



DECEMBER, 2022

ORANT CHARITIES AFRICA MONTHLY REPORT



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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. The Healthcare program provides curative and preventive health care services to impoverished rural communities. Kasese Health Center operate a busy Outpatients Department (OPD), **10** bed capacity **24** hours children observation ward, and a **7** bed capacity maternity ward, twice a week Antenatal Program, weekly Cervical Cancer Screening and monthly Eye Clinic, Under-Five Clinics (immunization and child growth monitoring) e.t.c. MOC takes the services to hard to reach areas thereby making healthcare accessible. Tropical infectious diseases are common health problems which includes: malaria, respiratory disease like pneumonia and bronchitis. However, non-communicable diseases are at the rise for example diabetes and hypertension.

For the month of December 2022, Kasese Health Center (KHC) saw **1484** clients at (OPD). Children Ward admitted **zero** patients. Only **48** patients were seen during weekends and night. Total patients seen in the month of December is **1532**. MOC in Kasese catchments areas saw **589**. Kasungu (Bowe) Outreach clinic saw **1587** clients. MOC total patients seen is **2176**. Total patients seen by the Healthcare program in the month of December 2022 is **3708** (KHC: **1532 (41%)** & MOC **2176 (59%)**).

The Laboratory department tested **614** for Malaria, out of which **123** were positive, representing **20%** positivity rate.

The Maternity department admitted **23** mothers and referred **11**. A total of **23** babies were born and **4** had complications (Prematurity).

The Public Health department with the help of Health Surveillance Assistants (HSAs) administered **642** doses of J & J. Cumulatively, **4882** vaccines administered (Astra-Zeneca: **895**, Pfizer: **2930** & J&J: **1057**).

The HTS department tested **130** clients out of which **2** were positive, representing **2%**. Total patients seen at the eye clinic by an outsourced clinician is **38** and **3** were booked for surgery. **Three** women were screened for Cervical Cancer and **No** VIA positive.

Monthly Patients Attendance

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

Months (2022)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
OPD Static	2138	2484	3178	1892	1921	1675	1295	605	1653	1480	1547	1484	21352
Bowe MOC	2174	4242	4661	4091	2773	2444	2617	3822	3312	2937	2718	1587	37378
Kasese MOC	618	589	686	550	495	492	711	618	635	558	453	589	6994
Children Ward	16	85	79	70	35	35	25	0	0	0	0	0	345
Nights/Holidays	30	44	46	49	41	21	30	37	28	26	28	48	428
Total	4976	7444	8650	6652	5265	4667	4678	5082	5628	5001	4746	3708	66497

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

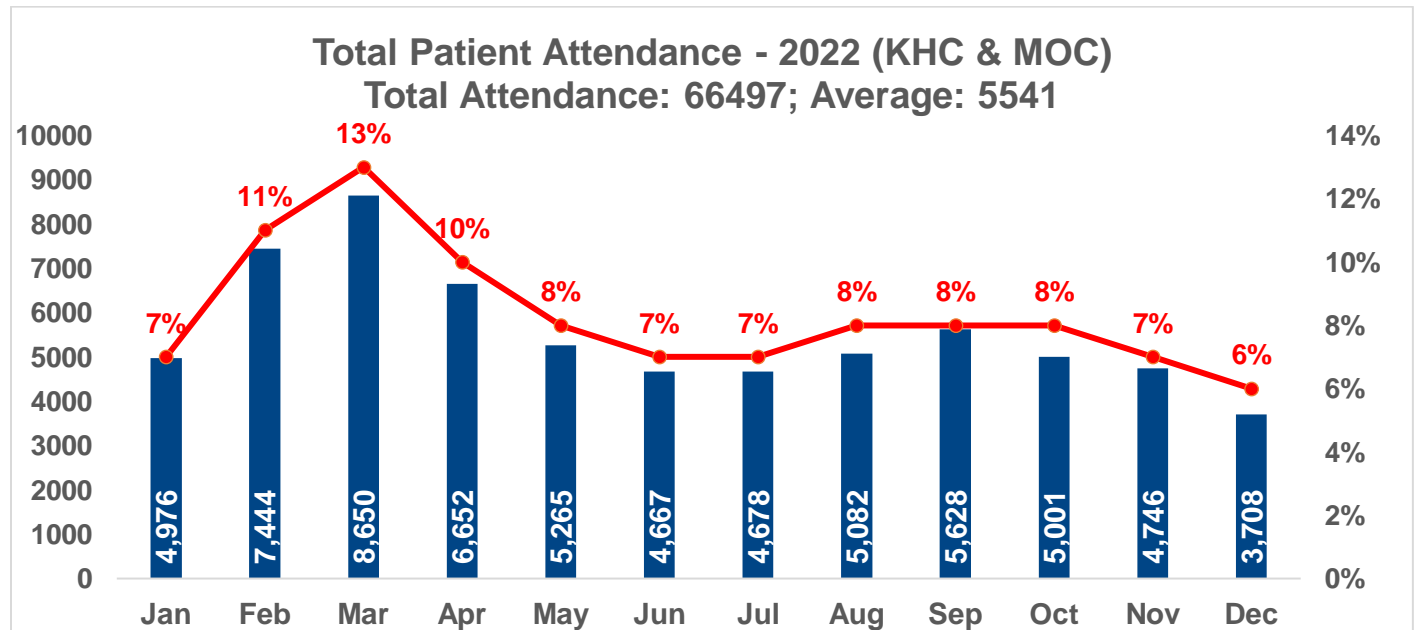


Figure 1 : Total monthly patient attendance – KHC & MOC (2022).

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

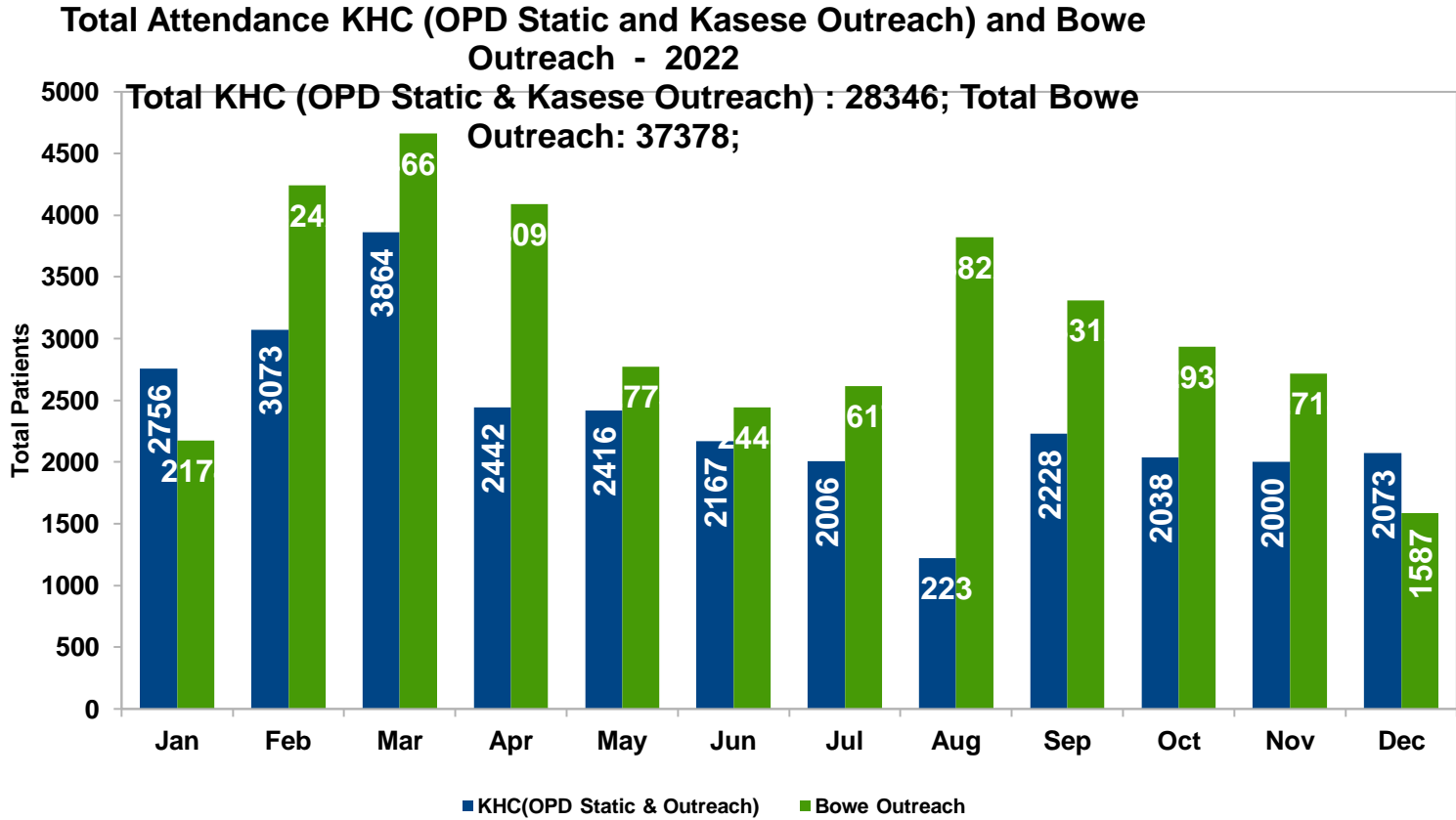


Figure 2: Total patients seen at KHC (OPD Static & Kasese Outreach) and Bowe Outreach – 2022.

