



SUMMARY

Orant Charities Africa (OCA) operates in four thematic areas and thus Healthcare, Water, Agriculture and Education. The mission of Orant Charities Africa is to inspire hope, improve lives and empower the poor. OCA provides high quality developmental programs to rural communities around Kasese, Dowa and Bowe, Kasungu in Malawi. Our Healthcare program has seen a total of 6789 patients in the month of February in both Static and Mobile Clinic.

MONTHLY REPORT

February 2020

Compiled by Gabriel Kapanda Jr.

HEALTHCARE PROGRAM

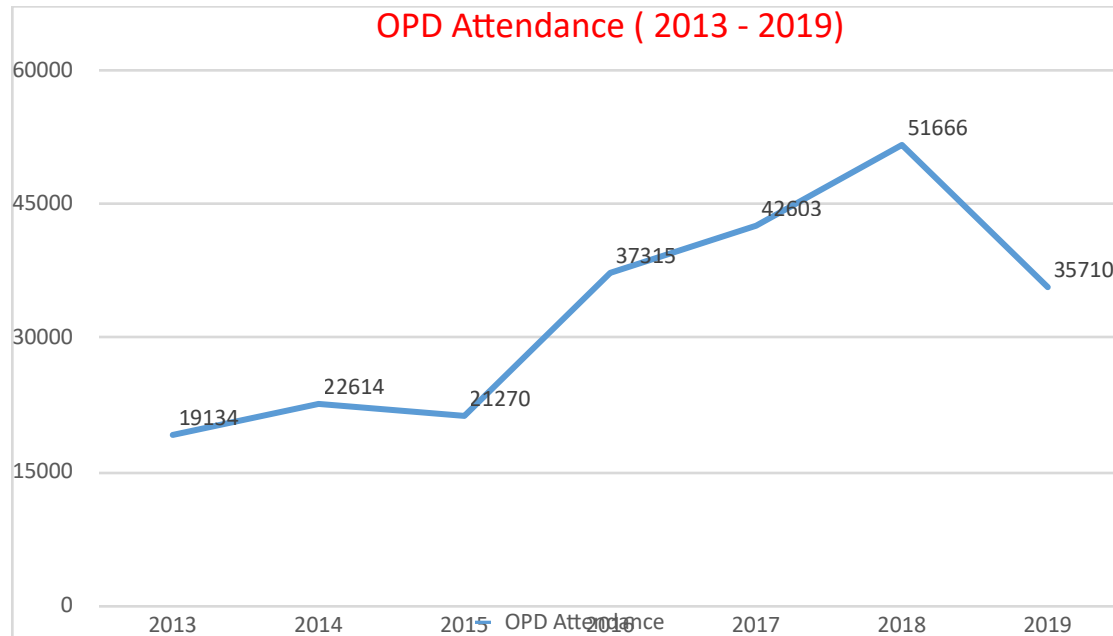
Executive Summary

Orant Charities Africa (OCA) operates Kasese Health Centre in coordination with Ministry of Health (MOH). Apart from operating Kasese Health Centre, OCA has a mobile team of seven qualified medical personnel who go to remote areas and brings medical services right to the community. Efforts from Kasese Health Centre together with the mobile team is improving lives of many patients both in Dowa and Kasungu districts.

Population and Distance to the nearest hospitals

Kasese catchment area has a population of approximate 36,320. The distance to the nearest government hospital is 78km (Dowa district hospital), and to Madisi hospital under Christian health association (CHAM) is 5km.

Annual Patients Statistics (Kasese Only)

