



MONTHLY REPORT

FEBRUARY 2019

BY

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HEALTHCARE PROGRAM



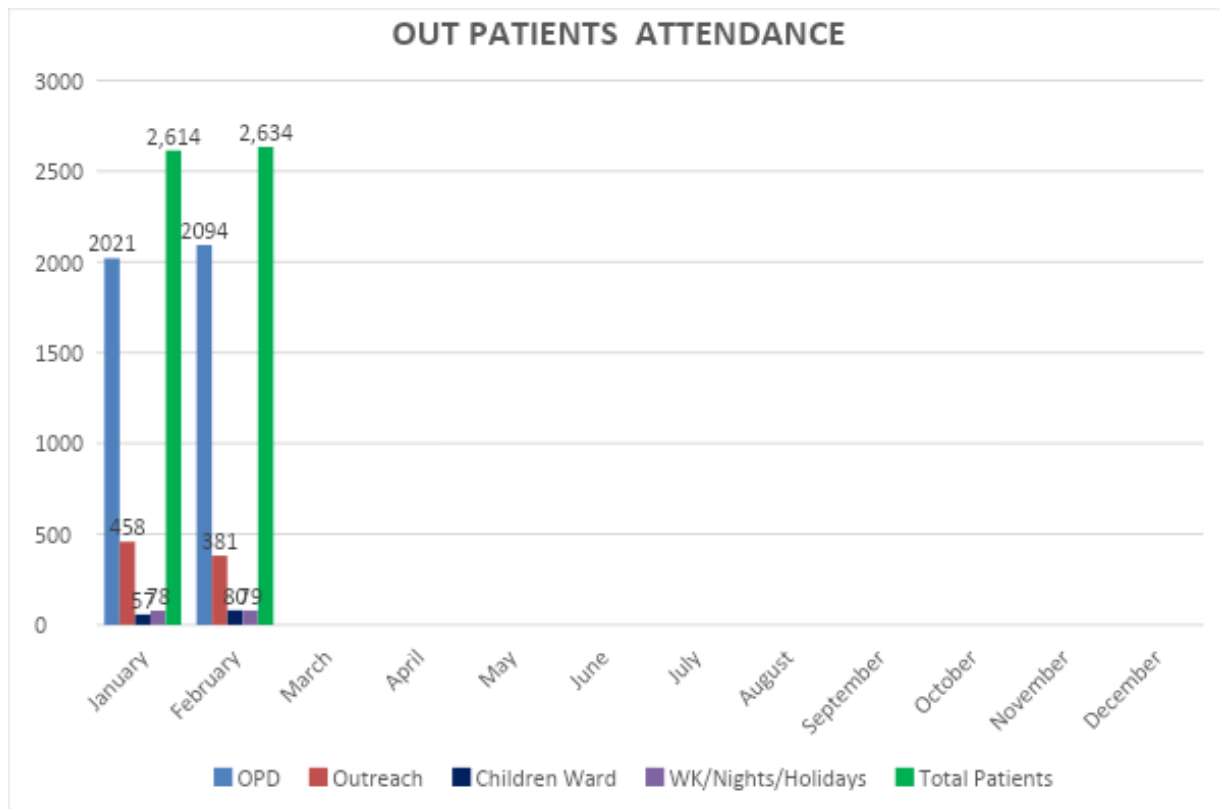
People seeking outreach clinic services

Introduction

Kasese Health Center provide the following curative services; outpatients clinic, 24hrs children's observation ward admission, maternal health (maternity), family planning, cervical cancer screening and public health (which includes nutrition monitoring, and immunizations).

Clinic patient's attendances

In the month of February, the Health Centre treated **2,634** patients, admitted **80** children, **381** patients were seen at outreach clinics, and **59** safe obstetric deliveries were conducted.



Maternal Health

The Health Centre received 64 mothers in labour ward, and successfully conducted 59 singletons deliveries of babies, most of them had spontaneous vertex delivery (SVD) and only one was done vacuum extraction. Five had obstetrics complications (2 CPD, and 2 pre-eclampsia) and were referred to Madisi hospital for delivery. Amongst 59 children born, there were no twins, and 11 had complications, five weighed less than 2500 grams, three had Asphyxia and two had congenital legs defect. There were four children born before arrival (BBA) at the Health Centre, and the good news is that there was no neonatal death.