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

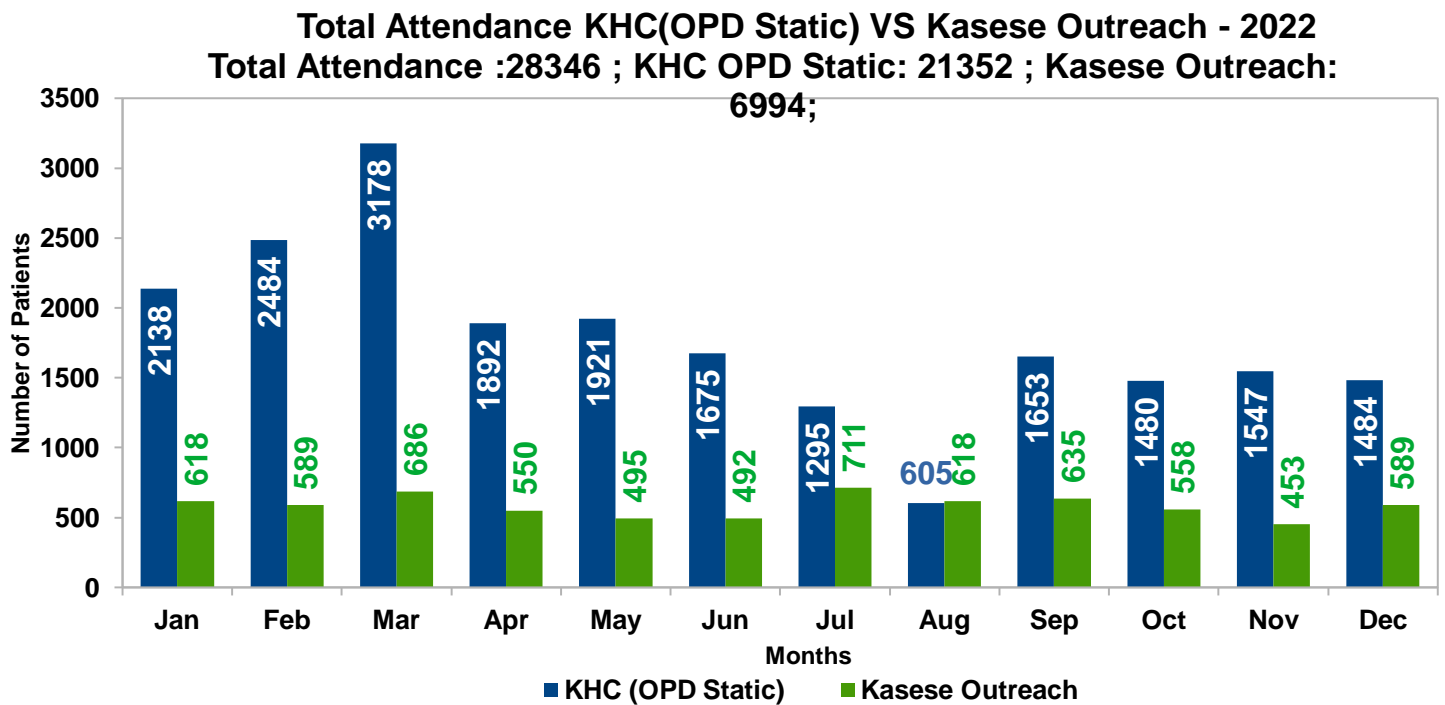


Figure 3: Total Attendance KHC (OPD Static) and Kasese Outreach – 2022.

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 clinic, mobile outreach clinic continues to see more patients in comparison with static clinic, partly is due to its accessibility to 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

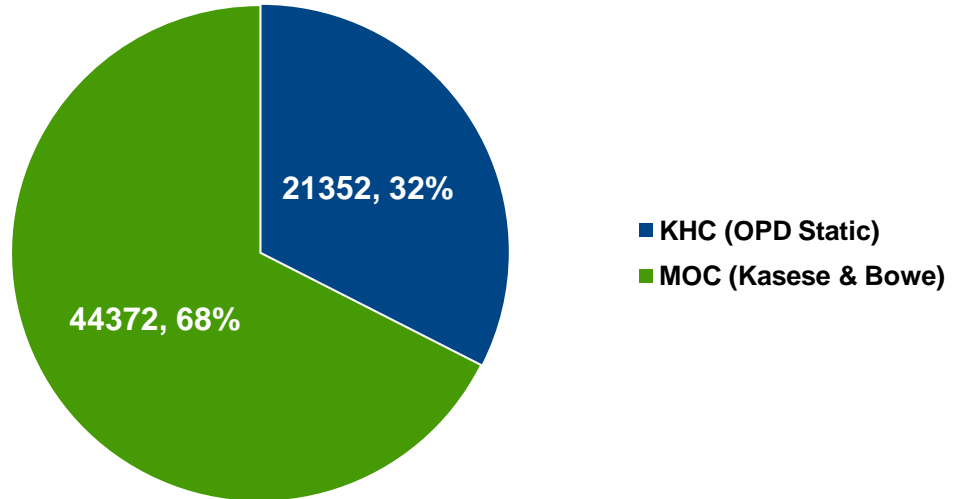


Figure 4: Cumulative patients seen at KHC (OPD Static) and MOC (Kasese & Bowe).

3. COVID -19 Situation Updates.

The COVID-19 situation in the country remains low and in December 2022, no test was conducted. The Health Center continues to provide vaccines at the facility and in our communities.

3.1 Cumulative COVID-19 Data – KHC Static.

Table 2 below shows Cumulative COVID 19 Data.

	Staff(OCA/HSA)	Others	Total
Cumulative Tests	4	36	40
Cumulative Positives	0	12	12
Cumulative Deaths	0	0	0
December Tests	0	0	0
December Positives	0	0	0

Table 2: COVID 19 Cumulative Data.

3.2 COVID 19 Vaccine (Pfizer) – KHC Static.

Table 3 below shows Vaccine Doses Administered in 2022

Dose	Male	Female	Total
1st Dose	0	0	0
2nd Dose	0	0	0
Booster	0	0	0
Brought Forward	1402	1528	2930
Cumulative	1402	1528	2930

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

Vaccine Type	Male	Female	Total
Johnson & Johnson (J & J)	35	102	137
Booster	199	306	505
Brought Forward	195	220	415
Cumulative	429	628	1057

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

Dose	Male	Female	Total
1st Dose	0	0	0
2nd Dose	0	0	0
Brought Forward	364	531	895
Cumulative	364	531	895

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 December 2022

Vaccine Type	Beginning Balance	End Balance
J & J	175	220

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

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

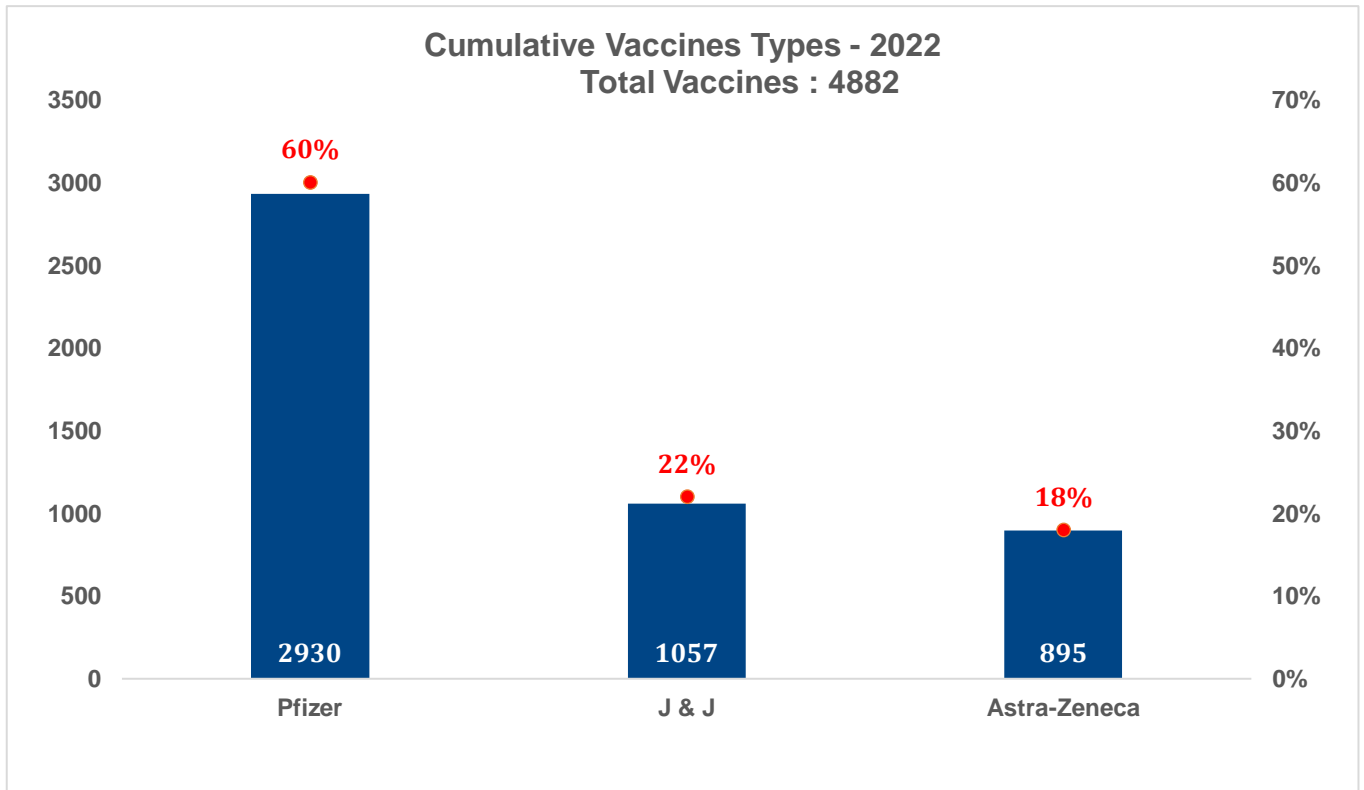


Figure 5: Cumulative Vaccine Doses Administered at KHC (2022)

