



MONTHLY REPORT

DECEMBER 2019

COMPILED BY

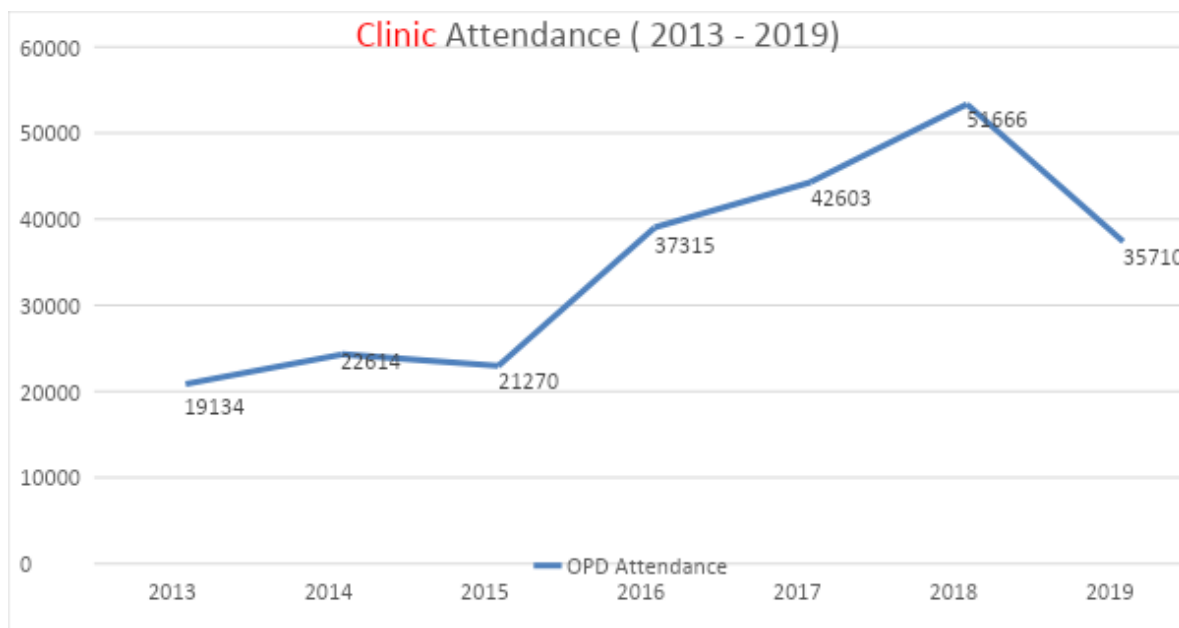
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(COUNTRY DIRECTOR)

HEALTHCARE PROGRAM

Executive Summary

Orant Charities Africa through the Healthcare program has assisted a total of **44043** patients in the year 2019. This figure includes patients attended to in outpatient's department (OPD), Outreach/Mobile clinics and 24 hours Children's ward and excludes those in maternity and antenatal care. Out of **44043** patients who received medical care, **35710** were seen in Kasese catchment area in Dowa representing **81.1%** of total patients. Out of **44043** patients, **29652 (67.3%)** were seen right in Kasese Health Centre. This shows that **14391 (33.7%)** were seen in Outreach/mobile clinics. The outreach clinics assisted **6058 (13.8%)** and **8333 (18.9%)** of total patients seen in the year in Kasese and Bowe Outreach/mobile clinics respectively. More patients were seen in Bowe catchment (**8333**) than in Kasese (**6058**) mainly because of the lack of a static clinic nearby in Bowe (Kasungu) unlike in Kasese catchment where people may easily walk to Kasese Health Centre. Total admission in the children's ward was **850** representing **1.9%** of the total patients seen in 2019.