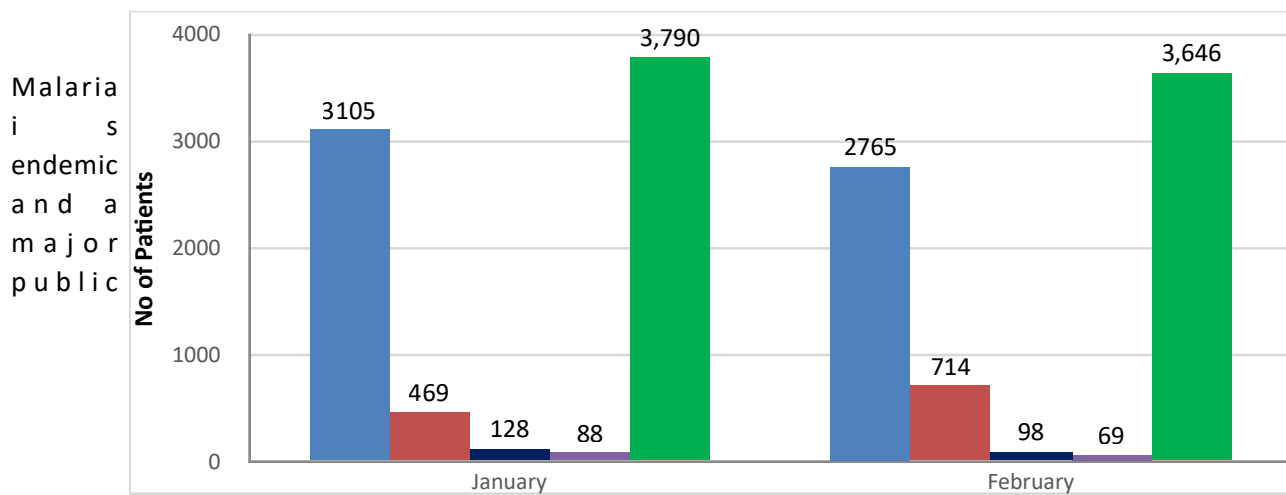


The graph above shows annual patients attendance since 2013 to 2019.

Orant charities Africa took over from lifeline in the year 2015, the patients annual attendance has increase sharply since 2013. However, last year 2019, there is significant 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 the year 2018. Secondly, there was no shortage of medicine and medical supplies in the adjacent government health facilities, the other reason could be the effect of early treatment as prevention. Because the community hospital seeking behaviors have change for the better, now patients seek early treatment, hence less malaria transmission rate. 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.