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

Cummulative COVID 19 Tests - 2022
Cumulative Tests: 40

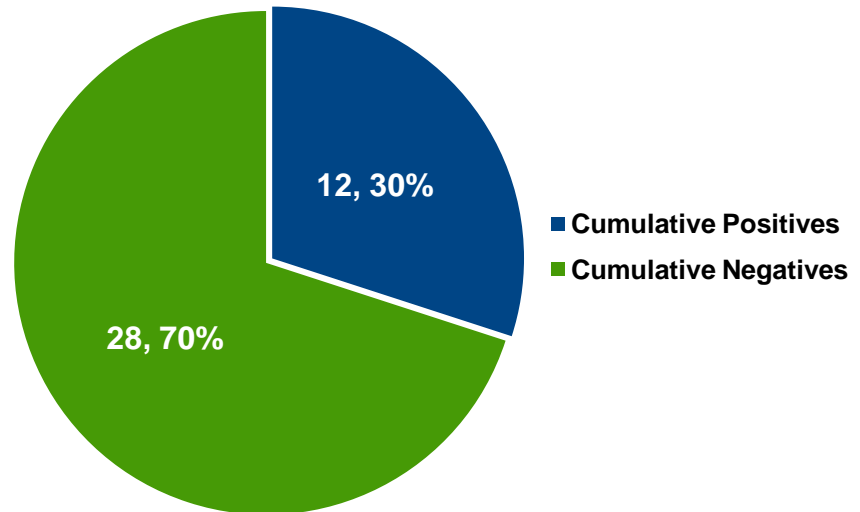


Figure 7: cumulative COVID 19 Tests (2022).

Reproductive and Family Planning Health

4.1 Maternal and New-born Health Care

Months	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Admissions	21	26	29	29	24	27	38	32	41	21	24	23	335
Referrals	2	5	2	14	13	9	10	5	9	9	11	11	100
New Babies	22	26	29	29	24	27	38	32	41	21	24	23	336
Alive Babies	22	26	27	29	24	27	38	32	40	21	24	23	333

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	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Weight <2500g	1	1	1	0	1	0	3	2	1	0	1	0	11
Prematurity	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	4	12
Asphyxia	1	0	5	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	10
Sepsis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Still Birth Fresh	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Still Birth Macerated	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Neonatal Death	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	4	2	10	0	1	1	5	5	3	2	1	4	38

Table 7: Newborns with complications – 2022

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

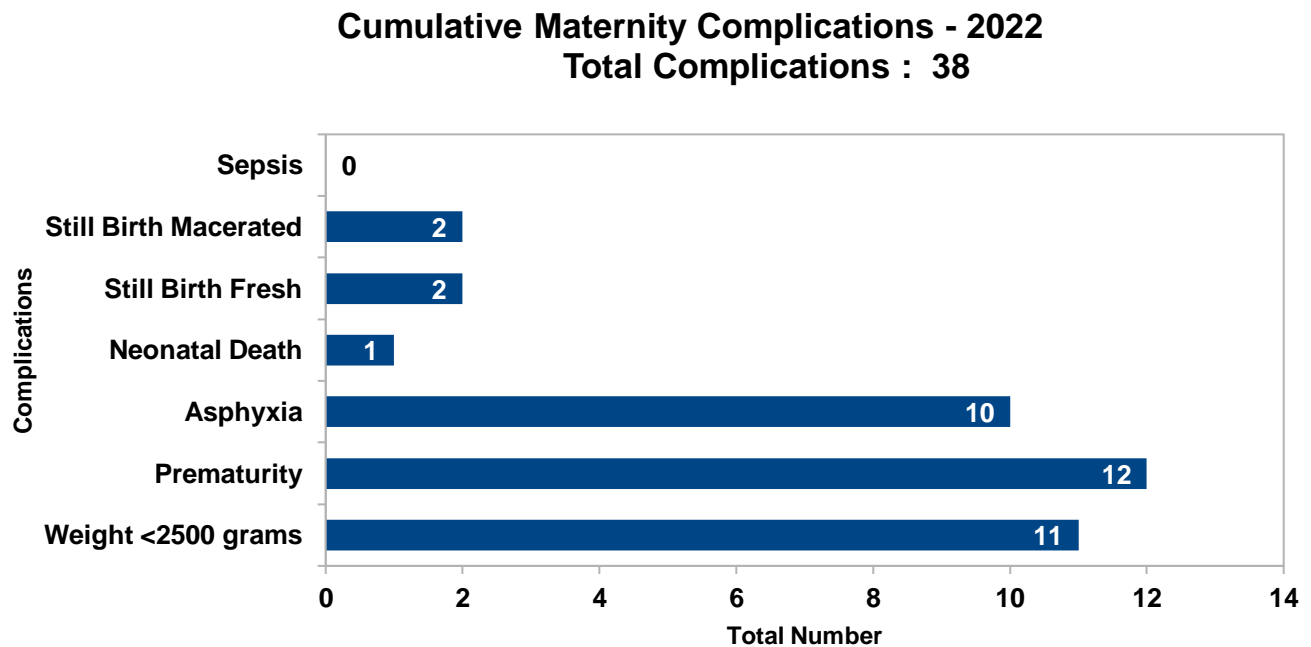


Figure 8: Cumulative Maternity Complications – 2022

Figure 9 below shows total monthly Maternity attendance.

Maternity Attendance - December 2022
Total Attendance: 34

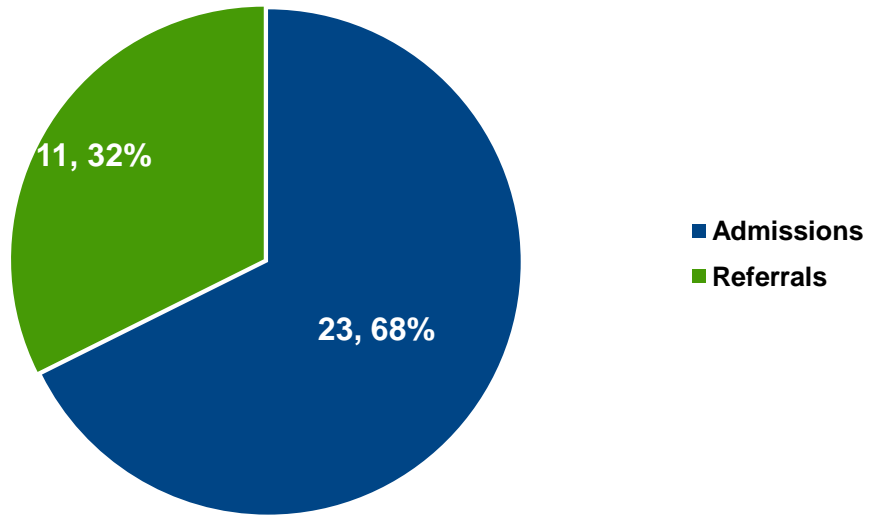


Figure 9: number of Admissions and Referrals (December 2022)

Table 8 below shows the reason for the referrals

Referral Reason	Number of Clients
Fetal Distress	4
OPL	3
CPD	2
Known Asthmatic	1
High Parity	1

Table 8: Referral Reasons - December 2022

Figure 10 below shows ANC New attendances.