Annual Patient Statistics in Kasese Health Centre

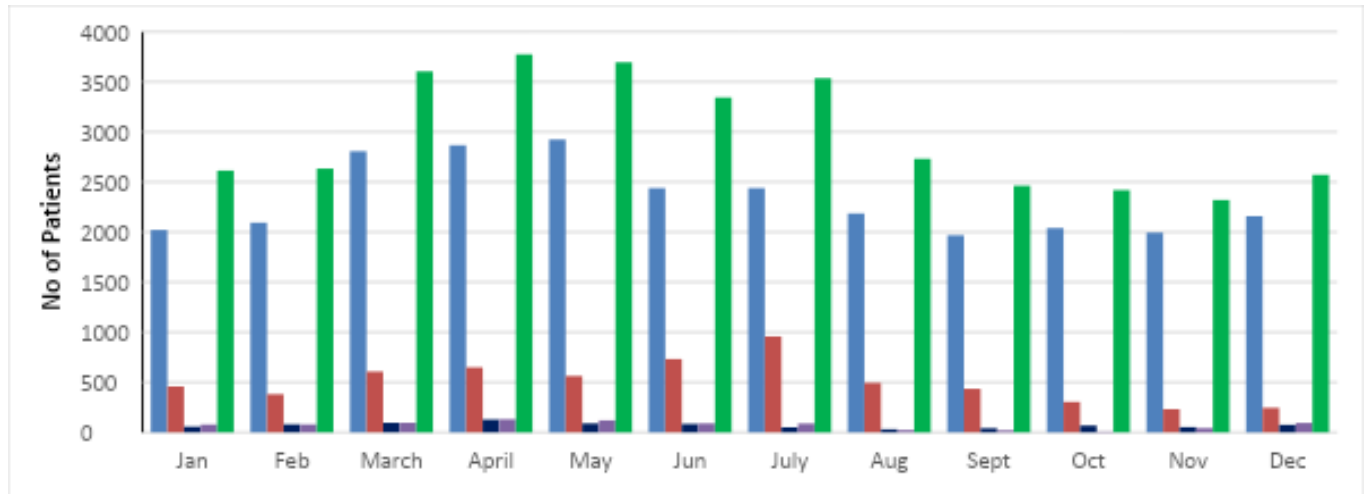


Orant Charities Africa (OCA) took over from lifeline in the year 2015, the patients annual attendance has increased sharply since 2013. However, in this year 2019, there is a decrease due to many factors. First, it is due to mass distributions of mosquito nets and good education on its usage, which the government undertook in 2018. Secondly, there was no shortage of medicine and medical supplies in adjacent government health facilities, the other reason could be the effect of early treatment as prevention. Because the community hospital seeking behaviors have changed for the better, now patients seek medical services early, hence less malaria transmission rates.

Many patients can now access the healthcare in our catchment areas from static clinics and community mobile outreach clinics in comparison to the year 2013 and 2014.