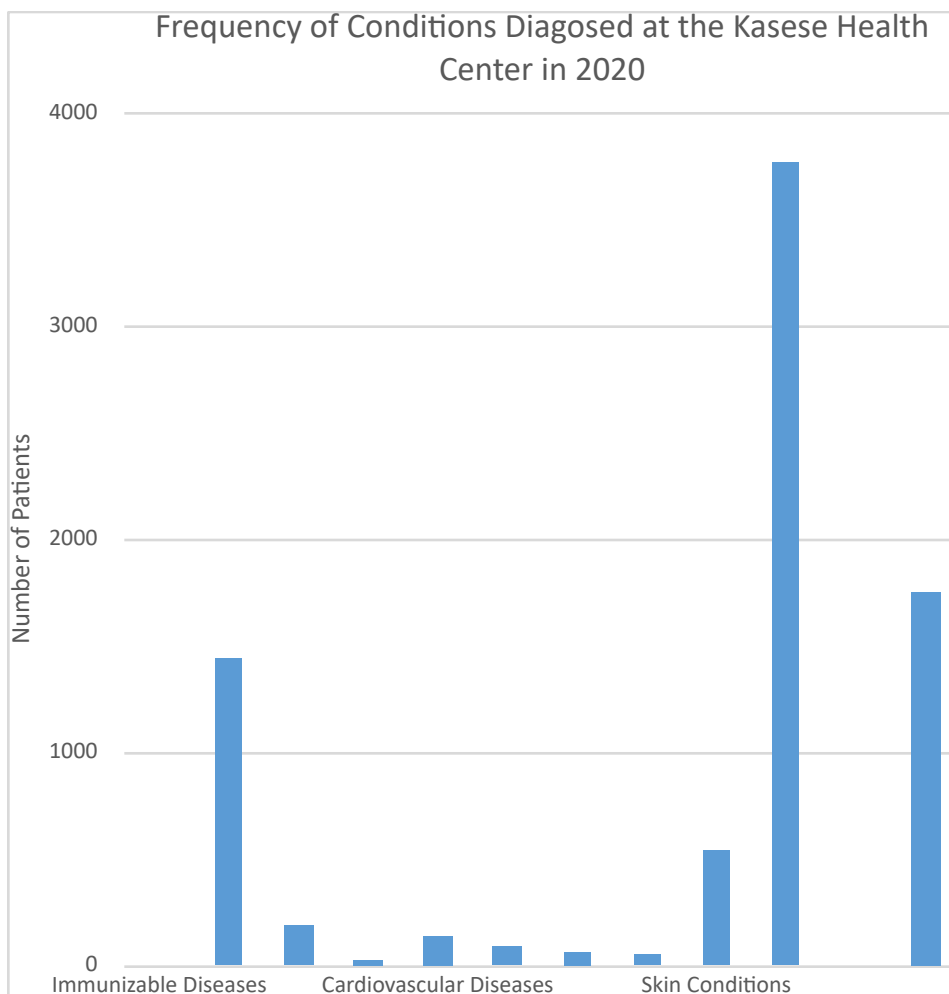
Monthly Patients Attendance

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

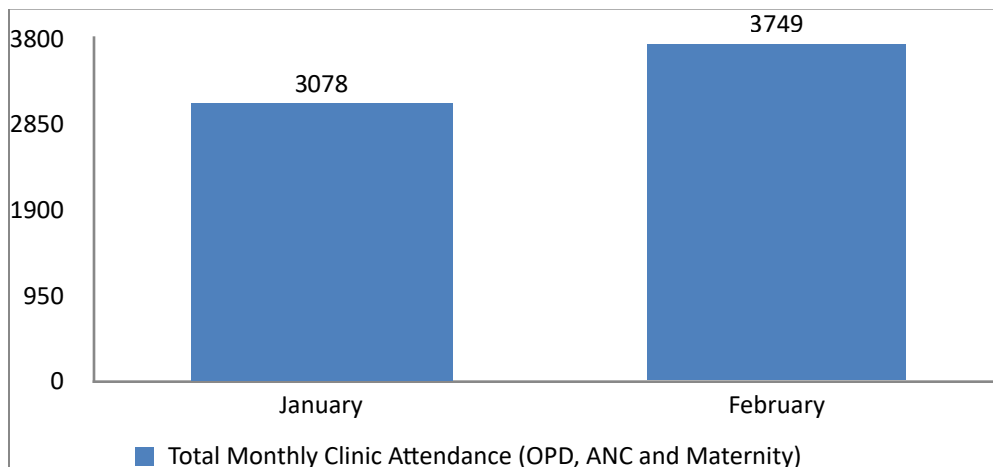


Malaria is endemic and a major public

health problem in Malawi with its epidemics in the month of December to April every season. The entire population is at risk, however, pregnant mothers and under five children are at higher risk. Orant Charities Africa, continues to provide high impact health care intervention that has improved substantially the health of Kasese community and beyond. As for the month of February 2020, Kasese Health Centre saw **3,646** patients a number slightly lower than last month of which **1,854** had malaria. The Health Centre admitted **98 children** age between 2 months and 12 years in 24 hours' children's observation ward. The community mobile outreach clinics team saw **714** patients in Kasese catchment areas. In Bowe catchment area the mobile clinic saw **3143**. This means that a total of **3857** patients were seen in mobile clinics. The entire healthcare program saw a total of **6789** patients both in Kasese and Bowe (excluding maternity and antenatal care). The mobile clinics saw more patients than the static (Kasese Health Centre) with more patients (**3143**) seen in Bowe catchment area representing **46.3%** of the total patients seen in the month.