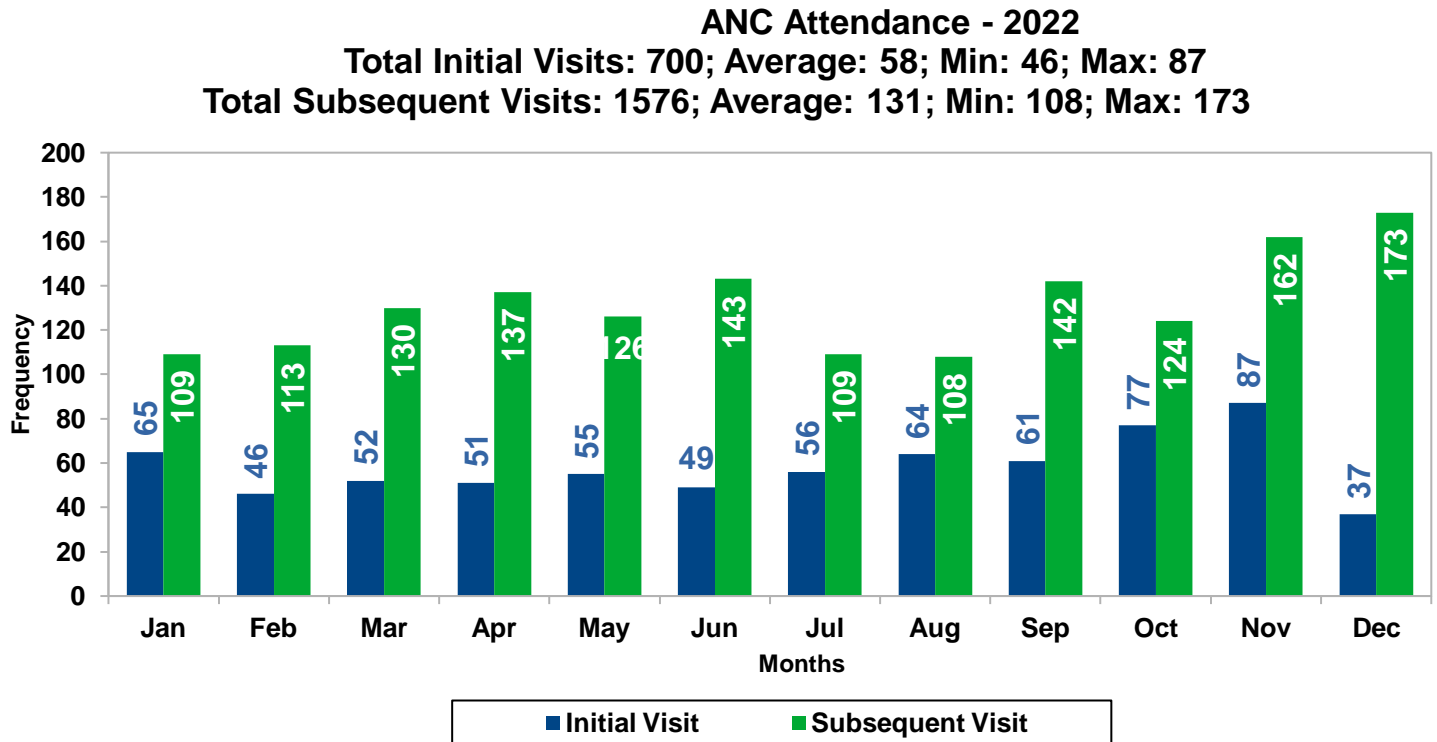


Figure 10: ANC New Attendances (2022).

Cervical Cancer Control Clinic Report

Table 9 below shows 2022 Monthly Cervical Cancer Screening.

Months	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total	15	22	22	15	5	10	13	15	16	4	149	3
VIA Positive	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

Table 9: Monthly Cervical Cancer Screening 2022 Table.

In November we did an awareness campaign and more patients were screened. The monthly Cervical Cancer screening remains to be low, there is a need for more community sensitization.

5. Eye Clinic

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

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

Month (2022)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Eye Infections (Treated)	12	22	18	31	31	41	44	78	73	88	94	35
Eye Surgery (Booked)	0	6	11	8	6	7	11	10	11	8	6	3
Total Seen	12	28	29	39	37	48	55	88	84	96	100	38

Table 10: Monthly Eye Clinic Table - 2022.

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

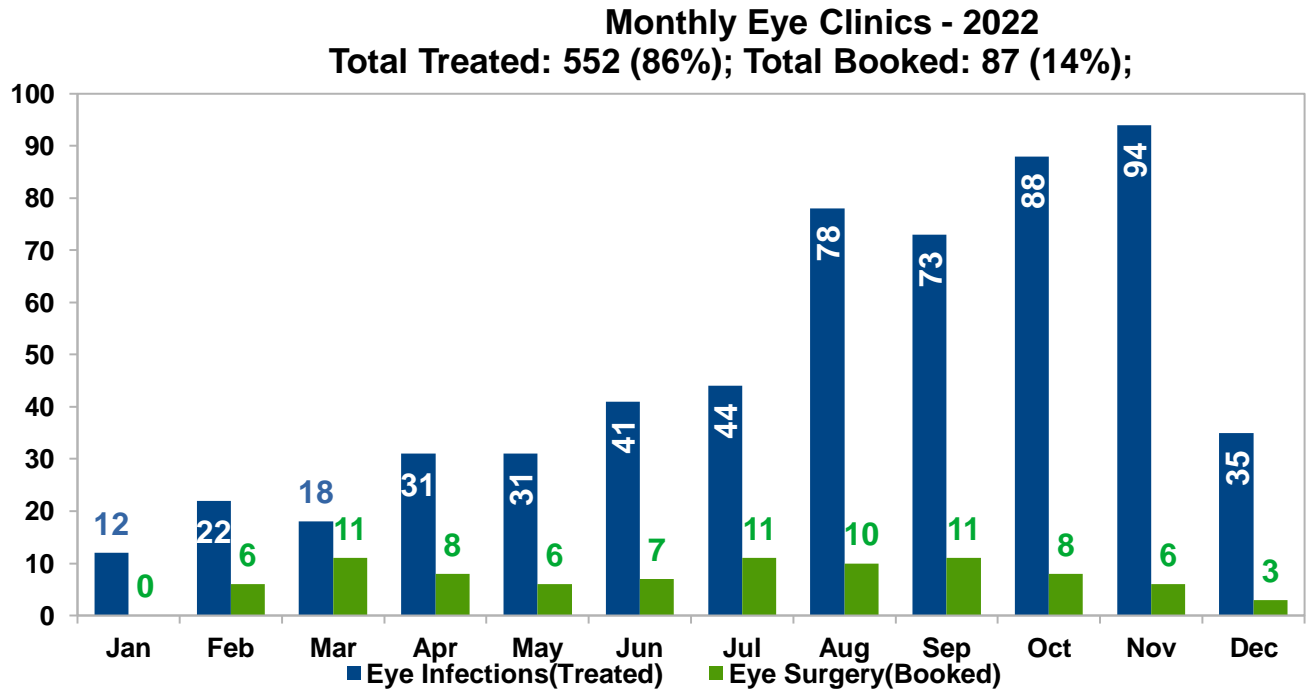


Figure 11 : Monthly Eye Clinic – 2022.

Malaria Report

Table 11 below shows Malaria tests for December 2022

	Total Tested	Positives	Negatives	Positivity Rate
Under 5	349	63	286	18%
5 Years and Over	265	60	205	23%
Total	614	123	491	20%

Table 11: Total Malaria Tests (December 2022).

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

2022	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Suspected Malaria Cases	1535	1722	1707	988	1023	754	684	625	585	502	452	619
Suspected Cases Tested MRDT	1528	1714	1698	988	1023	745	681	625	584	502	452	614
Confirmed Malaria Cases	250	322	162	168	237	129	47	31	34	49	48	123
New Malaria Cases Registered	257	330	171	168	237	138	50	30	35	47	47	128
LA Dispensed	257	330	171	168	237	138	50	30	35	47	47	128
LA Issued	690	300	600	270	2470	645	0	30	120	660	0	390

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

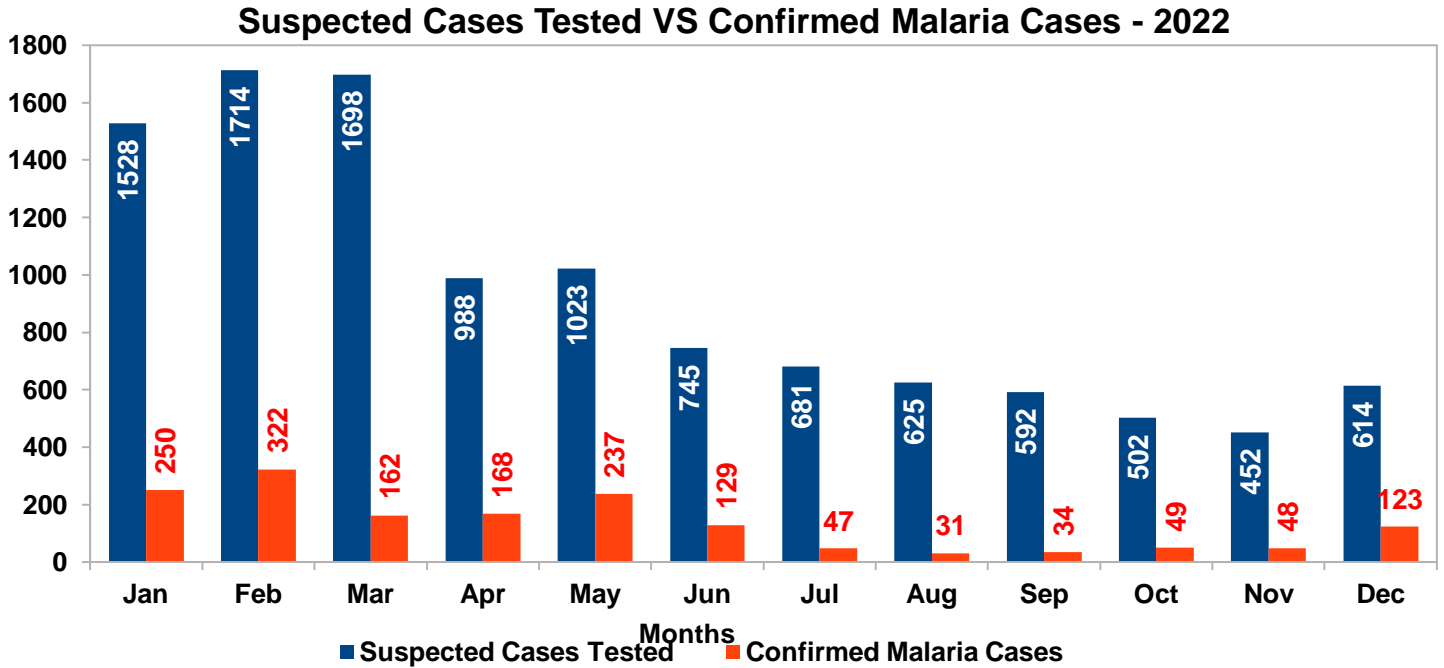


Figure 12: Malaria Suspected Cases Against Confirmed Cases - 2022

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 (December 2022)

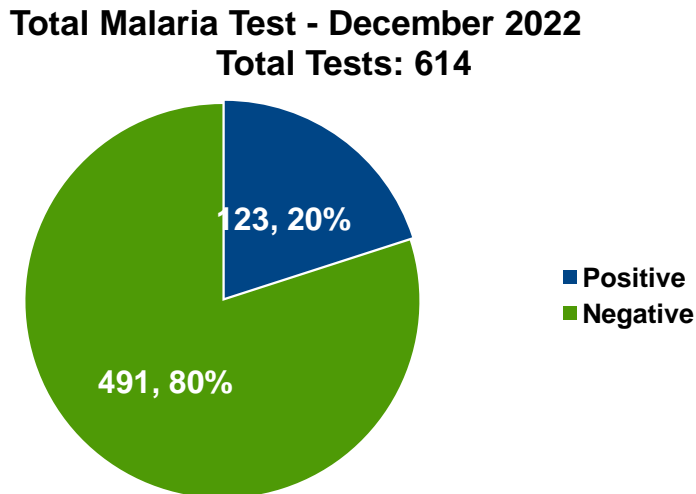


Figure 13: Total KHC (Static and Kasese Outreach) Malaria tests (December, 2022).