Monthly Attendance in Kasese Catchment

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

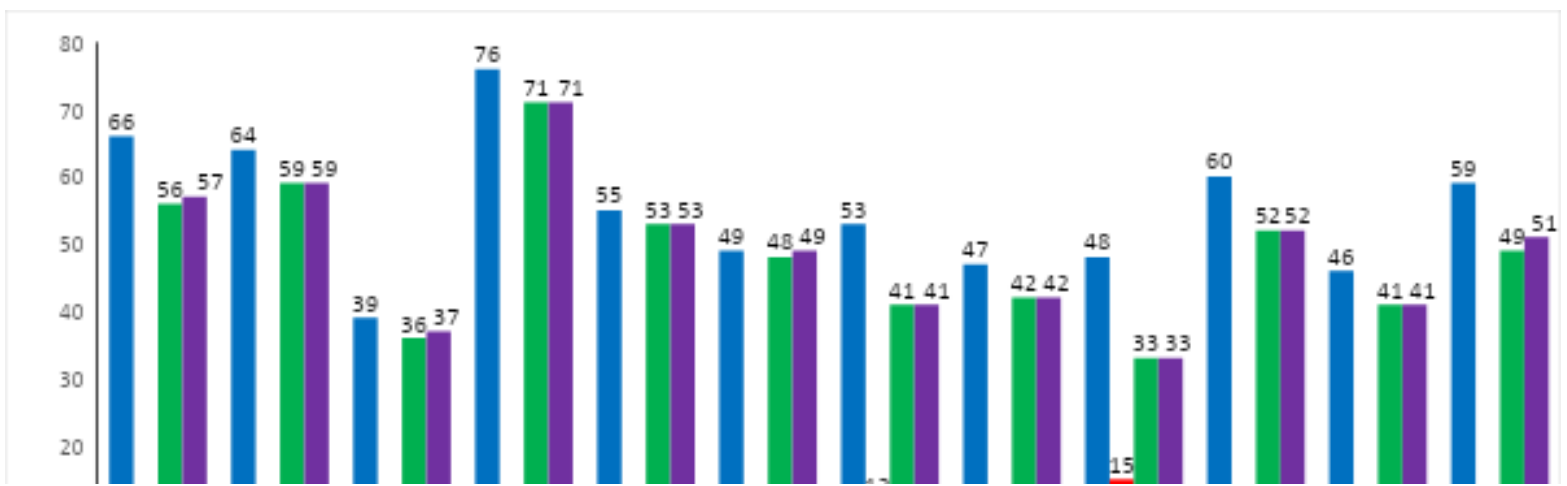


In December 2019, Kasese Health Centre saw **2,572** patients. About **75** children of age between 2 months and 12 years were admitted in the 24 hours' children's observation ward. The community mobile outreach clinics team saw **245** patients in Kasese catchment areas, as many now access healthcare as the mobile outreach clinics continue to reach those in hard to reach areas.

Maternal and child healthcare

The Health Centre attended to **59** mothers in the labour ward, conducted **51** spontaneous vertex deliveries (SVD), one neonate was born in transit to the hospital (BBA), 10 mothers were referred to Madisi for hospital delivery. Among those referred, two had prolonged labour, one had CPD, and eight had other complications. Total deliveries at Kasese were **51**, the health Centre is proud to report that since we opened the maternity 5 years ago, we have not experienced death related pregnancy.

Below is a graph showing monthly maternity



Cervical cancer screening (VIA)

Cancer of the cervix remains amongst the top three leading causes of death in Malawi. In addressing this problem, the health Centre conducts routine visual screening of cervix using acetic acid to women of childbearing age between 25 to 49 years and for the month of December 2019 the health Centre screened **212** clients. More patients were seen in December as OCA intensified awareness campaigns of cervical cancer. Positives were 7 and were done thermo- coagulation, **5** suspects of cancer were referred for biopsy.