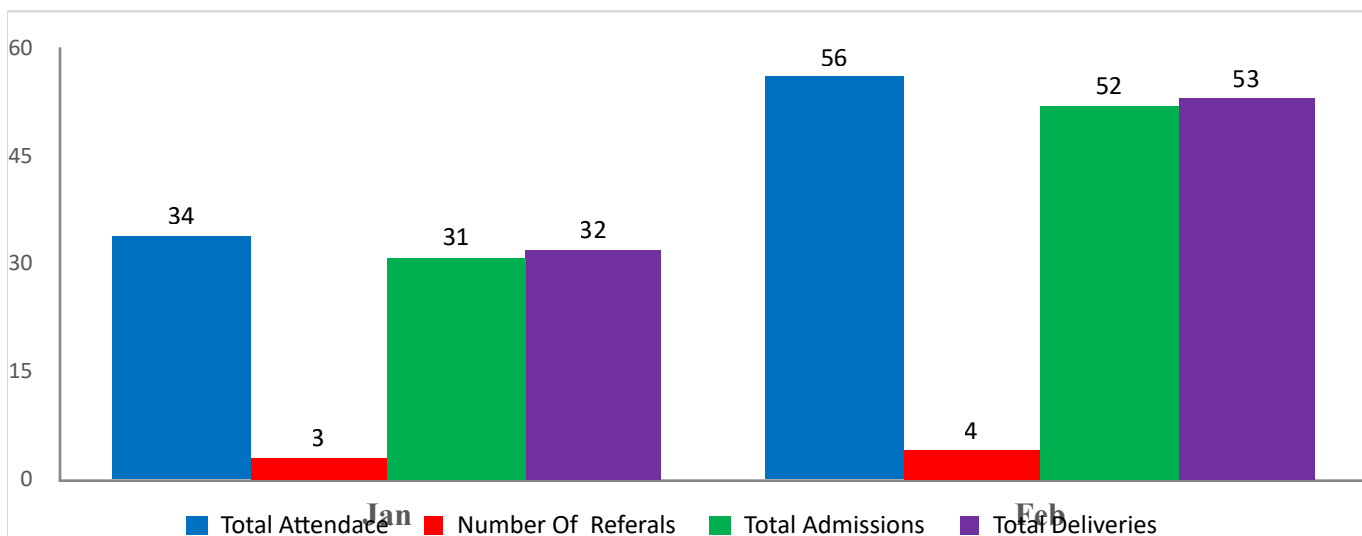
Below graph shows-Summary of total Monthly patient attendance (OPD, ANC and Maternity)



Maternal and child healthcare

The health Centre Continues to provide excellent maternal and neonatal health care. During the month of February 2020, the Health Centre attended to **56** mothers in labour ward, conducted **53** spontaneous vertex deliveries (SVD), **5** neonates were born on transit to the hospital (BBA), **4** mothers were referred to Madisi hospital for delivery, one had obstructed labour, 3 had other complications. Total deliveries at Kasese were **53**. Since the maternity was opened 4 years ago, the health Centre still experience challenges of infants born before arrival at the clinic (BBA). As for the 5 neonates born before arrival in this month, most of the mothers said it was due to heavy rains experienced which rendered the road impassable.

Below is a graph showing monthly maternity cases.



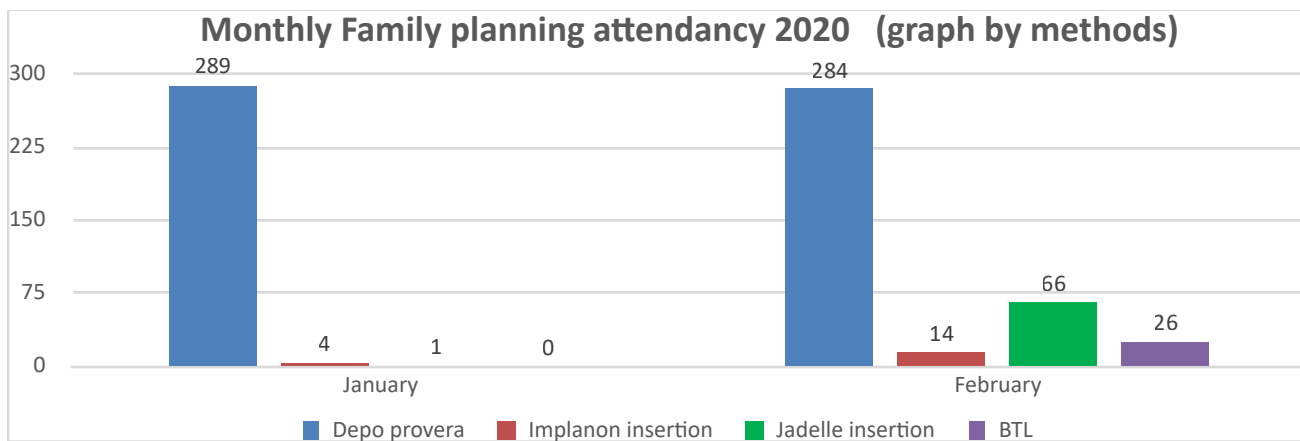
Cervical cancer screening (VIA)

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 February 2020 2019 the health Centre screened **48** clients, two tested positive and 3 received thermo coagulation therapy.