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

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

Total Tests: 349

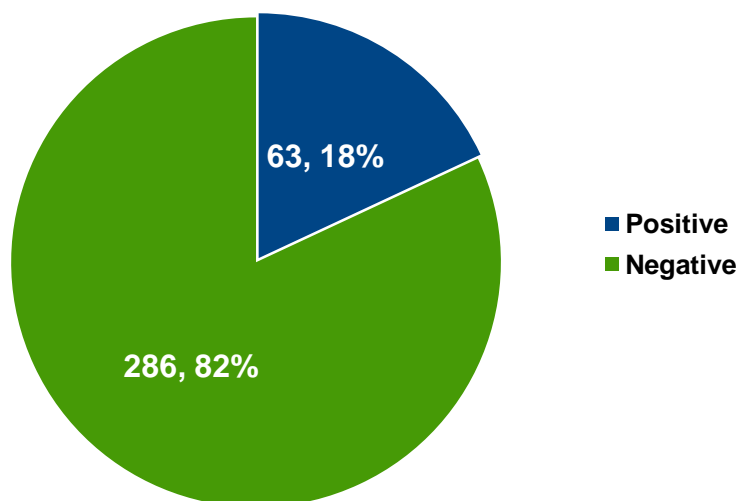


Figure 14: Static and Kasese Outreach, Under 5 Years Malaria tests (December, 2022).

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

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

Total Tests: 265

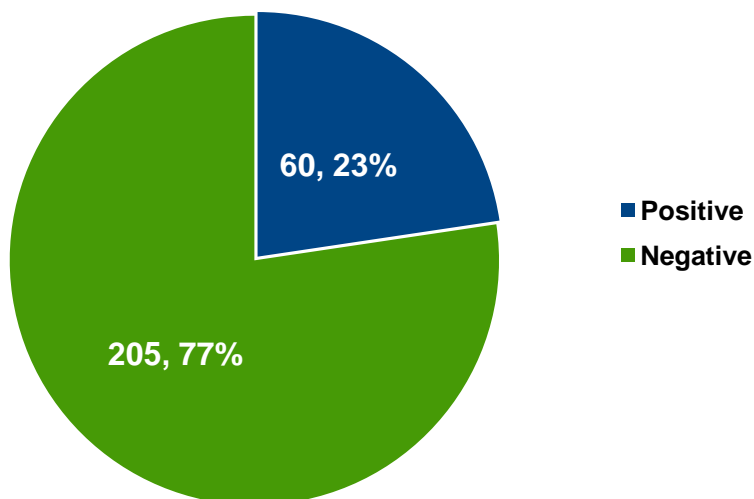


Figure 15 : Static and Kasese Outreach, 5+ Malaria tests (December, 2022).

7. HIV Testing Services (HTS)

Figure 16 below shows HTC Monthly Data (2022).

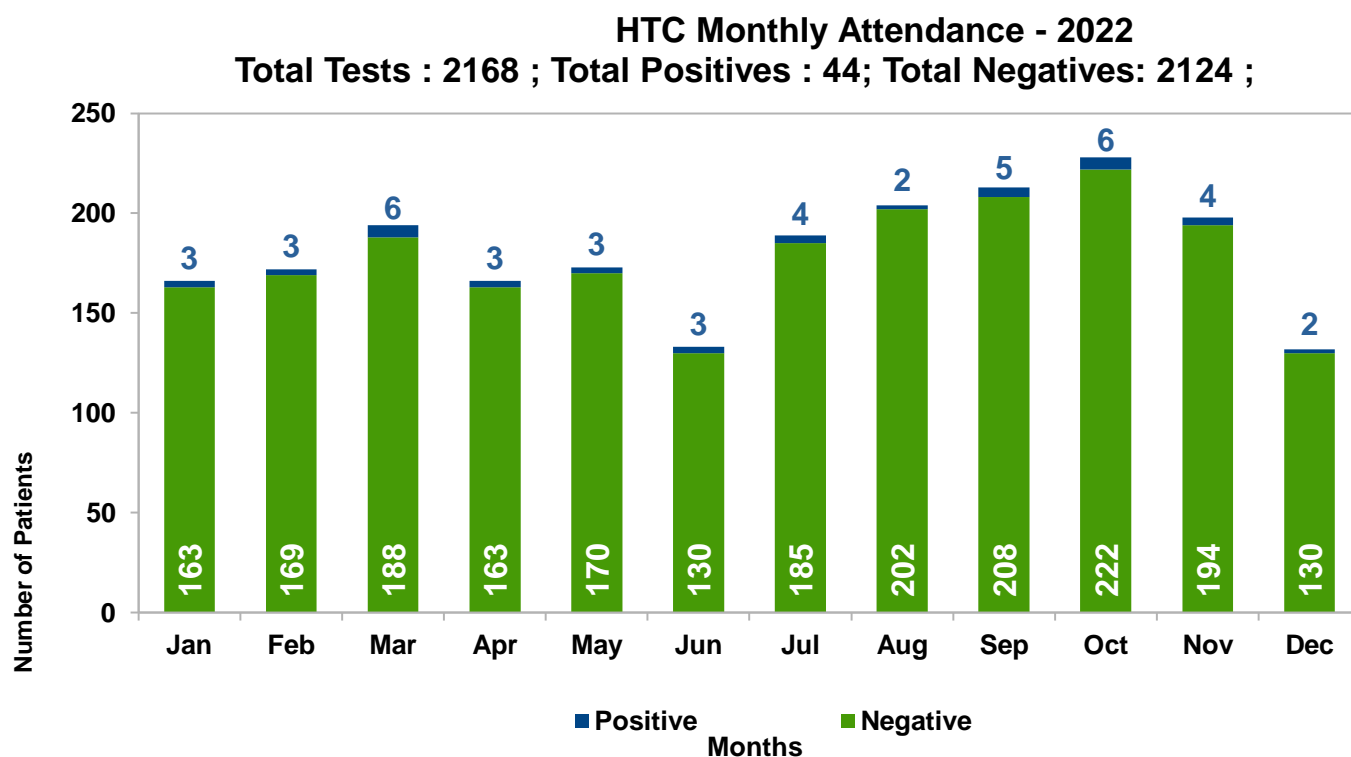


Figure 16: HTC Monthly Data 2022

Kasese catchment area positivity rate remains to be low (2%), 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).

	H. Pyloris		Salmonella		Hep B		HCG		COVID 19	
	Total	Pos	Total	Pos	Total	Pos	Total	Pos	Total	Pos
Jan	69	26	6	2	2	2	30	8	30	12
Feb	88	24	16	0	1	0	41	17	3	0
Mar	79	21	17	0	2	0	43	15	2	0
Apr	80	25	7	0	4	1	19	0	1	0
May	85	25	5	0	1	0	41	17	1	0

Jun	82	34	1	0	4	0	42	18	2	0
Jul	92	25	8	0	2	1	43	16	0	0
Aug	84	17	17	3	6	0	39	13	0	0
Sep	65	13	8	2	1	0	44	19	0	0
Oct	83	5	21	1	0	0	50	13	1	0
Nov	45	5	10	0	4	2	38	19	0	0
Dec	54	3	18	3	5	0	42	18	0	0
Total	926	223	144	11	32	6	472	173	40	12

