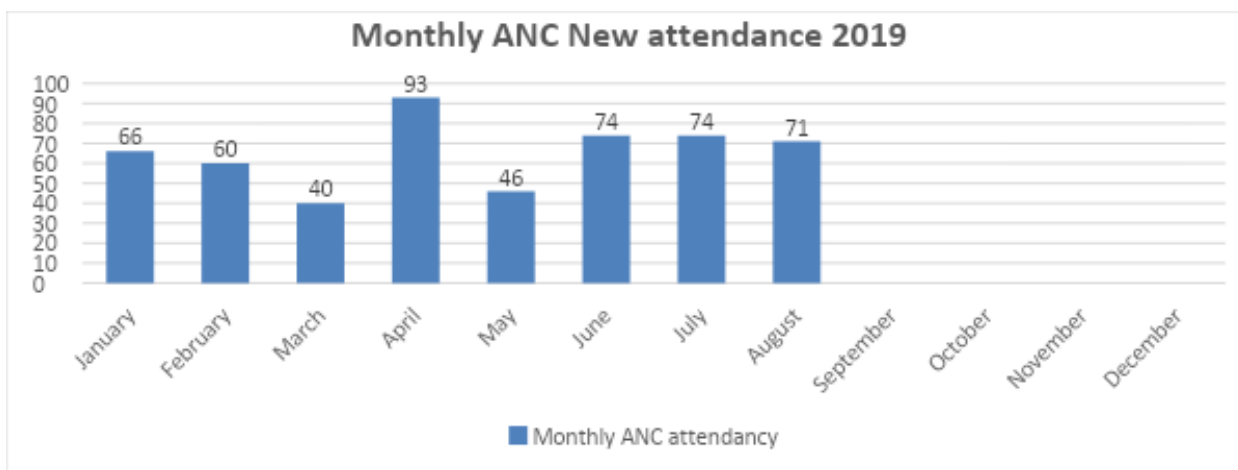
Cancer of the cervix remains amongst the top three leading cause of death in Malawi. In addressing this problem, the health Centre conduct routine visual screening of cervix using acetic acid to women of

childbearing age between 25 to 49 years, and for the month of August 2019 the health Centre screened **47** women, one was positive and she received cryotherapy treatment.

Antenatal Care (prenatal care)

The health Centre conducts prenatal (antenatal) clinics twice a week, on Tuesday for those enrolling for the first time and Thursdays for subsequence visit. The health Centre also has introduced HIV counseling and testing service weekly at ANC in Ntambalika Health Centre, it's a government owned health post but Orant Charities provide support through outreach clinic and now ANC services. For the month of August **21** women were tested for HIV and only one was positive.

Below is the graph showing monthly antenatal attendance.



Laboratory services

The health Centre does basic Laboratory test befitting primary health care level, mostly rapid test strips and basic microscopic tests like for example Tb and malaria. As for the month of July 2019, the lab did the following tests.

- Malaria test

Malaria prevalence at this time of the year is low, since its dry season and breeding areas are not favorable for mosquitoes. A total of **1,009** malaria test done and those positive were **221** and negative test were **788** this represent less than 50% positivity rates. Patients above five years, total test done were **689**; Positive **151** and **538** tested negative. Those who are under five years, total tested for malaria **320**, those with positive malaria **70**, and negatives were **250**.

- H. pylori's Total test done **72**, positive **21** and negative **28**.

- VDRL- Total test done 13, positive 0 and negative 13.
- Hepatitis B test- total test done 6, positive 0, negative 6.
- Pregnancy test- (HCG) Total test done 57, positive and 29 negative 28.
- T,B test - total microscopy done 3, and **1** was positive.
- Salmonella test (typhoid test) total test done were 7; positive **1** and negative 6.

Clinic administrations

- Three nurses: Louisa, Treazer, Oliveta and a data clerk Gosten went for 3 days workshop on electronic master card, organized by MOH through Dowa district health office, the training took place in Mponela. The main aim of the training is to equip the ART providers with knowledge and skill, as the ministry plans to introduce electronic system to ART Clinics.
- George Matapandeu, a Clinician and Treazer Banda a Nurse have taken part of their annual leave days.
- The Health Centre received guest from USA and among them was two specialist doctors

Health Financing

For this reporting month of August 2019, the clinic managed to collect a total of MK 1,206,600 (MK 753,400 from static clinic and MK453,200 from mobile clinic) and exempted 102 patients. The healthcare program also assisted good number destitute patients with transport and payment of hospital bill and other payments amounting to K303, 515. The user fee collected goes back to the community.

WATER PROGRAM



Executive Summary

During the month of August, 2019 various activities were lined up for execution within Orant Charities Africa (OCA) catchment area, these activities included; Borehole drilling, Community Based Management (CBM) trainings, as well as Borehole repairs. However, the program did not manage to conduct Commerce self-supply shallow well programs due to logistical challenges.