Eye clinic

Monthly eye clinic continues to restore sight for many. As for the month of February the clinic saw 20 patients and 4 booked for eye surgery. More drugs were procured to support the program as Dr. Nyaka who is eye specialist and a nurse from Kamuzu central hospital conducts the clinics. The drugs procured includes; tear drops, dexamethasone, prednisone eye drops, gentamycin and neodexa eye drops.



Picture of DR Amos Nyaka reviewing newborn baby in maternity



Nurse Check's visual acuity for an elderly woman

Health Centre advisory committee

Kasese health Centre now has trained health advisory committee (HCAC), thanks to ONSE, a non-governmental organization that operates in Dowa district for funding the trainings. The committee underwent 3 days training at Mponela with the objective of improving the health of communities by reinforcing the activities of the Health Centre and acting as a bridge between Kasese Health Centre and community.

The committee comprises of 15 members, which includes three staff members from Kasese Health Centre (Lead clinician, head HSA, and Pharmacy Aid) and 12 are from various villages surrounding the Health Centre. Among them, six are in sub- committee of drug and medical supplies, which is responsible for monitoring medicine and medical supplies.

Group village elders meeting

The meeting with village elders and Kasese management took place at Kasese campus on 27th February, 2019. The aim of the meeting was to update the chiefs of the 2018 health care programs achievements and challenges. It was a very successful meeting and they are impressed with the work Orant Charities is providing to the community.

Staff Capacity building (in -service trainings)

Kasese health Centre Data clerk Gosten Chiwanda (HSA), attended a 3 days meeting in ART training organized by Ministry of Health (MOH). The training was on introduction of new regimen of ART 13A, initiation of new exposed infants in HCC program, integration of HTC and TB program, and proper documentation of data in monthly reporting forms, plus writing of quarterly ART reports.

Public Health- Expended program of immunization

The Health Centre received supervisors from ministry of health through expanded program on immunization (EPI), overall they appreciated the work at the Health Centre; However, immunization coverage is low, below the accepted target of 80% in the entire vaccine antigens. According to the Lead surveillance assistant, among the reasons is due to cancellation of the scheduled clinics due to funerals at the villages and other assigned duties by HAS's and, also stock out of the vaccine. Furthermore, the fridge temperature should always be within 0-8 degrees Celsius in order to maintain the potency of vaccine, its recorded in some instance temperature above the limits.

Conclusion

Malaria epidemic is still under control as observed in patient's attendance and malaria lab test positivity rate, which is below 50%. We are yet to observe patients trend for the months of March. Public program EPI targets need to adjust and going forward no immunization clinic should be cancel with small excuses. Dropout rate should be below 10%. Power outage is a challenge in Malawi and the Solar power in the OPD needs batteries which the contractor is procuring for us since the batteries were still under warranty.

WATER PROGRAM



Introduction.

In pursuit of the goal to promote health and well-being of the community through increased access to safe drinking water, improved sanitation and hygiene practices in Kasese catchment area, the Water Program carried out various activities which have been highlighted in this report, these activities included;

- Staff training and commissioning of Madzi Alipo app.
- Joint program monitoring by district executives.
- Distribution of HTH chlorine.
- Repair of 05 boreholes.
- Revamping of 04 Water Management structures.
- Capacity building for 44 Community members (4 WPCs) in borehole repair.