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

Figure 17 below shows qualitative lab tests 2022

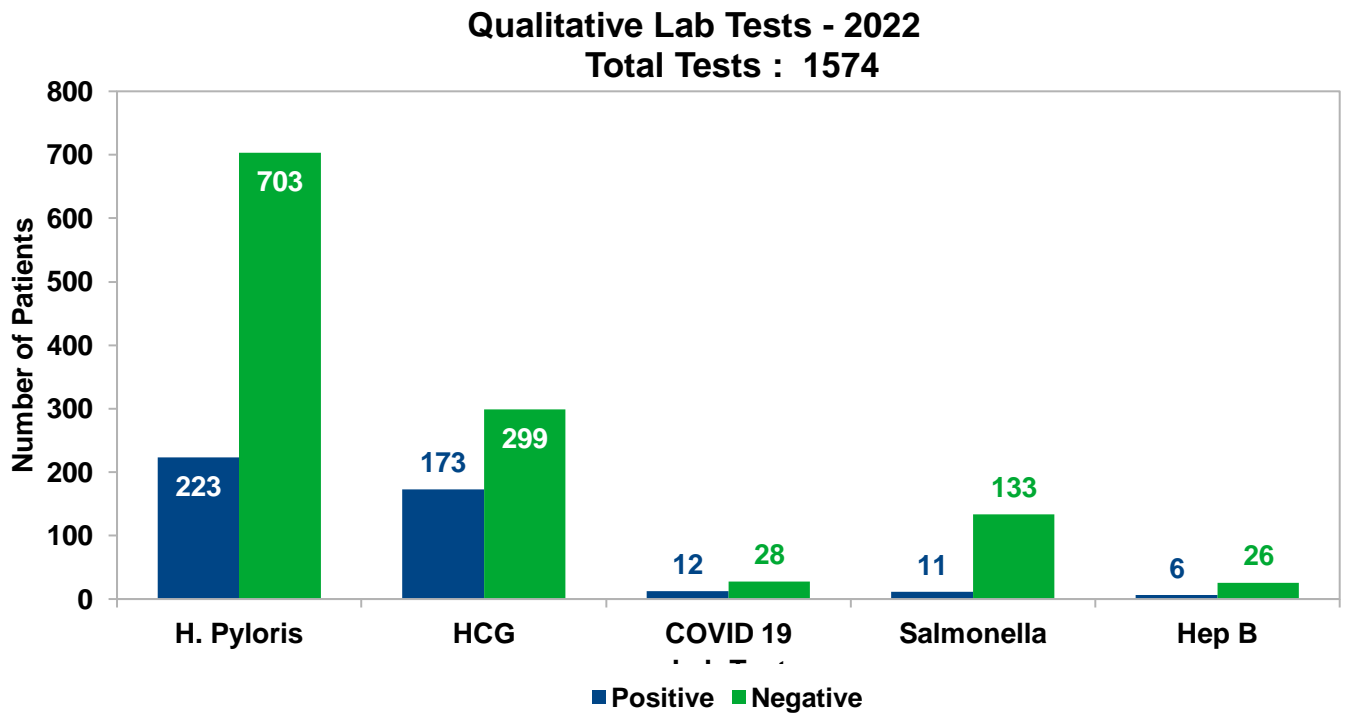


Figure 17: Qualitative Lab Tests – 2022.

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

	Glucose	HB	Urinalysis	FBC
Jan	47	93	4	102
Feb	30	84	2	98
Mar	36	82	4	109
Apr	33	81	1	84
May	30	48	11	113
Jun	107	74	8	130
Jul	82	76	21	130
Aug	95	86	23	100
Sep	49	72	18	101
Oct	56	93	24	125
Nov	20	101	16	125
Dec	28	39	9	116
Total	613	929	141	1333

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

Figure 18 shows quantitative lab tests for the year 2022

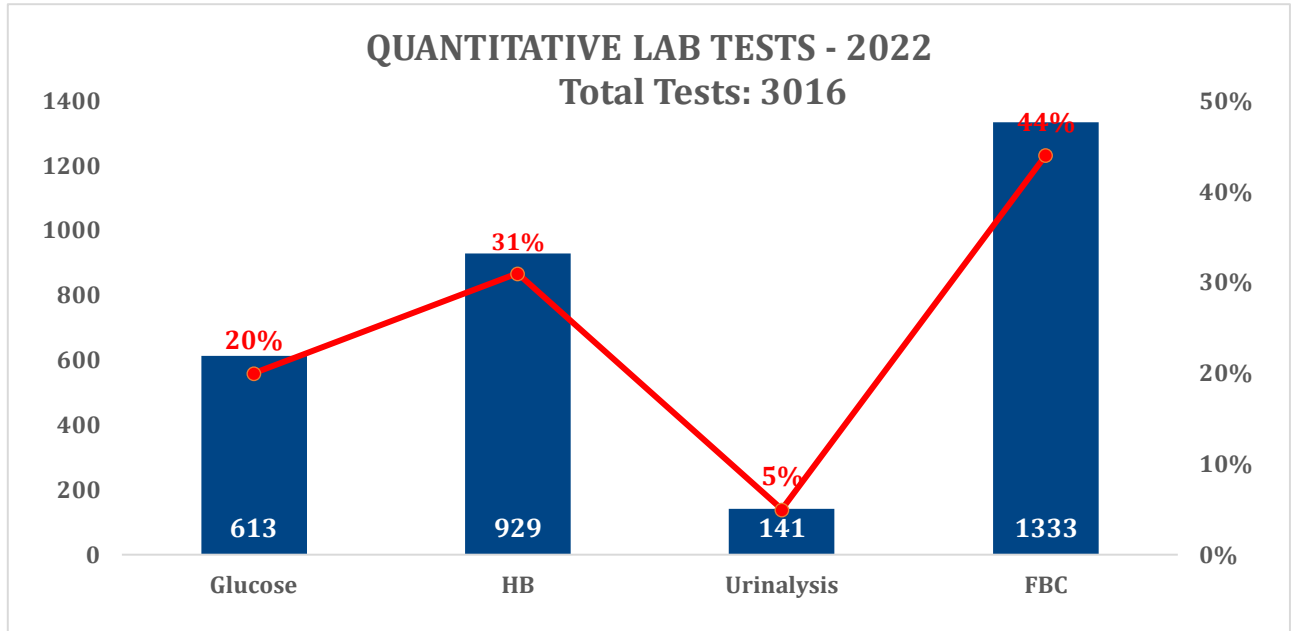


Figure 18: Quantitative Lab Tests – 2022.

9. Disease Group Trends.

Figure 19 below shows diseases occurrences for December 2022

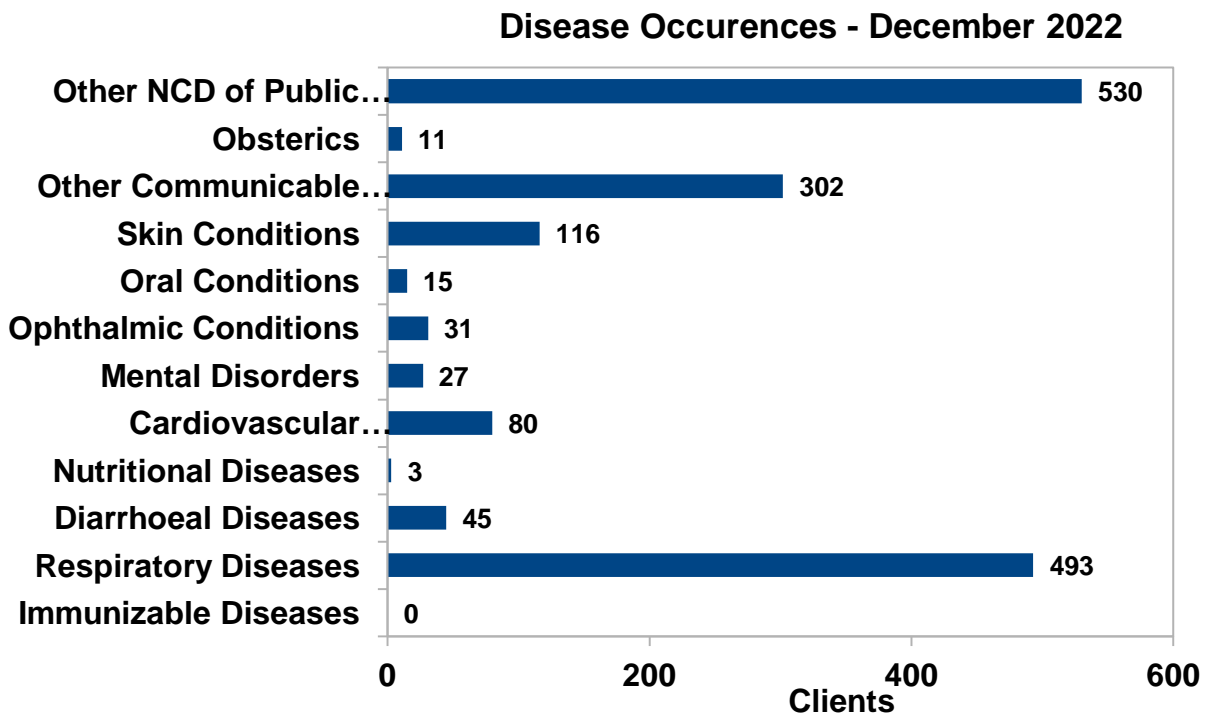


Figure 19: Disease Occurrences (December, 2022).

B. Healthcare Finance and Administration

Table 15 shows 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	MK 3,282,000	MK 383,850
September	MK 2,675,100	MK 523,850
October	MK 2,461,550	MK 491,025
November	MK 2,420,000	MK 737,760
December	MK 1,911,900	MK 598,940

Table 15: Clinic Finances – 2022.

Figure 20 below shows Expenses and Amount Collected (2022).