Family Planning Clinic

The health Centre conduct family planning once a week on Wednesday and In accordance to the Ministry of Health (MOH) policies and in coordination with BLM, the health Centre provides 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 many clients opted for injectable Depo-Provera family planning method because it is easy to administer. As compared to the month of January 2020, the month of February continues to register a lot of clients receiving Depo-Provera and a total of 284 patients were injected. Sixty-six clients opted to Norplant’s method, as it’s the second most liked method. Norplant is inserted in the left medial aspect upper arm and it can stay for 3 to 5 years. However, **26** clients opted for long term permanent family planning methods bilateral tubal ligations

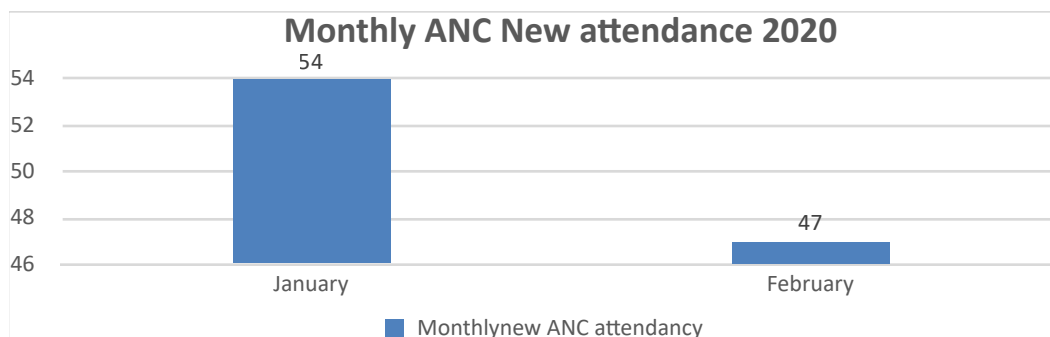


(BTL).

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 attended to 47 new pregnant mothers. In addition to the clinics, the health center also admits mothers who are near term to deliver at the guardian shelter, this is in a bid to reduce risk of infant and maternal mortality related to distance to health facility.

Below is the graph showing monthly antenatal attendance.



HIV Care Clinic

The Health Centre continues to provide excellent ART/ TB care as depicted by quarterly award of certificate of excellence by the MOH through HIV/AIDS unit. The clinic has **285** patients alive on ART medicine. Good percentage of patients continue to get their viral results which are routinely done at every visit according to milestone. The health clinic continues to switch patient's treatment from 5A to 13A which is DTG based regimens.

Volunteer Male Medical Circumcision services (VMMCS)

As a primary prevention of HIV in order to reduce its acquisition and onward transmission, the Health Centre for the first time has introduced male circumcision in January 2020. In February several men were sensitized on the importance of VMMC and some have promised to come for it.

HIV Testing and Counselling.

The Health Centre conduct HIV testing to all patients referred to HTC room free of charge, using Determine test kit and Unigold test kits as confirmatory test. For the month of February 2020 a total of **315** clients were tested. **116** were male, **199** were female and among the female **77** were pregnant. Two were positive, while one couple had discordant results.

Early Childhood diagnosis of HIV.

The Health Centre received mentors from Ministry of Health HIV department, who come to supervise and provide mentorship to the the ART team (nurses, clinicians). Below are the observed areas which needs improvements and solutions.

1. HIV testing in maternity ward not consistently done.- especially during weekends and during holidays.- the agreed solutions to this was that , nurses should link up with Tinyade (HTC counsellor) in order to come and test mothers before discharge over weekends.
2. Syphilis testing in ANC not consistently done- the main reason for the above was stock out of syphilis test and poor documentation in ANC registers.
3. HIV testing in children at 2 months, 12 months and 24 months – the problem is due to high defaulter rates compounded by poor follow ups, hence the solution is to trace the defaulters, work with HAS's for those who are from cross borders, and trace those with unofficial transfers.

