

# ORANT CHARITIES AFRICA MONTHLY REPORT



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## Healthcare Program

The health program started its operation at Kasese Health Centre in 2014 and by 2022, we have become one of the best health providers in the Dowa and Kasungu districts. The Health Program has Kasese Health Center (KHC) in Dowa and Mobile Outreach Clinics (MOC) around Bowe Catholic Mission (Kasungu) and Kasese hard-to-reach areas under the guidance of the Ministry of Health (MoH). KHC is one of the largest health centers in Dowa. It has gained a reputation for providing high-quality primary care services – pediatric observational inpatient services, maternal and child health services, HIV and TB services, eye services, family planning and cervical cancer screening, OPD general services, and Expanded Program of Immunization. It has a laboratory that makes diagnoses for all common diseases such as Malaria, Typhoid Fever, Peptic Ulcer Disease, HIV, TB, Urinary Tract Infection as well as full blood count. It is a designated and preferred Covid-19 Testing Centre and It has ultrasound services, especially for pregnant women. MOC is one of the largest outreach clinics in Malawi and it brings integrated health services to people's homes (decentralization) in Dowa and Kasungu. It is a differentiated model of service delivery approved by MoH for the delivery of health services in hard-to-reach areas. MOC is also used for decongesting health facilities to minimize the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. Our MOC team conducts at least 20 outreach clinics in 2 districts (4 in Dowa and 16 in Kasungu) in a month.

### Kasese Health Centre Monthly Highlights

For June 2022, Kasese Health Center (KHC) saw **1675** clients at (OPD). The Children's Ward admitted **35** Children. Only **21** patients were seen during weekends and nights. Total patients seen in the month of June is **1731**. MOC in Kasese catchment areas saw **492** patients. Kasungu (Bowe) Outreach clinic saw **2444** clients. MOC total patients seen is **2936**. Total patients seen in the month of June 2022 is **4667** (KHC: **1731** (**37%**) & MOC **2936** (**63%**)).

The Laboratory department tested **745** for Malaria, out of which **129** were positive, representing a 17% positivity rate. There were **2** suspected cases of COVID-19 which came out negative using the Antigen Rapid Test.

The Maternity department admitted **27** mothers and referred **9**. A total of **27** babies were born and **1** had a complication.

The Public Health department with the help of Health Surveillance Assistants (HSAs) administered **322** doses of Pfizer and **102** doses of Johnson & Johnson (J & J). Total of **424** Vaccine Doses were administered in June 2022. Cumulatively, **1635** vaccines were administered (Astra-Zeneca **895**, Pfizer: **425** and J&J 315).

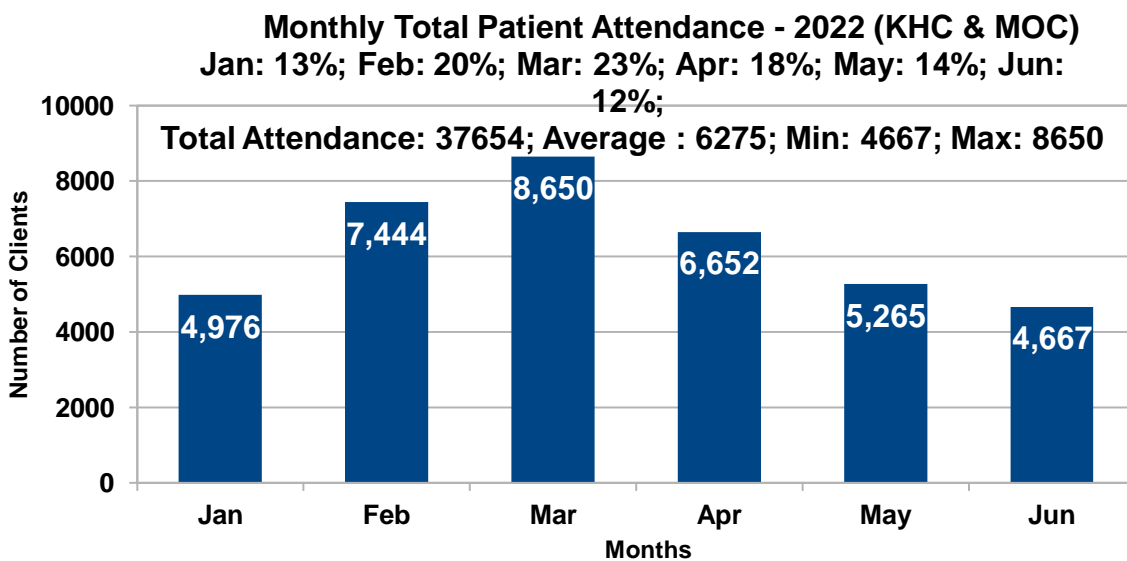
The HTS department tested **133** clients out of which **3** were positive, representing **2.3%**. Total patients seen at the eye clinic by is **48** and **seven** were booked for surgery. **Ten** women were screened for cancer and one **had** VIA positive.