Progress on the work plan

No	Planned Activities	Target	Achievement	Reach / Participants		
				Male	Female	Total
1.	Borehole drilling and construction	1	1	-	-	574 beneficiaries
2.	Pre- drilling and post drilling Community based Management Trainings	1	2	-	-	2
3	Water quality testing and analysis	1	1	-	-	1

4	Borehole repair	NA	06	-	-	06
5	Monitoring of Water point performance and updating of Water point database.	105	105			NA

Borehole Drilling and Construction

During the reporting period, OCA managed to increase access to potable water to 574 new beneficiaries to people of Lirani village which is under GVH Bweya through the newly drilled 45-meter borehole, the borehole was the fifth to be drilled in 2019. Before OCA’s intervention villagers used to draw water from unprotected sources as depicted in the image below. The construction of the new borehole will go a long way in enhancing public health in the area.



Image (left) showing the previous unprotected source and image (right) showing the newly constructed borehole.

Water Quality testing and Analysis

Following the drilling of a new borehole in Lirani 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 water program staff. The training was successfully done and it envisaged that the community will be able to sustainably operate and maintain the water facility.



Image showing part of the participants during the training

3.4 Borehole Repairs

Much as OCA is advocating for Community based management of water supply facilities in which the community take charge and ownership of water supply facilities using communities’ own human,

material and financial resources, there some repairs which the communities' need to be supported. OCA supports communities with major repairs. During the reporting period, 5 major repairs were conducted as highlighted in the table below;

No	GVH	Name of the Borehole	Repairs Done
1	Inje	Inje 1	Full inner parts.
2	Katalima	Katalima	1 fulcrum pin, 4 bush bearings, 10 lod centlisers, 1 cup seal, 2 Bobins, 1-foot valve, 1 hunger pin 1 rubber flapper
3	Chikamphula	Yona	8 pipes, 1hunger pin, 1 fulcrum pin, 9 rod centralizers, Cylinder, 4 bush bearings, 2 bobbin, Solvent cement. Hunger assembly
4	Kalungulu	Chilindauta	1rubber flapper. 10 Rod centralizers, 9 rod steel, 1-foot valve. 2 Bobins
5	Makombwa	Kalumo	6 sockets, 4 bearings, 6 pipes, 12 pipe centlisers, 1 corn plate, 1 corn rubber, 1 cup seal, 2 bobbin.
6	Bweya	Msosa	Nylon Rope



Images (left) showing repair works in progress and (right) a repaired borehole working again.

3.5 Monitoring of Water point performance and updating of Water point database

During the reporting period the water program continued to update the database by manually collecting up to date information and tracing the functionality status of water points. This exercise also helped the water program to monitor the effectiveness of water user trainings that OCA provides to communities with an aim of building communities ability to conduct preventive maintenance. A total of 105 water have had their updated information get into the database. An edit committee was established at each water point committee, the duty of the edit committee will be to inform OCA through a phone call of any change in functionality, if there has been no call nor visit within 90 days OCA will be making follow up calls or visits. This will help ensure that water points are adequately and evenly serviced across the catchment.

At the end of the reporting month, functionality rate of boreholes in the catchment was at 91.5%, this high functionality rate was attributed to the quick responses to breakdowns and increased number of communities conducting preventive maintenance on their water points.

5. Conclusion

The water program managed to serve communities as per its plan. An Additional 574 people now have sustainable access to water through the new borehole that has been given and hundreds of others from 6 villages have been given a chance to enjoy good health.

AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

The following activities were conducted in the agriculture program in the month of August;

1. Irrigation Farming

Irrigation farming focused on equipping farmers with new knowledge on microloan program, sowing, planting of maize, sucker removal in tomato plants, Harvesting and marketing of tomato produce.

1.1 Microloan Program

Irrigation clubs were updated on changes that are going to take place on distribution process of farm inputs. Irrigation club members were taught on microloan program which will involve paying back half of total amount of inputs given in the first year. Once the clubs mature they will be required to pay back the full loan. This will make the irrigation club to be more sustainable. The inputs that have been put in program of microloan are Fertilizer, seed and pesticides. Some irrigation clubs will also get some loans for fuel (petrol) for their water pumps which they will pay back in full soon after harvesting. For the time being, four selected irrigation clubs have been consulted already on the program which include, Ndalusa, Timvane, Khamalidyetsa and Kasangadzi irrigation clubs. The irrigation clubs which have been consulted already have agreed to the program and it is giving total number of 123 households as beneficiaries. Every irrigation club is expected to have a constitution and also a bank account where they will keep funds from their revenue so that they are able to pay back the loans