1. Narration of Activities.

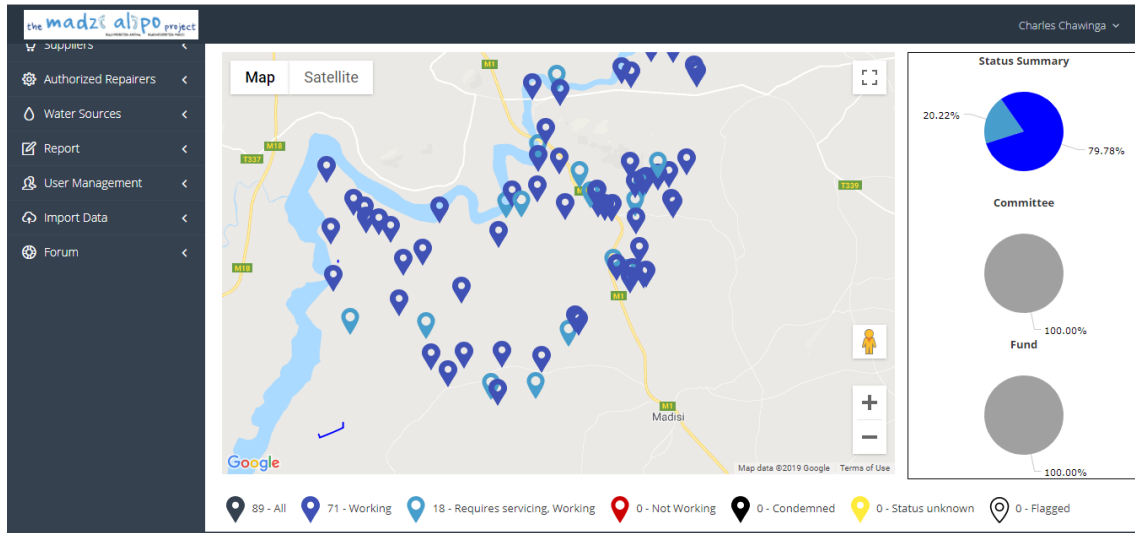
i. Staff Training and Commissioning of Madzi Alipo App.

In partnership with fisherman's rest- the developers of Madzi Alipo app, OCA organized a 2-day training for its staff on the use of Madzi Alipo app in the management of water supply facilities.

Madzi Alipo application was designed to be a useful, cost effective and practical tool which facilitates collaboration and manual collection of water point data, water availability and the functionality of hand pumps. The free app can be used as a tool that records an accurate and timely feedback of the status, condition and repairs of water point on site through multiple forms applicable to the survey being undertaken. This application can be installed in Android or IOS phones and the data uploaded on an online database. The Madzi Alipo App also allows interagency sharing of data.

Some of data that was collected during the OCA water point mapping in May, 2018 were imported into madzi Alipo data base. In the Database water points' functionality status will be monitored outright.

Image below show a snap shot of the capabilities of the app and reports that can be generated using the app.



Screenshot indicating the application's capability to show functionality status of water points and action needed: it must be noted that the functionality statuses quoted in the image are of May, 2018. Periodic updates on the status will be made in the database as part of routine checks and the app is capable of updating the same.

Attendees to this training were the Water field assistant, the Water Program Manager and the Country Director.

ii. Joint Program Monitoring by District Executives.

The district technical team on Water and Sanitation conducted monitoring visits in all catchment areas of Non-Governmental organizations working in Dowa district. The aim of the visits was to monitor how NGOs are implementing their programs and see if the programs are in line with standard operating procedures. On 20th February, 2019 the district executives toured OCA's water projects. Generally, OCA was commended for doing a great job that was highly and positively impacting on the livelihoods of the rural poor.



The District team interacting with leaners at N'dinga primary school where OCA established a sanitation club.

iii. Distribution of HTH chlorine.