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

<b>Months (2021)</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Total</b>
OPD Static Clinic	2138	2484	3178	1892	1921	1675	<b>13288</b>
Bowe Outreach	2174	4242	4661	4091	2773	2444	<b>20385</b>
Kasese Outreach	618	589	686	550	495	492	<b>3430</b>
Children Ward	16	85	79	70	35	35	<b>320</b>
Nights/Holidays	30	44	46	49	41	21	<b>231</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4976</b>	<b>7444</b>	<b>8650</b>	<b>6652</b>	<b>5265</b>	<b>4667</b>	<b>37654</b>

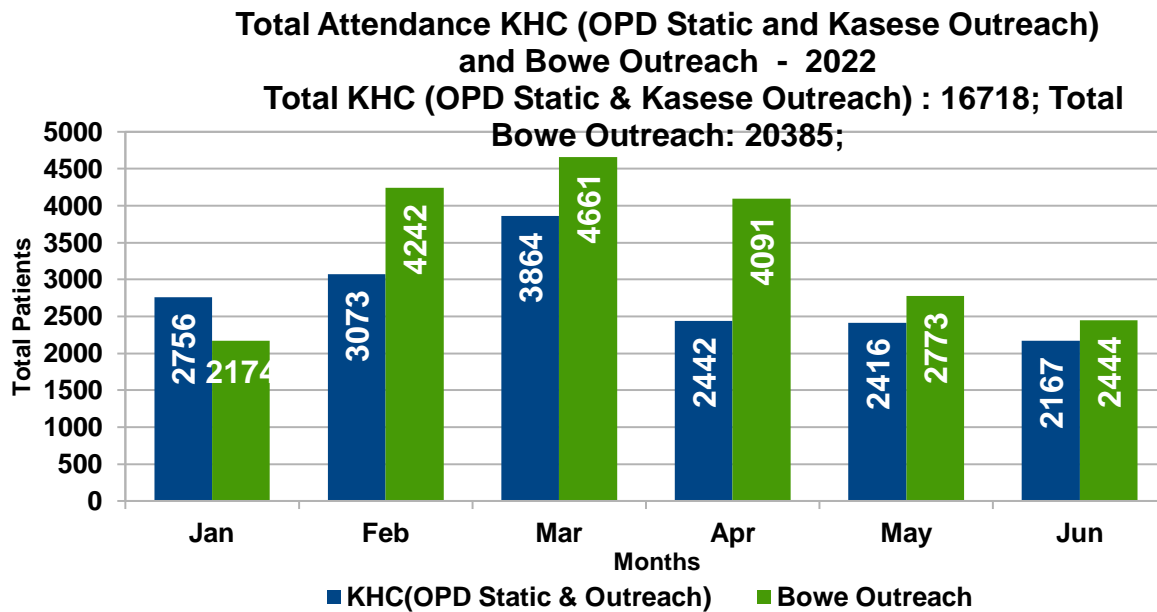
**Table 1 : Total monthly patients seen at KHC and MOC (2022)**

Figure 1 below shows total patient attendance for both KHC and MOC in 2022



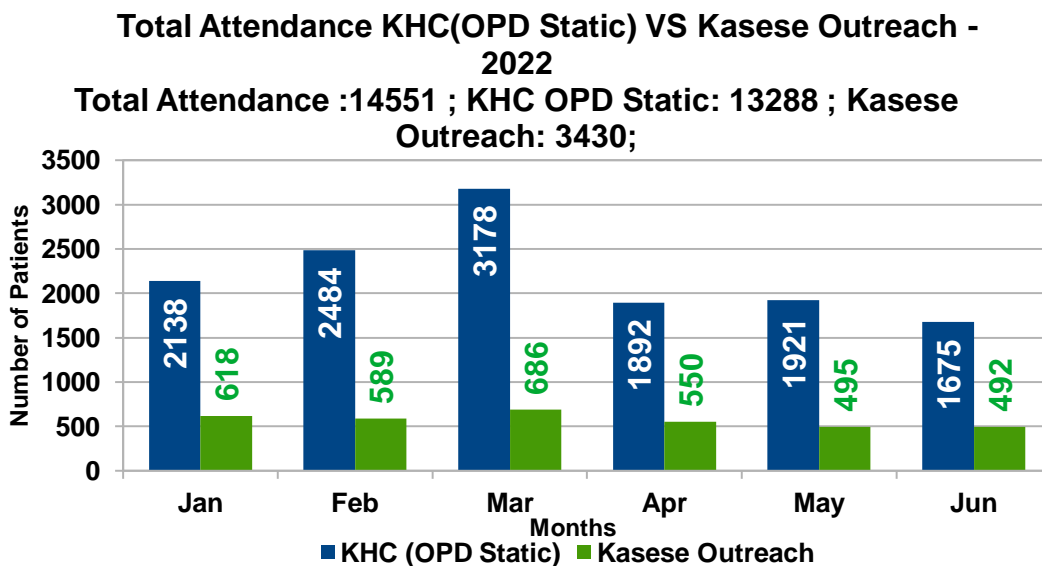
**Figure 1 : Total monthly patient attendance – KHC & MOC (2022).**