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, for example Tb microscopy test , malaria tests and HIV test. As for the month of February 2020 the Centre conducted the following test;

Complete Blood Count Machine.

The health Centre is proud to have received a donation of complete blood count (CBC) machine commonly call full blood count machine in Malawi (FBC). It was successfully installed and in use now. Various tests were conducted and lives are being saved. An early beneficiary was a 17-year-old young man who had symptoms mimicking malaria: high fever, chills and vomiting, abdominal pains and general body weakness for 5 days. The malaria rapid diagnostic test (MRDTS) was negative, so when we referred him for CBC test and the white blood cell results was very high (17,000) with predominantly Neutrophils. The results showed that the patient had bacterial infections and with clinical abdominal sign that's guarding abdominal pains - we had high index of suspicion that we were dealing with a typhoid infection. He was later checked for salmonella, which come out positive. The boy was referred to the hospital for intravenous antibiotic treatment, thereby saving his live. This is just example of many more cases to be diagnosed with the help of the machine. We are thankful to our donors for the CBC machine.

Malaria test (MRDTS& microscopy)

The malaria test is conducted both rapid test (MRDTS) and microscopy blood smear slides. The malaria epidemic is high at this time of the year. A total of **2,482** malaria test done and those positive were **1,697** and negative test were **785** this represent more than 42.1. positivity rates. Children under five years, total test done **1,383** Positive **1,056** (76%) and **327** tested negative. Those who are abover five years, total tested for malaria **1,099** those with positive malaria **641**, and negatives were **458** positivity rate 58%.

Lab test	TOTAL TEST	POSITIVE RESULTS	NEGATIVE RESULTS
HCG	47	23	24
VDRL	4	0	4
H.PYLORIS	75	19	56
Hep B	9	0	9
SALMONELLA	3	1	0
TB	6	0	6
GLUCOSE	77	-	-
HB	183	-	-

Health Finance

The health Centre major funding is from donors, which the health Centre receives it every month. In addition, the health Centre charge a small user fee from patients, User fee collection is the little money the patients pay at the clinic entry. The cost is within the means and resources of our average community member. However, those who cannot afford are not bar from accessing the service, while others exempted in accordance to the user fee policy. For the month of JANUARY 2020, the clinics (static

and outreach clinics) collected **Mk 1,310,150** (static clinic= MK677,090, mobile MK 633,060) and at the same time, the healthcare program also assisted good number destitute patients with bus fare and payment of hospital bills, which amounted to **MK 579,335**.

WATER PROGRAM



Executive Summary

An account of progress made by the water program during the month of February, 2020 is presented in this write-up. The following major milestones were realized:

- Repaired 08 Water wells (Boreholes).
- Revamping and training of 4 Water well management Committees
- Distribution of Water treatment chemicals to primary schools.
- Well/borehole Database improvement.

Water Well Repairs

The Water Program Team in collaboration with Water Point Committees (WPCs) and Area Mechanics managed to complete 08 wells repairs. Repairs were undertaken in Masitala, Nkhandwe, Soko, Buza, Sangulira, Kawiya (2), Kankhande. In all the villages there was one well repaired except for Kawiya which is located in Bowe and has two boreholes which were initiated by Orant Charities Africa, both boreholes were dilapidated and OCA thus went on to repair them. Although these boreholes were outside the Kasese catchment area, it was necessary to assist the people in Bowe (Kasungu)

In the first two months of 2020 OCA has repaired a total of 14 wells.

The table below details the repairs that were conducted.