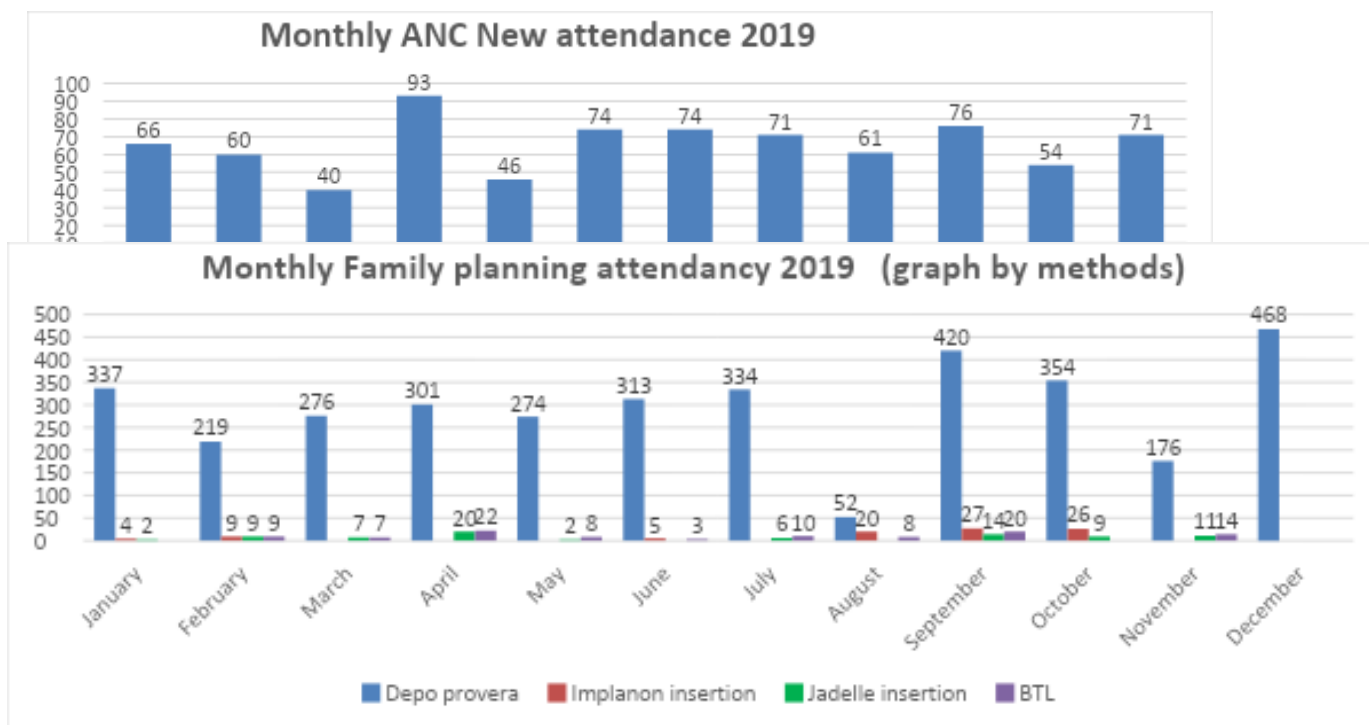
Family planning clinic

The graph depicts the family planning attendance and methods. From the graph above many clients opted for injectable depo Provera family planning method because it is easy to administer and it does not interact with most of the medicine available in Malawi and as observed, the month of December had 468 clients who opted for depo Provera a high number compared to all other months of the year.

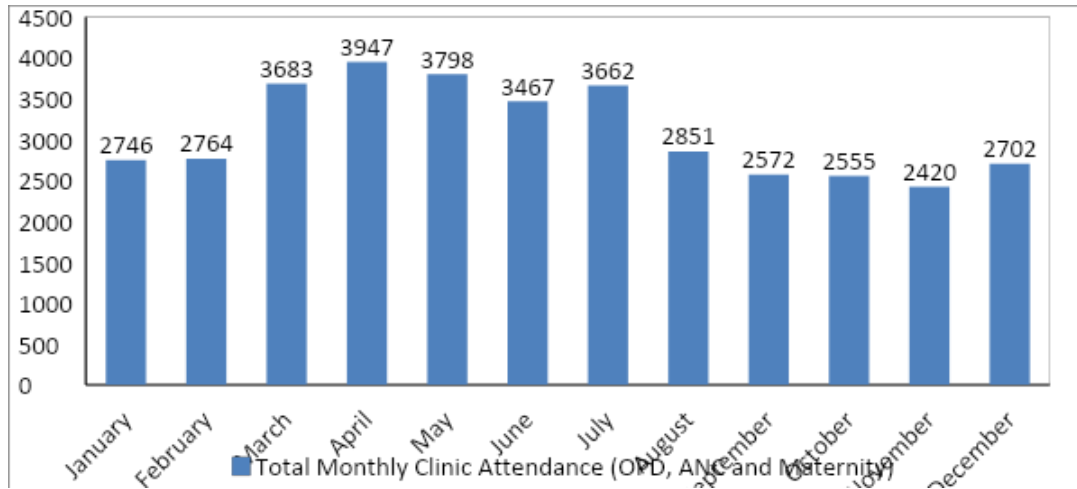
Antenatal Care (prenatal care)

The health Centre conducts prenatal (antenatal) clinics twice a week, on Tuesday for those enrolling for the first time and Thursdays for subsequent visits. The health Centre attended to 71 pregnant mothers.

Below is the graph showing monthly antenatal attendance.



Below graph shows-Summary of total Monthly patient attendance in Kasese (OPD,24 hrs, Outreach, ANC and Maternity)



ART Clinics

The health Centre continues to provide excellent ART/ TB care as depicted by quarterly award of certificate of excellence by the Malawi Ministry of Health through HIVAIDS unit.

The clinic has 285 patients alive on ART medicine. Good percentage of patients were done viral load and received their results. In the same year 2019, Nurses and Clinicians received training on electronic master cards and all records of patients who are on ART, are updated to electronic databases. The development helps to ease the workload and report generation.

Laboratory services

The Health Centre Laboratory services for (static and outreach) clinics continues to provide reliable test befitting primary health care level, mostly rapid test strips and basic microscopic tests. As for the month of December 2019, the lab conducted the following tests; Malaria, Helocobacter Pyrolis, Syphilis, Hepatitis B&C, Salmonella, Tuberculosis and Pregnancy tests.