Meeting with club members on microloan program

1.2 Sowing

Sowing is another important process in tomato production where proper sowing will give out high quality seedlings. Timvane and Kasangadzi irrigation clubs were involved in sowing of tomato seeds which is expected to be harvested in December. Kasangadzi irrigation club was trained in tomato sowing activities which involves construction of beds which are known as mother beds, manure application and mulching. Seeds sown will grow into seedlings then after 3 to 4 weeks will be transplanted into baby beds. Timvane irrigation club was also monitored on tomato sowing process. Sowing training attracted many people and total of 92 farmers from villages of Chikho, Chikonje, Mwakhwazi, Matchondo, Mzimuwakana, Nankumba and Fulatila benefited from the sowing activity.



cleared land for sowing tomato seeds

1.3 Planting

As ndalusa club is practicing tomato production, club members were trained on importance of crop rotation. Through the trainings conducted, club members decided to rotate the tomato field with maize plants. Ndalusa irrigation club during reporting month was trained on maize production where by they were trained in sasakawa (1 seed per station) maize production at spacing of 25cm between planting stations for bumper harvest. Despite taking maize as staple food in Malawi, it is also source of income and it can be sold as fresh maize (green maize) or dried maize. Club members have already grown this crop of maize to be sold as green maize hence it will bring income to the club. The planted maize has germinated very well which can be estimated at 85 germination percentage and is ready for basal fertilizer application.



Germinated maize plants and ready for basal dressing fertilizer application

1.4 Sucker Removal

Suckers have many side effects on tomato production and has to be removed immediately after they appear in tomato plants. Suckers can easily reduce the quality and quantity of tomato fruits to be harvested per tomato plant. Ndalusa irrigation club was trained in sucker removal to minimize problems that can occur due to sucker problems.

1.5 Tomato Harvesting and Marketing

Kasangadzi irrigation club is one of OCA irrigation clubs practicing tomato production and is in process of tomato harvesting. Due to bumper harvest which is being achieved from the field, marketing exercise

has been carried out to support the farmers with better markets where they can sell their tomato produce. The markets secured will benefit to more than 35 farmers as they will be able to find profits from secured markets.



Matured tomato plants and ready for marketing

2. School Garden Pilot Project

As learners are on holiday, Ndinga primary school showed its interest in continuing with garden activities during holiday time with learners. Ndinga primary school managed to mobilize learners in holiday to be managing activities of watering, bed making, transplanting, pesticides and fertilizer application and construction of fence. Vegetable seedlings were transplanted during in August and it is expected to begin harvesting in 2 weeks time. The activity of mobilizing learners during holiday to report for work at school has brought a lot of success in side homes of these learners. Learners are able to establish their own gardens in their homes and be able to find income and supporting their families. Furthermore, learners are being able to add some vegetables in their dairy diet hence reducing malnutrition problems among school going children. The School will also benefit economically as they will start harvesting and selling vegetables shortly.



Learners practicing vegetable production

3. OCA and Lead Farmer Program

OCA is looking for a farmer who can cultivate its 32 acres' farm on shared cropping. The previous farmer has shown interests and has promised to prepare a proposal for the 2019/2020 growing season. Through the help of Farmers World, soil sampling was done in OCA farm and some several selected Lead Farmers (LF) farms around our catchment area. Soil sampling was done with an aim of knowing the status of our soils which we are using for crop cultivation. The samples corrected have been sent to laboratory for Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium (NPK) testing. The total soil samples collected from OCA farm is three and twelve different Lead farmer's sites were also selected and samples were collected for testing. During soil sampling exercise, data was also corrected as farmers were asked questions such as crops grown on the land in previous growing season, planned crop to be grown in the next growing season, whether a farmer used basal or top dressing fertilizer, manure or lime in the previous growing season or not.

Lead farmers have been trained for compost manure production and through the trainings conducted, field day was organized with an aim of reaching a lot of people with compost manure technology within short period of time and also encouraging smallholder farmers to continue with the practice of compost manure as it will be of more benefits to their soils. During the field day, farmers were taught about importance of applying manure in their farms and the procedures to be followed when making good compost manure. The field day was conducted at Tembo village in Mphamba EPA where more than 150 farmers were present during the day.



Smallholder farmers viewing manure stand and performance some local activities

EDUCATION PROGRAM

Students were on holiday on the month of August and most students are expected to open school on 16th September, 2019. The Education program is happy to report that one of its students, John Nyirenda has completed course work and is waiting for final Exams from the Nurses council of Malawi. He is currently volunteering in our Health Centre. John is very much interested to work fully with Orant

Charities Africa. It's important to observe that all OCA programs; Healthcare, Education, Agriculture and Water complement one another and operates in Synergy. Sponsoring more students in schools especially girls means that Malawi will have a pool of experts, to support its development hence contributing to sustainable development goals.