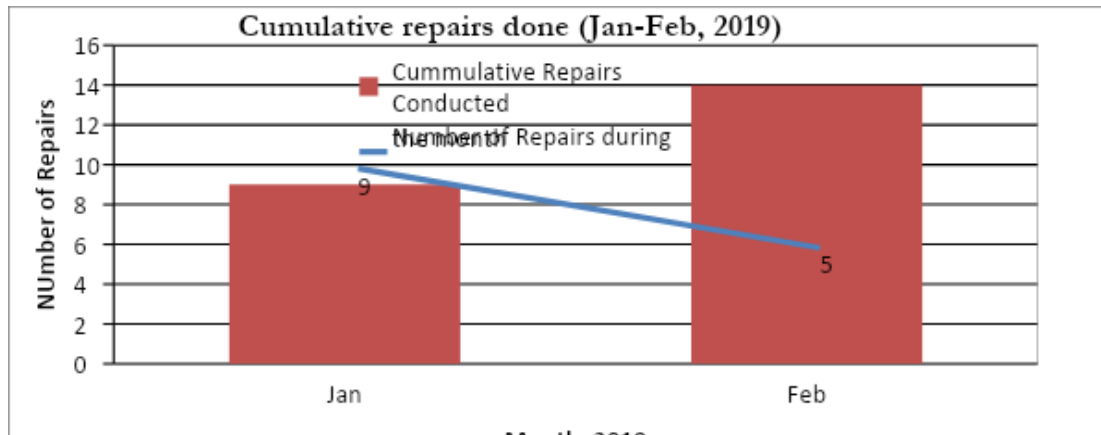
Rainy season is characterized by a surge in the prevalence of water borne diseases including cholera. In an effort to prevent disease outbreaks, just as was the case and planned during the previous reporting month, OCA distributed water treatment chemical; HTH chlorine to households and schools across the Kasese catchment. A total of 8153 households and 17 primary schools benefited from the exercise. The HTH chlorine distributed in households is expected to help households treat (disinfect) their drinking water while in schools the chlorine is expected to be used for disinfecting public facilities i.e. latrines.

iv. Borehole Repairs.

The Water Program Team in collaboration with WPCs and Area Mechanics managed to complete 05 wells repairs. OCAs puts much effort in this area considering that access to water in the post MDG era is said to also be greatly impinged by the non-functionality of water points. The table below provides an outline of the repairs that were done.

SN	Village	Name of Water Point	Repair(s) Done	Number of Users on the Repaired Borehole
01	Makombwa	Tchale cdss	10 rod centralizers , 4 pipe sockets, 6 pipes and 1 cylinder	162
02	Chiliphiza	Chiliphiza vg	4 sockets , 1fulcrum pin, 4 Bush bearings	201
03	Chiliphiza	chiliphiza primary scool	12 pipes, 2 sockets, 12 rod centralizers and 1 footvalve	204
04	Katalima	chimamba	9 pipes, 11 rod centralizers 4 bearings	323
05	nkhungulu	mantchondo	4 pipes , 6 sockets 10 rod centralizers and 4 Bush bearings	187

These 5 repairs bring the total number of repairs to 14 in 2019 as depicted in the graph below;



The community assisting during water well repairs

v. Formation of Water Management Structures

Malawi government standard operating procedures for sustainable rural water supply management provide for the establishment of community water management structures. These structures help in conducting preventative maintenance activities which in turn help in avoiding frequent break downs. Absence of these structures in most water points in Malawi are said to be the cause for the increased down time and un-functionality of most wells in Malawi. During the reporting period, a total of 4 such structures were established in areas where other partners' drilled boreholes without establishing such structures, these structures are called Water Point Committees (WPC) and are responsible for overseeing day to day operations. Each of the established WPC comprised of 10 members, at least 6 of whom were female.

vi. Capacity Building for 44 Community Members In Borehole Repair.

In order to enhance communities' capacity in Water point management and minor borehole preventive maintenance, OCA facilitated 3 day Community based management training sessions to a total of 4 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;

- 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.

A total of 44 community members (31 females and 13 males) were trained during the reporting period. The trainings were facilitated by OCA staff, Water Monitoring Assistant and Health Surveillance Assistant (HSA) – from Government departments. Participants came from Mkhwichi, Mphongole, Chipanthenga and Mkhwichi II villages. The trainings were successfully done and it is envisaged that the community will be able to sustainably operate and maintain the water facility.

Conclusion

The month of February was a success, in addition to routine programs of repairs and WASH extension, Madzi Alipo training and commissioning as well as the monitoring visit by district executives boosted capacity and morale on how to further service delivery in the water program.

AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

In February 2019, the activities carried out focused on Irrigation projects, Lead farmer initiatives, school garden as well as OCA farm demonstration plot.

Irrigation

Irrigation farming activities focused on sowing, marketing of produce and training on savings. Marketing exercise was carried out into several markets with an aim of supporting Timvane irrigation club which is practicing Tomato production at Mantchondo village and has 55 farmers whose tomato is ready for marketing. For the month of February, we have been able to secure enough markets for the whole produce at the markets of Mponela, Madisi, Chinkhoma and Kasungu where most of the irrigation members are happy with the profits gained from irrigation season. The produce has been liked by most customers and are able to buy it at a better price since the pesticides have been applied frequently preventing the produce from pests' attack which can reduce the quality.