Malaria test (MRDTS& microscopy)

The malaria test is conducted with both rapid tests (MRDTS) and microscopy blood smear slides. A total of **1,620** malaria tests were done and those positive were **988** and negative tests were **632** this represent more than 50% positivity rates.

Malaria Reports.

The Health Centre received supervisors from the Malaria control program, who come for commodity, accountability, performance tracking (CAPT) specifically on the following antimalarial supplies; LA medicine, MRDTS, and Mosquito nets. The focus was on the monthly reports of May, June, July 2019. Overall, the Health Centre performance scores were **99.3%**, which is excellent and there were not many discrepancies for the above commodities versus beneficiaries. On reporting, the health Centre scored 100%, validation 100% accountability 98%.

However, there were a few areas which the health Centre should improve on, for example on LA issued from main pharmacy was more than confirmed cases in the lab, secondly is the use of MRDTS was less than confirmed cases. Immediate solution for this is that pharmacists should account for the previously ordered LA before resupplying. In addition, to record LA issued in the register for easy tracking of consumption. Lastly, was a call for proper documentation in all registers.

Clinic administration

- Mr. Herbert clinician was on 2019 annual leave.
- The Health Advisory Committee (HAC) members Held monthly meetings and addressed community concerns.

Healthcare program 2019 achievements and challenges

Achievements

The following are some of the major achievements for the year 2019.

- The health Centre managed to attend to 35,710 number of patients, we have noted improved quality of life and reduced mortalities especially among the under five years.
- The Health Centre continues to attain a certificate of excellence at the ART department for good management and care of the patients.
- The Health Centre had no critical shortage of medicine and medical supplies, although towards month end there was stock out of some few items especially analgesics.
- The healthcare program introduced an autonomous outreach/mobile clinic program, which covers Kasese catchments areas and part of Kasungu (Bowe). A team of 7 staff was recruited to assist in the program.
- OCA procured a brand new Land cruiser ambulance mainly for the mobile clinic.
- Number of trainings were conducted by the Ministry of Health, which includes ART/TB, family planning, cervical cancer screening.
- Introduction of youth friendly health services in coordination with GENET

- The health care program provides financial assistance to a number of destitute patients (bills payments at Madisi hospital, and fare transport for those referred to central hospital, among others).

Challenges

- Power outages at the main outpatients (OPD) buildings, and children's observation ward and a faulty solar system.
- Frequent, mechanical breakdown of ambulance cars for the static clinic.
- Handouts mentality of some community members

WATER PROGRAM



Executive Summary

Orant Charities Africa's Water program finished the year 2019, on a high note as it achieved great milestones in its quest to achieve water and sanitation for all aimed at reducing the disease burden for people of Malawi in general and Kasese in particular. Activities conducted towards this goal in December, 2019 were;

- Construction of a girl's latrine with a menstrual hygiene facility at a primary school.
- Repair of 09 Water wells (Boreholes).
- Revamping and training of 4 Water well management Committees.
- Hygiene Awareness campaign for Cholera prevention.

Construction of a girl's latrine with a menstrual hygiene facility at a primary school.

OCA constructed a second girl's latrine at Chiliphiza primary school in Kasese catchment area, the construction of this latrine follows another similar intervention that was done in 2018 at M'ndinga primary school. The present latrine has three holes and one change room for menstrual hygiene management. The latrine was constructed amid acute shortage of sanitary facilities at the school that was contributing to school drop outs especially for adolescent girls. The constructed latrine will ease the pressure at the school, however the need is still high for both girls and boys at the school. Pictures below show the latrine that has been constructed by OCA and others that

are/were being used. Chiliphiza school has a total enrollment of 848 leaners (455 boys and 393 girls).



The top two images show the front and back views of the newly constructed latrine (before branding) and the below image show the old latrines at the school.

Well (borehole) Repairs

The Water Program Team in collaboration with Water Point Committees (WPCs) and Area Mechanics managed to complete 09 wells repairs. Repairs were undertaken in Buza, Katunundu, Chadzerakuti, nkhwichi, Inje 2, Kalonga, Chinguwi, Chiipanthenga and Fulatila villages. The table below details the repairs that were conducted.