In the month of August, the Education program was working to find students who can join the program. There are currently 12 slots of students to replace those who graduated and the few who dropped out. As of now 5 students have been identified and more students will be found when the school opens. This helps in identifying other best students in boarding secondary schools like Nkhamenya girls. The following are the profiles of the 5 students from Kasese Catchment;

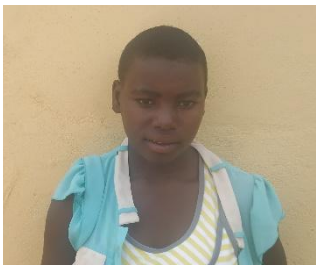
1. Name: Misozi Phiri



Age: 13 years, **School:** Ludzi girls secondary school, **Class:** Form 1, **Village:** Kasese, **Sex:** Female

Bio: Misozi Phiri is a very brilliant girl. She was studying at one of the free primary schools in Kasese where she wrote her Primary school leaving Certificate exams (PSLCE) and has been selected to one of the best Girls secondary schools in the central part of Malawi. Misozi stays with both her parents who are small holder farmers. The parents wish her daughter to continue with her education but they cannot manage to pay for her school fees because they only grow crops to help feed the family of which in most cases it is not enough to support the family. Therefore, they are asking for assistance from Orant charities Africa to help in supporting their daughter's education.

2. Name: Chikondi Dickson



Age: 12 years, **School:** Natola Community Day Secondary School (CDSS), **Class:** Form 1, **Village:** Namkumba (Bokosala), **Sex:** Female

Bio: Chikondi is the last born in a family of five children. The first three children dropped out of school and are married, the fourth born is in form two and the parents are struggling to support him. The

parents used to engage themselves in piece work but they are now old and it is becoming difficult for them to work in people's farms. However, they are asking for assistance from Orant Charities Africa to support their daughter Chikondi with her secondary education. Chikondi has just passed her Primary exams and has been selected to one of the secondary schools called "Natola CDSS" in Madisi, Dowa.

3. Name: Prisca Josamu



Age: 13 years, **School:** Nkhamenya Girls secondary school, **Class:** Form 2, **Village:** Zozo village, **Sex:** Female

Bio: Prisca is a student at Nkhamenya girls secondary school. She started form 1 in the year 2018/2019 but did not finish her last term due to lack of school fees. In her first two terms she was being helped by one of the well-wishers but did not manage to continue helping her in third term because the well-wisher's child was also selected to one of the best universities in Malawi hence the struggle to support Prisca. Prisca's parents are small-holder farmers and cannot afford to pay for her school fees and are asking from Orant Charities to help support their daughter's education so that she can continue with school at Nkhamenya girls secondary school. She is the first born in a family of 3 children, her younger brother and sister are still in primary school.

4. Name: Jonathan Chikaonda



Age: 15 years, **School:** Chaminade secondary school, **Class:** Form 1, **Village:** Katalima, **Sex:** Male

Bio: Jonathan is a very brilliant boy and was the best student at his school. He wrote his first primary nation exams in the year 2018 and was selected to a day school. Jonathan was not happy with these results and he decided to repeat standard 8 and wrote again in 2019, he has been selected to study his secondary education at one of the best schools called "Chaminade" in Northern part of Malawi. In his family there are 5 children; two sets of twin boys and one girl. Jonathan and his brother are first born's in the family. His brother is in form one at Madisi secondary school and his father is struggling to pay for his school fees by selling livestock. Second born is a girl and is in standard 6. Last born's are also twins, all boys and are in standard 2.

Jonathan's parents are farmers and they struggle to help support the family with basic needs. They have no means of finding money to enable Jonathan to go to school and continue with his education because the livestock they used to sale to help the brother is finished hence the call for assistance to Orant Charities Africa. Jonathan is now doing piece work of selling freezes so that he can help his family.

5. Name: Mike Fanuel



Age: 14 years, **School:** Madisi secondary school, **Class:** Form 1, **Village:** Mtolo, **Sex:** Male

Bio: Mike stays with his single mother (widow) who relies on piece work to earn a living. The mother is asking Orant charities to assist his son's education because she cannot afford to pay for his school fees. Mike has been selected to a boarding school called Madisi secondary school. He has passion with school that this was his third time to write the primary nation exams in order to be selected to a boarding school. He is now a happy boy but his last hope is in Orant Charities Africa for education support.

CONCLUSION

Although the main goal is to educate more girls in Malawi, there are other few exceptional boys which OCA supports depending on availability of funding. All in all, the Education program is impacting lives of many students positively and individual donors are showing interest to support education of more vulnerable students in Malawi.