Tomato ready for Marketing

The sowing process in irrigation has commenced where by irrigation process will begin with rain feed in the first month and it will end with irrigation for the remaining months. Tomato seed of Tengeru 97 was sown at Timvane irrigation club which has benefited to people from villages of Chimamba, Mandevu, Mantchondo and Chikho. The sowing process was carried out with an aim of reminding the irrigation club members on the sowing procedures which they where trained in past irrigation season. After discussion the irrigation club was monitored on sowing to see if they did understand and remember the procedures to be followed when sowing to produce healthy seedlings for better crop stand.



Women demonstrating Line sowing on raised beds to other club members

Promoting savings is one of the ways of keeping the irrigation club sustainable. Training on savings was done with an aim of equipping smallholder farmers who are also members of irrigation club with ways of saving the little which they gain for sustainability. The irrigation club members were trained on saving money which they get from irrigation farming and opening the Bank account and allowing some people to be borrowing the money at an interest rate. Apart from the program of borrowing money to other people at an interest rate, they were also trained on introducing some other small businesses special for the club and being able to make profits from it. With tomato production, they were also trained on value addition process where they can be able to find a machine for tomato source production. These activities being trained are going to be monitored and if successful, they are going to be granted a chance of becoming an association or a cooperative.



Training in progress on how best they can save the little they have for better success

Data has been also collected on the number of people who have been affected with floods along the Bua river. More than 124 households have been reported to be affected with this problem of hunger. This has

left affected households hopeless of where to find food for feeding their families. This has resulted into more complaints following the OCA agriculture office looking for the support in form of food.

Lead Farmer Initiative

Lead farmer's plots were monitored to check if good agriculture practices have been taken into consideration especially bunking in right time to avoid nutrient loss. As the Maize crop is at vegetative growth, smallholder farmers have already started learning from these demonstration plots in terms of crop stand since through the uptake of a crop someone can be able to determine the harvest to get at the end of farming process. Farmers are able to see and follow best agricultural practices which can help them to have bumper harvest and alleviate problems of hunger in the communities. Despite farmers being able to learn something from these demonstration fields, the fields were affected with termites and a proper measure were taken to control the damage.

School garden

School garden program has supported learners with knowledge on seed bed making, manure application, sowing and fertilizer application. Learners were trained on raised beds since it is rainy season to avoid water lodging.

Katsuka primary school which is one of our beneficiary schools in the program has been able to take advantage of this program to teach standard 8 class. Standard 8 class has been able to use this garden for furthering up their class work. With support from OCA and directions from their teacher they have been able to demonstrate what is taught in class from books into the ground e.g construction of beds, sowing, manure and fertilizer application. They have been also trained on how to use hand folks, strings and rakes.

OCA Farm

Following good agriculture practices, bunking was done at OCA demonstration site. The activity was aimed at rebuilding the crop ridges to avoid loss of nutrients and exposure of plant roots to the outside environment. The bunking activity was done before the plant reached knee high and soils were not put close to the base of the plant to avoid heavy attack of termites to the crops. Pests and diseases were controlled to avoid serious damage and high losses to the crops.

The commodities which include Soya, Groundnuts and Maize which were in stores were divided into two categories with an aim of selling and distributing to the households which have no food in their homes. The total of 162 bags of Maize has been sold at the price of MK145 which gave us a total amount of MK 1,174,500, soya of 826kgs was sold at 280 which gave us a total of Mk231,280 and Groundnuts of 34 bags unshelled which gave us 361Kgs after shelling and was sold at Mk400/kg which gave a total of MK144,400.

There was a small part of Maize and Soya which was sold in the month of December as seed where by 11 bags of maize was sold at MK350/Kg and 2 bags of soya was sold at MK350/Kg.

The other part of maize total of 164 bags has been distributed to some households who have no food in their homes around Kasese catchment area and Bowe. For the Kasese catchment area, about 198 households have benefited from this program and 57 households from distributions by Bowe cooperative and 130 households from distributions by Holy Family Parish in Bowe have also benefited from the food distribution exercise.