SN	Village/Water point	Repairs done
01	Buza	11 rod centralizers, 4 Bush bearings 8sockets 6 pump rods, fulcrum pin and hunger pin
02	Katunundu	8 pipes, 8 pump rods, 12 rod centralizers, 12 pipe centralizers, 4 Bush bearings, pump handle, cylinder
03	Chadzerakuti	Pump head, fulcrum pin hunger pin, handle, 4 pump

		rods, Hanger assembly, plunger, 10 rod centralizers, 4 Bush bearings
04	nkhwichi	Full inner parts
05	Inje 2	Handle, 7sockets, 5 pipes, 5 pump rods, 4 Bush bearings, 9 Rod centralizers, 1 Brass plunger
06	Kalonga	1 Pump head, 10 rod centralizers, 4 Bush bearings, 1 cup seal, 2 bobbin, 1 foot valve and handle
07	Chinguwi	Pedestal head and full inner parts
08	Chiipanthenga	10 pipes, 10 pipe centralizers hunger pin, 10 rod centralizers
09	Fulatira	Full inner parts

Revamping and training of 4 Water well management Committees

Well capacitated and active water point management structures are a requisite to a well-functioning and hygienic water source. It is for this reason that OCA revamped and invested in the training of Water Point committees (WPCs) and entrusted them with the responsibility of manning water points as well as conducting preventive maintenance on boreholes in their respective villages. A total of 4 WPCs were revamped during the reporting period.

In order to enhance capacity of WPCs in Water point management and minor borehole preventive maintenance, OCA facilitated Community based management (CBM) training to all the revamped committees. The training was meant to equip participants with skills and knowledge necessary to undertake their responsibilities in championing operation and maintenance of water supply facilities (boreholes). Specifically, the objectives of the trainings were to;

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

A total of 44 community members were trained. The trainings were facilitated by the Water Monitoring Assistant, Health Surveillance Assistant (HSA) – both from Government departments as well as OCA. The trainings were successfully done and it is envisaged that the community will be able to sustainably operate and maintain their respective water facilities.



Images showing participants during the training (theory)

Hygiene Awareness campaign for Cholera prevention.

December falls within the rainy season in Malawi, this is the period which sees an escalating prevalence of water related diseases such as Cholera, Malaria and Typhoid. In order to avoid the possible outbreak in OCA catchment area, OCA conducted massive hygiene education sessions aiming at raising awareness on how cholera and other related diseases could be avoided during this period. OCA took advantage of pre-existing community gatherings such as under-five clinics and partner organization's meetings to disseminate the messages.

Conclusion

In December, 2019 implementation of activities led to serving more people as well as discovering their needs as OCA continues to do its charity work in Malawi. Construction of girl's sanitary facilities, well repairs among others improved communities' access to water and sanitation services. During the construction works the need for boy's latrines was equally evident and was noted to be worthy for consideration.

AGRICULTURE PROGRAM



Demonstration plots

Executive Summary

The activities carried out focused on areas of Irrigation project, school garden pilot project, lead farmers and OCA farm.

Irrigation Microloan program

OCA has supported irrigation clubs with farm inputs and extension services to improve living standards of smallholder's farmers in rural areas. In December, some irrigation clubs have been in the process of harvesting their crops and loan payment has started taking place.

Harvesting

Ndalusa irrigation club is located in Nkhandwe village and is one of the clubs which are being supported by OCA and is in microloan program. Ndalusa irrigation club cultivated maize and in December harvesting activity took place. The maize was harvested while fresh and was sold to be eaten as green maize. Selling of green maize was seen as more profitable than selling dried maize. Through marketing, there is a high expectation of members paying back the loan without problems. Kasangadzi irrigation club is practicing tomato production and harvesting activity is in process.



Maize crop ready for harvesting

Marketing

Kasangadzi irrigation club is located under Mzimuwakana village and is practicing tomato production. The club has marketed their produce in coordination with OCA agriculture office to get relatively high prices. Harvesting process of tomatoes will take place until the end of the month of



January 2020. Kasangadzi irrigation club is under the microloan program and they will be able to pay back the loan. The loan payment with Kasangadzi irrigation club was agreed to be paid back before the end of January 2020. Despite some challenges faced during the production period such as lack of good watering equipment, the club will be able to pay back the loan according to the agreement.