Total Amount Collected Vs Expenses (2022)

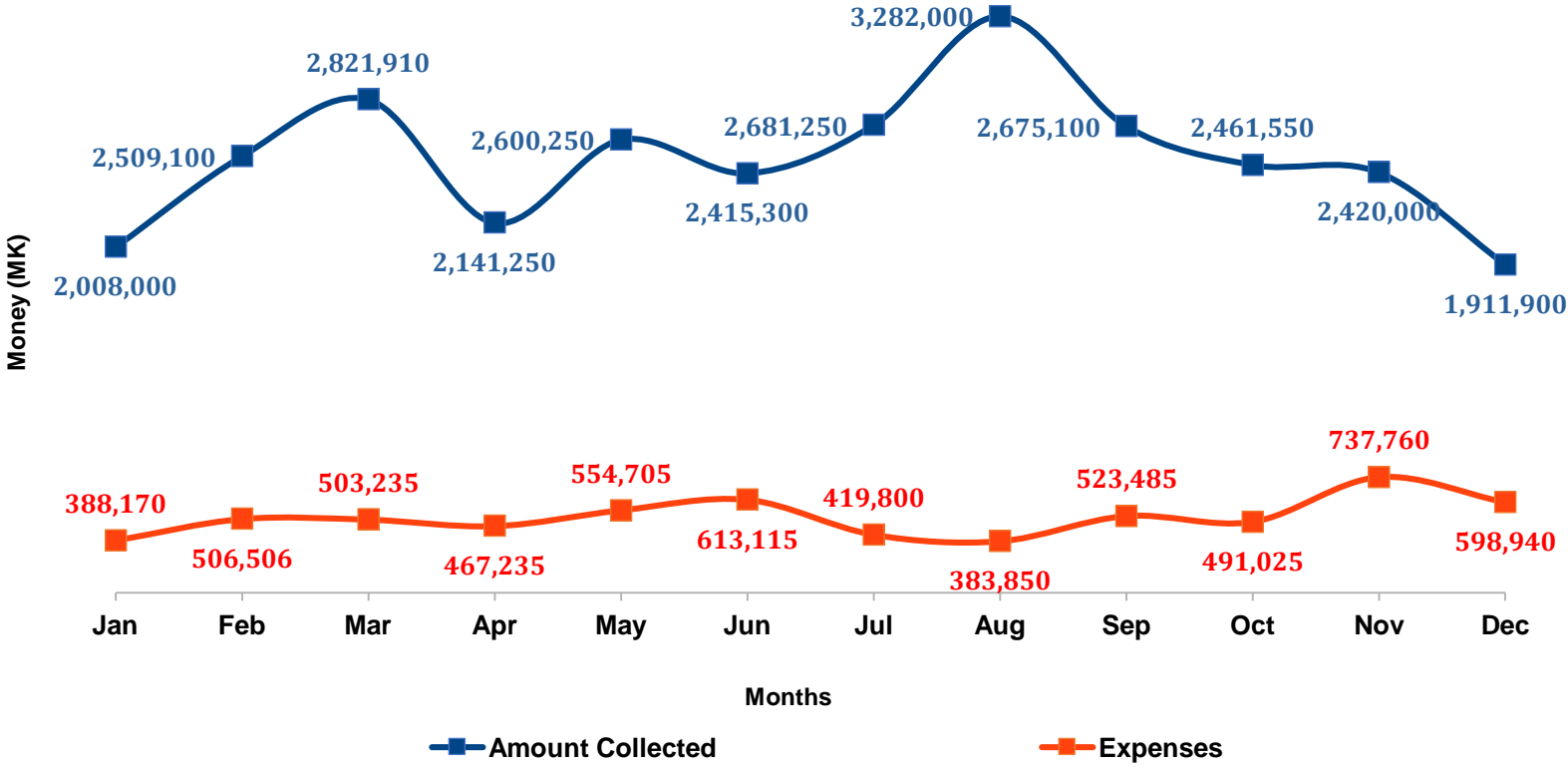


Figure 20: Expenses and Amount Collected (2022).

Water and Sanitation Program



A new girls' latrine at Kapini primary school which is now in use

Introduction

The month of December marks the end of the WASH program implementation for 2023. The just-ended year has been a very productive year for the WASH program. During the year the WASH program has made significant progress in key interventions such as borehole drilling, hand pump repairs, water point committee capacity build and latrine construction. All these key interventions are conducted towards improving access to WASH services in the Kasese catchment and surrounding areas. This report provides a summary of progress for these key interventions and other activities in December and the entire year at large. Below is a summary of activities conducted in December by the WASH program;

- Supported 37 water point repairs (Service/preventive: 28; Repairs: 8; Rehabilitated: 1)
- Drilled 3 boreholes in Gwazeni, Mshangula and Mdaunda
- Completed construction latrines at Kapini school

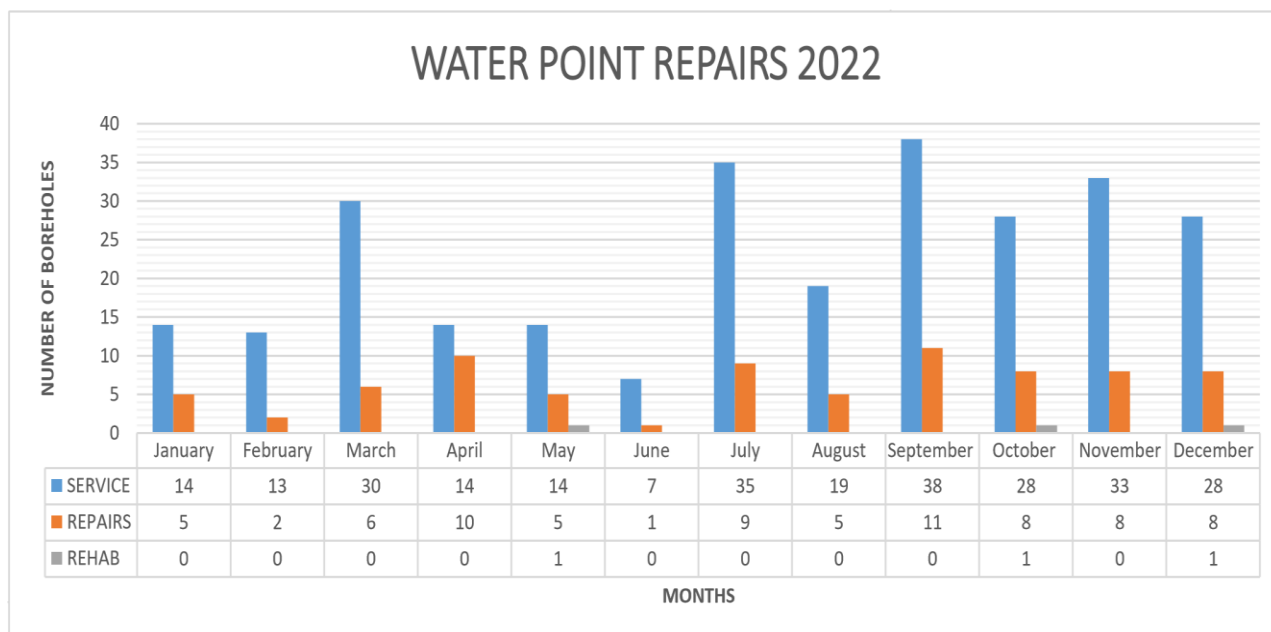
The WASH program carried out the following key activities in December 2022.

Water point repairs and rehabilitations



Pump repair session at Kasinja village during the month

To ensure sustainable access to safe water within the Kasese catchment, water point repair is among the key intervention for the OCA WASH program. In December, the WASH program repaired a total of **37** water points (Service/preventive: **28**; Repairs: **8**; Rehabilitations: **1**). Cumulatively, in 2022 the WASH program conducted a total of **276** maintenance of water points (Services: **212**; repairs: **62**; rehabilitations: **2**). The graph below shows the trend of major/reactive repairs and preventive/service repairs by the WASH program in 2022 so far;



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

Construction of latrines at Kapini Primary School

In December the WASH program completed the construction of latrines at Kapini. OCA has constructed two blocks of latrines at Kapini for boys and girls which are now in use. This initiative was also supported by community members from around Kapini school who provided bricks, sand and quarry stone. The two new latrines are currently supporting a total of **352** learners (Boys: **171**; Girls: **181**). Before this intervention Kapini school had 2 blocks latrine blocks which were dilapidated and were not enough to support all the learners at the school. Following the construction of these two latrines the head teacher and community expressed their gratitude to OCA for considering them under this initiative.

Borehole drilling and construction



Left – The old water source for Mdaunda village, right – New borehole drilled with support from OCA in Mdaunda village

To promote access to improved water services the WASH program drills new wells in Kasese. In December, the WASH program drilled 3 water points in Gwazeni, Mshangula and Mdaunda villages. The three newly drilled wells are now fully functional. The well in Gwazeni village is supporting approximately **215** people while the one in Kam’phika village is supporting a total of **230** people. Similarly, the well in Mdaunda is supporting a total of **240**. The three new wells take the total number of drilled wells in 2022 to 15 thus fully achieving the annual target

Conclusion

Despite facing numerous challenges such as the outbreak Covid 19, transportation and the occurrence of dry wells, the just-ended year has been productive for the WASH program. As the year comes to a close, the WASH program can celebrate that it has achieved almost all its objectives for the year in key interventions such as borehole drilling, WPC capacity building, latrine construction and hand pump repairs. The just-ended month of December was crucial in finalizing all the remaining key interventions and laying out plans for 2023.

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 by equipping them with knowledge of farming as a business. The activities are done in both irrigation and rainfed farming through the provision of farm inputs as micro-loans and agriculture expertise. The activities conducted during the reporting month have been explained below;



Fertilizer application

Fertilizer application was done to boost the nutritional percentage in the soil since the soils are deprived of other important nutrients necessary for the good growth of the crops. The fertilizer application process was done as training for Mwayiwathu club members. Most smallholder farmers have little knowledge of the best time and the recommended rate for fertilizer application in maize production. Mwayiwathu members were well equipped with knowledge of the best time for fertilizer application which can be done during the time of planting or after seven days from the day of planting as basal dressing. Top dressing fertilizer is advised to be applied after 21 days (3 weeks) from the day of basal dressing. The fertilizer application rate per plant has been a big challenge among smallholder farmers, who mostly apply more fertilizer than the recommended rate in Maize plants. Mwayiwathu members were trained on the recommended rate of 5 grams

per planting station, hence helping farmers reduce inputs per cultivated land. This will help smaller-scale farmers to be successful in commercial farming.