The table below is summary of 2017/2018 OCA farm harvest and other total commodities which was distributed and sold.

The table below gives a summary of commodities sold

Description	Total bags	Total kgs	Price/kg	Total cost
MAIZE				
Sold as seed	11	597	350	208,950
Sold as food	162	8,100	145	1,174,500
SOYA				
Sold as seed	2	100	350	35,000
Sold as food	16	826	280	231,280
Groundnuts				
Sold as food	34	361	400	144,400
Total				1,794,130

The table below gives a summary of Maize distributed at Kasese catchment area and Bowe

Description	Total bags	Total beneficiaries
Kasese	99	198
Bowe Parish	40	130
Bowe Cooperative	25	57
Total	164	385



Meetings in Agriculture Program

Meeting with Monsanto Seed company and Farmers word on field day program. We are planning to have a field day in the month of March 2019 to show farmers Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) and to show them different varieties of maize crops, Soya, Groundnuts, Orange sweet potatoes and Sunflower which are suitable in their areas. Through adoption of these good improved varieties we can reduce problems of hunger economic and malnutrition in the communities.

EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM

OCA education sponsorship is provided to students who cannot support their education independently due to financial crises. 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 follow some basic eligibility criteria. Few of which include; Being a poor orphan, belonging to a low income or very poor family, and also having a great interest for studies. Henceforth, the basic goal of OCA education program is to support a child and the family in order to break the cycle of poverty, and help them to be self-dependent individuals throughout their life. And this goal is usually in support of all the children, despite of their religion, race, ethnic background or gender. OCA ensures that students are not only getting benefits of education but all round development from activities such as mentorship. OCA Sponsorship as an educational fund helps students to progress well in life and support their education throughout.

The following activities were conducted in the education program during the month of February 2019;

Distribution of school materials to Geo-shack students

In the month of February, OCA managed to visit Geoshack students in four schools to provide them with school materials. The schools which OCA visited were Dowa secondary school, Likuni girls secondary school, Byanzi secondary school and Lilongwe girls secondary school. Each student received 9 hardcovers, 2 pencils, 1 mathematical instrument, 1 calculator, 1 ruler, 1 school bag, 5 pens, and 1 eraser. School supplies are essential and students cannot learn properly without having supplies. For children of low income families, having adequate school supplies can help pave a path to a successful future.

It is not good for a child to be struggling and being teased by other children for not having what they need in class. They might feel ashamed or like they don't belong. They might feel embarrassed asking to borrow a pencil or paper every day. They are likely not to be motivated and could have issues with their self-esteem. This is why having school supplies is so important. Children have to be equipped with what they need in order to have a better learning experience.



OCA staff pose with Byanzi secondary school students materials given and the deputy head teacher



Lilongwe girls secondary students showing their by OCA



Dowa secondary school girls showing their school bags with Likuni Girls students and their head teacher

A pose

Rotary students visit

OCA education program manager also visited schools where students being sponsored by Rotary international donors are learning. The Schools which were visited are; Mlanda girls secondary school and Chamkango Community Day Secondary School (CDSS). OCA realizes that frequent visit of students improves not only student behavior and attendance but also positively affects student achievements.

It was unfortunate that OCA did not had a chance to meet with the students since they were writing their mid-term exams. However, OCA checked on the students' progress and collected the results. Most students are doing better in their studies.

OCA students visit

OCA directly sponsors another group of secondary students. The education program managed to visit one of the day secondary schools where these students are learning. The school is Ngala community day secondary school. OCA provided these students with support of school materials to help them in school. The materials include; notebooks, pens, pencils, rulers, calculators and mathematical instruments. All the students at Ngala CDSS being sponsored directly by OCA are in form 2. The stress of feeling left out and different can lead to lack of focus. Being prepared keeps children motivated and excited. Studies show that children having school supplies of their own can improve grades, creativity, attitudes towards learning, behavior, peer relationships and self-image. Education is the first step to overcoming poverty.



Ngala CDSS girls and their head teacher after receiving their school materials