SN	GVH	VH	Repair(s) Done	Number of Users on the Repaired Borehole

01	Joseni	Kankhande	6 Rod centralizers, 4 Bush bearings, 7 double-end sockets, 6 Stainless pump rod, 2 bobbins.	961
02		Kawiya	1 Pump head, 6 pipes, 5 stainless pump rods, 23 rod centralizers, 4 bobbins, 16 Bush bearings	1067
	Buza	Msangulila	12 Rod centralizers, 1 Rubber corn, 5 double end sockets, 2 Bobbin, 4 Bush bearings.	484
	Buza	Buza One	1 Cup seal, 2 Bobbin, 8 double ends Sockets, 4 Bush bearings, 11 rod centralizers.	694

	Joseni	Soko	8 PVC pipes, 4 double-end sockets, 1 cup seal, 12 rod centralizers, 4 bush bearings, 1 Foot valve, 1	772
	Nkhandwe	Nkhandwe two	13 rod centralizers, 4 bearings, 1 cup seal 4 double end sockets 1, pipe centralizers.	492
	Zozo	Masitala	10 rod centralizers, 4 bush bearings, 6 double sockets, 1 cup seal, 2 pipes	245



Image showing state of Kawiya borehole before the repair

Revamping and training of 2 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 2 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 trainings to all the revamped committees. The trainings were 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 22 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.

Distribution of Water treatment chemicals to primary schools

With the looming corona virus scare and the rainy season which has a high prevalence for water born diseases, OCA distributed Water treatment chemicals to primary schools around kasese catchment, the chemicals are meant to be used for cleaning of public places such as latrines and hand washing. Education sessions on the dilution and sludge management were held with school sanitation clubs during the distribution session. A total of five schools have been reached this far.



Image showing members of a school sanitation club during the briefing on chlorine distribution

Database improvement planning.

In order to improve efficiency in water point monitoring and maximize the use of Madzi Alipo application, OCA has embarked on a drive in which every water point will be serviced at least once in every three months, this will be done by setting up service appointment dates for each well in the catchment area. With the help of OCA's operations consultant, system has been development that will facilitate this endeavor.

Commissioning of a girl's latrine

OCA handed over an improved four door pit latrine for girls at Chiliphiza Primary School. In absence of the latrine the girls were using latrines with poor sanitary conditions susceptible to disease infestations and which lacked privacy. In some cases, the girls were using a nearby bush. With the new improved pit latrine which has a room for changing and cleaning oneself. It is envisaged that absenteeism and dropout rates will reduce. The head teacher, chiefs and parent teacher association thanked OCA for this development.



The head teacher with pupils and OCA representatives

Conclusion.

In February, 2020, implementation of activities led to serving more people as well as discovering their needs as OCA continues to do its charity work in Malawi. The coming of OC's operation consultant provided a platform to improve program operations and hence improve its efficacy.

AGRICULTURE PROGRAM



Introduction

The Agriculture department carried out several activities supporting smallholder farmers in rural villages and primary school going children. The activities were aimed at promoting smallholder farmer's performance on irrigation farming so that they can be food secure and economically empowered hence reducing hunger problems and malnutrition problems among smallholder farmers in rural areas. The activities carried out focused on areas of Irrigation project, school garden pilot project, lead farmers and OCA farm.

Irrigation project

OCA Agriculture department took a big role in supporting irrigation clubs with farm inputs, expertise in land preparation, sowing process of tomato and encouraging continuation of irrigation microloan payment.

Land preparation

The sown seeds at Timvane club are about to be transplanted and the following land preparation activities were carried; ploughing, bed making and marking planting stations. Ploughing the land before planting the crops is necessary to prepare the land for a new crop, it improves the structure and water holding capacity. Ploughing also enhances water conservation in areas where water is a limiting factor. Club members were also encouraged to use raised beds as it facilitates drainage of water. Planting stations were marked at spacing of 45cm by 45 cm since the plants will be supported by sticks. The spacing for tomato transplanting was designed to allow aeration, less strive for sunlight and nutrients uptake from the soil.



Preparing land ready for tomato seedling transplanting

Sowing

Kasangadzi irrigation club conducted sowing of seeds. Tomato seeds are normally sown to be transplanted because much better results are gained when seedlings are raised in a nursery. The sowing method which club members were trained on is by using seedbeds. After constructing the sowing beds, farmers were also encouraged to apply manure and fine sand. The seeds were sown in lines which were spaced at 10-15cm apart. The seeds were sown thinly on spaced lines and it was covered with fine sand and straw. The activity of sowing was finalized with watering where by the seedbeds were watered twice a day to ensure sufficient moisture for germination. After germination the straw will be removed from the seedbeds. This activity was done to ensure that during transplanting time, enough seedlings for transplanting to the main field has been raised.