Application of top dressing fertilizer in Maize crops

Pests and disease control

Pests in crops can reduce harvest percentage since they destroy the quality and surface area for the photosynthesis process which is the food production process for the plant. Pests are supposed to be controlled at an early stage so that the damage should not be too abundant. The crops were affected by fall armyworms in Maize and beetles in Soya and club members were trained on how best to apply pesticides to the crops of Maize and soya. The best time for applying these pesticides in the morning or evening while plant stomata are open. This will help the pesticides to function well in crops which will reduce the interval application of pesticides hence reducing production cost while increasing total physical product (TPP).



Control of pests and diseases in maize plants

Harvesting and Marketing

The irrigation clubs of Timvane and Madzimayela were in process of Maize production which was under irrigation farming and has been finalized by the rainfall. As maize is more scarce in the country, the harvesting which is taking place in this reporting month has been seen as more vital as people will use the maize to feed their families. Club members of these clubs are expected to make high profits from their crops since there is a shortage of food crops in the



country hence consumers are coming in high numbers to purchase the food crops from these clubs. Despite the club members making better profits from the produce, other households from the community are also assisted since they have found a place where to buy food. This program has been seen as more supportive to the whole community, not only club members as other people can find food from the club within their community.



Club members are excited as harvested and marketing has started

Weeding crops



Creating weed-free farm fields is more important as it helps in the good growth of crops since there is little competition for nutrients with weeds. Mwayiwathu club members were advised and monitored on the best time to conduct the weeding (before the weeds grow too big). Some activities on dealing with weeds were also done on demonstration plots where some herbicides known as Auxo were experimented. This kind of herbicide is mostly used in maize production and is regarded as a good herbicide for reducing production costs. The herbicides used are environmentally friendly as it does not cause harm to the soil. The experiment on the use of herbicide was supported by Bayer who is our partner in farming on demonstration plots.



Member of Mwayiwathu farm club working on her Maize plot

Feedback on Mbeya manure

During the month of November 2022, OCA trained 87 farmers on Mbeya manure making. This was done with the aim of reducing the challenges which farmers are going through especially with the high prices of artificial fertilizers. After training several farmers, some farmers thought it wise to practice the process in their homes and apply it to their fields. The Mbeya manure has shown promising results for farmers who tried it in their fields. Several farmers applied Mbeya only in their fields and the crops are growing healthy and more promising of a better harvest. Through the results seen on their fields, farmers have considered Mbeya manure as a good substitute of the high-cost fertilizers. Mbeya can be made locally by smallholder farmers through the use of their locally available resources hence it can be easily adopted and scaled.



Maize field applied Mbeya Manure only

Business and Financial Empowerment Microloans

Introduction

In its endeavour to improve livelihoods, OCA through Financially empowering microloan program for women continues to support women entrepreneurs with business Microloans and financial literacy. Currently, the program supports 38 women entrepreneurs around Kasese and Kachigamba market. In the month of December, the FEM program had planned and conducted a series of activities as narrated below.

Loan Disbursement

FEM groups

The month of December was an exciting month for the women entrepreneurs especially for Takondwa members as it was their first time to receive business microloans. For Tikondane and Tiyanjane FEM members, this was their second phase of microloans to be disbursed in the year. During the December phase, loans amounting to MWK 4,864,000, MWK 3,650,000 and MWK 1,600,000 were disbursed to Tikondane, Tiyanjane and Takondwa FEM groups respectively. The total amount of loans disbursed for the period was MWK 9,114,000 and the total number of women who had received loans was 34. Four members out of the thirty-eight women in the program were not given loans due to various reasons as stated in the table below.

Name of Member	FEM group	Reason for not getting a loan
1. Dorothy Jelao	Tikondane	Opted not to get a loan
2. Mary Mndolo	Tikondane	Moved out of the catchment area
3. Rachel Lemishati	Tikondane	Moved out of the catchment area
4. Lonily Lameki	Tikondane	Inactive bank account

Mr Goodwell Chimwaza

During the second disbursement, Mr Goodwell Chimwaza was also not given a loan. In the June to November loan period, Mr Goodwell had challenges in repaying the remaining loan balance. During the rainy season, demand for watering cans is very low as compared to the dry season. This is so because people rely heavily on the rains to water their plants. Hence, the loan period was extended to June 2023 for Mr Goodwell to be able to settle his balance.

Monitoring visits/ meetings

Monitoring meeting with Tikondane and Tiyanjane was scheduled to plan for the year ahead. Some of the issues discussed were; reviewing the Orant Microloan program structure since the first two cohorts were not briefed as to how long they will be in the program and the possibility of introducing a 3% interest; prepare and review short term goals with the women entrepreneurs and review of loan budgets microloans before disbursement. Individual monitoring visits to individual businesses were also carried out to assess if loans were received by the women entrepreneurs and confirmation of loan amounts if the loan amounts requested were the same as what they had received.



FEM women selling powder soap (left) and pork (right)

Weekly Village savings and loan group

In the reporting month, Tikondane and Tiyanjane FEM members continued to convene for their weekly VSL meetings. Takondwa FEM members also joined the saving norm

and agreed to be meeting on Thursdays for their VSL meetings. On 23rd of December, Tikondane FEM members concluded their January to December savings circle with the uppermost receiving MWK 187,600 and the last MWK 52,100. On the other hand, Tiyanjane members had agreed to divide their savings in January, 2023. Since Takondwa FEM group has just started their savings group, they will continue to save up to the end of year 2023.

	Shares	Emergencies	Interest	Total Contributions
1 Migail	115,100	13,400	K 36,800	K 165,300
2 Patricia	49,000	9,400	K 12,600	K 71,000
3 Lonily	39,500	6,400	K 6,200	K 52,100
4 Lizinet	33,500	5,400	K 15,200	K 54,000
5 Rabecca	68,000	9,600	K 31,200	K 108,800
6 Edilina	124,000	10,000	K 53,600	K 187,600
8 Debola	52,500	10,000	K 23,600	K 86,100
9 Mary	37,500	6,400	K 23,800	K 67,700
10 Dorothy	61,500	15,000	K 12,200	K 88,700
11 Gloria	75,500	7,200	K 41,000	K 123,700
12 Olipa	116,500	15,200	K 40,200	K 171,900
13 Maligelita	78,500	11,200	K 38,400	K 128,100
14 Alinet	70,500	8,000	K 27,000	K 105,500
17 Mary L	55,500	6,800	K 23,400	K 85,700
Total	K 977,100	K 134,000	K 385,200	K 1,496,200



Education Support Program

OCA education sponsorship is provided to students who cannot support their education independently due to financial challenges. With the help of OCA donors, students can get access to primary, secondary, and even university level education. In order to be a sponsored student, OCA follows some basic eligibility criteria which includes those belonging to a low income or very poor family, being a poor orphan and also having a great interest for studies. The basic goal of the OCA education program is to support a child in order to break the cycle of poverty, and help them to be self-dependent individuals throughout their life. OCA ensures that students are not only getting benefits of education but all-around development from activities such as mentorship, counselling and monitoring performance.

The following were the activities conducted by the education program in the month of December, 2022.

School visits

During the reporting month, OCA education program visited Ngara Community Day Secondary School (CDSS). It was a joint visit between OCA education program and Board members from USA. The aim of the visit was to meet with sponsored students and encourage them. The visit was also to discuss with the school on how best we can go about the book project. OCA did an assessment on factors that affect the performance of students and shortage of books was one of them. The assessment was done in four schools including Ngara CDSS. Therefore, OCA is planning on assisting Ngara CDSS first with some books in order to improve the performance of students especially during Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE) exams. If the book project will be successful at Ngara, then in the future the other schools will be assisted as well.

Meeting with students

The visitors and Board members from USA together with OCA Country Director and education personnel met with sponsored students at Ngara CDSS. OCA is currently sponsoring 7 students (girls) at Ngara CDSS; 6 students in form 2 and one student in form 3. It was a wonderful interaction, the students were able to share their goals and how they are doing in class. The students were encouraged to work extra hard in order to achieve their goals, they were also encouraged to behave well so that they set as good examples and also not to be carried away with peer pressure because it leads to bad behaviours which might lead them to dropping out of school.



Ngara CDSS students having a good time with OCA visitors

Book project

Since OCA is planning on assisting Ngara CDSS with books in order to improve the performance of students during MSCE. The visitors had a chance to interact with the school Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher and the Librarian. It was a great visit and a lot of things were assessed. The visitors were happy that Ngara CDSS had a library and someone to look after the books which is the first important thing to have as far as books are concerned. It was then agreed that Ngara should provide OCA with MSCE statistics for the past five years in order to measure the impact once the books have been given to them. OCA is planning on assisting Ngara CDSS with the books in January, 2023. The Head Teacher was very thankful to OCA for all the support it provides more especially providing support to the neediest students.



[Ngara CDSS Head Teacher explaining to the visitors the schools' Library set up](#)

Preparation for National Exams

In the same reporting period, the education program took the first step of preparing students for National exams by paying for their examination fees. Payment of exam fees for students is part of the support that OCA provides to the sponsored students. Examinations are a necessary part of a quality assurance mechanism and provides important feedback on the nature and quality of the curriculum as well as the quality of teaching and learning. It is an important tool for evaluating students' learning outcome and requires proper planning to meet high standards.

The Examination fees were paid for students who will sit for the Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE) and Junior Certificate of Education (JCE) exams in the following schools; Madisi, Natola, Tchawale, Chamkango, Dowa, Dzenza, Likuni girls, Nkhamenya girls and Lilongwe girls' secondary schools. OCA has 19 students and 31 students sitting for MSCE and JCE exams respectively. The exams will be written by June, 2023.