Matured tomato ready for consumption

Pest and disease control

During the time of harvesting tomatoes, the pests and disease mostly attack the tomato fruits which easily reduces the quality of the fruit to be harvested. Control measures of pests and disease in tomatoes were done to improve the quality and quantity of the tomato fruits to be harvested. High quality tomatoes give good prices hence club members will not face challenges during loan payment period. Irrigation club members were encouraged to apply pesticides to control pests and diseases.

Irrigation Loan payment

Irrigation club members were given loan inform of farm inputs and payment of loan in form of money equivalent is in process for those clubs which have already finalized harvesting. Ndalusa and Khamalidyetsa irrigation club have already finalized harvesting and they have already paid three quarters of the loan hence expected to finalize loan payment in January 2020.

Demonstration

Demonstrations have been established at OCA farm with support from seed companies such as Seed-co, Bayer and Famers world. Seed companies are showcasing different types of maize



varieties to smallholder farmers so that they can be able to freely choose the best variety through what they have seen at the demonstration. Farmers world is promoting good agriculture practices for bumper harvest. This strategy has been seen as one way of reducing hunger since farmers will be able to produce bumper harvest through the choice of varieties being seen at the demonstration plots and following what has been advised during

field days.

The demonstration plots have been expanded up to Kachala section with support from Farmers world. Farmers world saw it as important to put some demonstration plots close to smallholder farmer's homes with an aim of reducing distance to access the information. In Kachala section, Bweya village, the demonstration plots were established with support from Farmers world where

all agriculture
Lead Farmers
Maize and
processes are



practices are being done by OCA (LF). The crops under practice are Soya beans where new production being practiced.

Demonstration plots at Kachala section

OCA Farm

For the year 2019 to 2020 growing season, OCA farm has been leased by a certain farmer who is based in Lilongwe and the crop under cultivation is Maize for the whole farm. The farm has been monitored closely so that It is being used properly without spoiling the soil and there is no any land spared out without being cultivated.

EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM

Executive Summary

The education program had 98 students in the reporting period being supported by various donors which includes Rotary International District 5810, Ultara/Geo-shack and Orant Charities Individual donors. Out of these students, three are in primary schools, two are in college and the highest percentage are young girls in secondary schools. Education support is very important especially to girls to empower them to rise out of poverty. In December 2019, students were busy writing end of first term exams and they closed for the holiday. As students were preparing and writing exams, visits by the OCA education program Manager are significantly minimized or eliminated to give the students ample to time to prepare for exams.

The Need for More Support

OCA received a lot of requests for education sponsorship from students within its catchment area. This shows that there are many needy students willing to continue with school but they are lacking school fees. Most of the students who are requesting this support are in day schools. Poverty is a major factor that families struggle to support their students as there is a tag of war between buying

food and paying for school fees. As more funding will be found the Education program will assist these students. OCA is very thankful to all our donors and individual donors who are picking students to support.

Challenges

We got a communication that one girl has dropped out of school. The student dropped out to get married. Her name is Queen Mpinganjira, 18-years-old and she comes from Mkhwichi village in Kasese, Dowa. She has both parents and 6 siblings. She was in form 2 at Ngala Community Day Secondary School (CDSS) and was being sponsored by Ultara/Geo-shack donors. Ultara/Geoshack committed itself to support at least 42 students for four years until they finish their secondary school. In this case, another vulnerable student will be chosen to replace queen who has dropped out. It is a sad development to both OCA and Ngala school because OCA is there to instill a hardworking spirit in school girls and encourage them to stay in school and also to increase the literacy and economic well-being of girls and their families through education. However, Ngala Head teacher is also disappointed with Queen's drop out because he saw potential in all the girls being sponsored by OCA. He believed that there will be no drop outs and all the girls will finish secondary education.



Since 2017, a total of four girls have dropped out of school and we managed to bring back one student Vanessa who is back in school. Follow ups are being done to meet with queen's parents, the Head teacher and the chief in her village. It's unfortunate that most girls think that getting married is a get way to a poverty free life and independence.

Way forward

Students are now into the second term of the 2019/2020 academic year. OCA will continue to mentor the students and encourage them to stay in school. New academic year will begin in September 2020.