Sowing of tomato seedlings on seedbeds.

School Garden pilot program

Chinguwi primary school is interested to equip its students with expertise on garden activities for the benefit of learners. The teachers have also shown their big concentration on learners by deciding to introduce a garden for the standard seven learners for a learning purpose. Despite being a learning site, the harvest from the garden will be used for the benefit of the school in which they will be able to buy some equipment's for the classes experiments and other school materials. The crops to be cultivated in this particular garden include Chinese cabbage, carrots, rape, tomato, egg plants and Mustard.

A big event was conducted at Chinguwi primary school on cultivation of indigenous crops and OCA agriculture department was invited to attend the event. The event was sponsored by Slow Foods company and the main aim was to communicate to learners on importance of indigenous foods as it reduces risks of diseases in human body hence promoting health to school going children. Cultivation practices which were promoted for these indigenous crops include zero application of fertilizer, zero application of pesticides and high application of manure. These indigenous crops have also been seen as more important to human health as it acts as medicinal and increases blood levels in human body.

OCA Farm

OCA has demonstration plots at OCA farm of different maize crop varieties and groundnuts with support from different partners in agriculture. During reporting month, farmers were gathered at OCA demonstration site and Kachala section to appreciate the vegetative growth of the crops with support from Farmers World. The vegetative field day was conducted with the aim of equipping farmers with knowledge on agriculture practices for bumper harvest.

EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM



Nkhamenya girls secondary school students

Executive Summary

OCA education support program is sponsored in three streams namely; Rotary International, Geoshack and Orant charities individual donors. The majority of students which OCA is supporting are girls because they are the most vulnerable and educating a girl is educating the entire nation. The problem of girls is the problem of the society as a whole. Their challenges should be counteracted to create better world for women and to empower them to be self-reliant.

The following activities were conducted by the education department in the reporting period;

School visits

The education department visited students at Nkhamenya girls secondary school. The visit was accompanied by Orant charities USA Board Member, Mr. Michael Tenny and others. At Nkhamenya girls, OCA Provided support to students e.g. bathing/washing soap, sanitary pads, sugar e.t.c, raised awareness of the OCA education program and encouraged students to work hard.



Mr. Michael

Tenny

with Nkhamenya students

Tchale Community Day Secondary school (CDSS), Ngala CDSS and Madisi secondary schools were also visited by OCA education personnel and Orant Charities Operations Consultant. It was a great visit because the students showed gratitude and were able to share their challenges. One of the challenges which was encountered at Ngala and Tchale CDSS was that the schools do not have laboratory facilities and students are having difficulties in learning science subjects since science is the mother of all subjects and it entails the work of logic, reasoning and practical work. OCA encouraged the students to continue working hard not to give up in science subjects but rather use the schools' available resources so that they should achieve their dreams.



Madisi secondary students



Tchale CDSS students with John (Operations Consultant)



OCA Education Manager (Right) giving exercise books to Ngala CDSS students

The education program also managed to visit students in primary school in the same reporting period. OCA is sponsoring two students from St. Peters primary school. These students were identified upon seeing their poor families and that the kids were getting malnourished. Since they started being assisted by Orant Charities Africa, the two are now happy and living a healthy life. They are both doing well in school.



Omega (left) standard 5 and Christopher (right) standard 7

Meetings

OCA education program attended a meeting with AFRIpads in Mponela. AFRIpads is a local manufacturer and global supplier of reusable (washable) sanitary pads. OCA is more interested in providing reusable sanitary pads to girls being sponsored because a lot of girls miss school monthly due to lack of supplies related to menstruation. However, in the near future, OCA intends to reach out to a lot of girls with the reusable sanitary pads not just the ones in the sponsorship program since its goal is to keep more girls in school. Reusable sanitary pads are cost friendly and sustainable.

Way forward

Students are now writing end of second term exams. OCA will continue to mentor the students and encourage them to stay in school. Next term will begin in April, 2020.