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



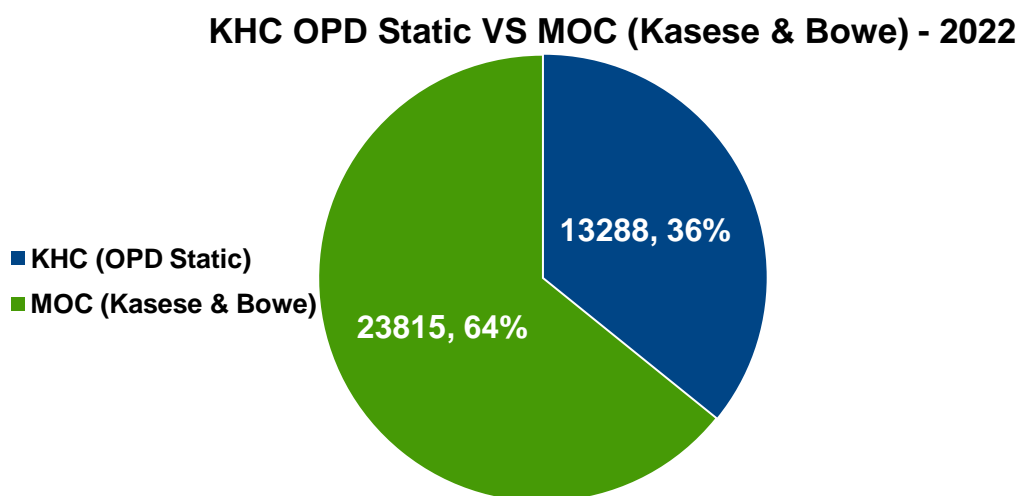
**Figure 2: Total patients seen at KHC (OPD Static & Kasese Outreach) and Bowe Outreach – 2022.**

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



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

Figure 4 below shows the total number of patients seen at KHC (OPD Static) and MOC (Bowe & Kasese Outreaches).



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

### Covid 19 Situation Updates

The COVID 19 situation in the country remains low and in June 2022 only 2 tests were conducted and came out negative. The Health Center continues to provide vaccines (Astra-Zeneca & ss) at the facility and in our communities. The clinic continues to observe the preventive measures (face masks, social distancing and hand washing/sanitizing). The Health Center did not receive the consignment of Astra-Zeneca and only Pfizer and J & J were administered.

#### Cumulative COVID 19 Data – KHC Static.

Table 2 below shows Cumulative COVID 19 Data.

	<b>Staff (OCA/HSA)</b>	<b>Others</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Cumulative Tests</b>	4	35	<b>39</b>
<b>Cumulative Positives</b>	0	12	<b>12</b>
<b>Cumulative Deaths</b>	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>June Tests</b>	2	0	<b>2</b>
<b>June Positives</b>	0	0	<b>0</b>

### COVID 19 Vaccine (Pfizer) – KHC Static.

Table 3 below shows Vaccine Doses Administered in 2022

Dose	Male	Female	Total
1 <sup>st</sup> Dose	141	85	226
2 <sup>nd</sup> Dose	42	54	96
Balance Brought Forward	43	60	103
Cumulative	226	199	425

*Table 3: Pfizer Administered at KHC Static (2022)*

### 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)	38	64	102
Balance Brought Forward	116	97	213
Cumulative	154	161	315

*Table 4: J & J Administered at KHC Static (2022)*

### COVID 19 Vaccine (Astra-Zeneca) – KHC Static.

Table 5 below shows Vaccine Doses Administered in 2022

Dose	Male	Female	Total
1 <sup>st</sup> Dose	0	0	0
2 <sup>nd</sup> Dose	0	0	0
Balance Brought Forward	364	531	895
Cumulative	364	531	895

*Table 5: J & J Administered at KHC Static (2022)*

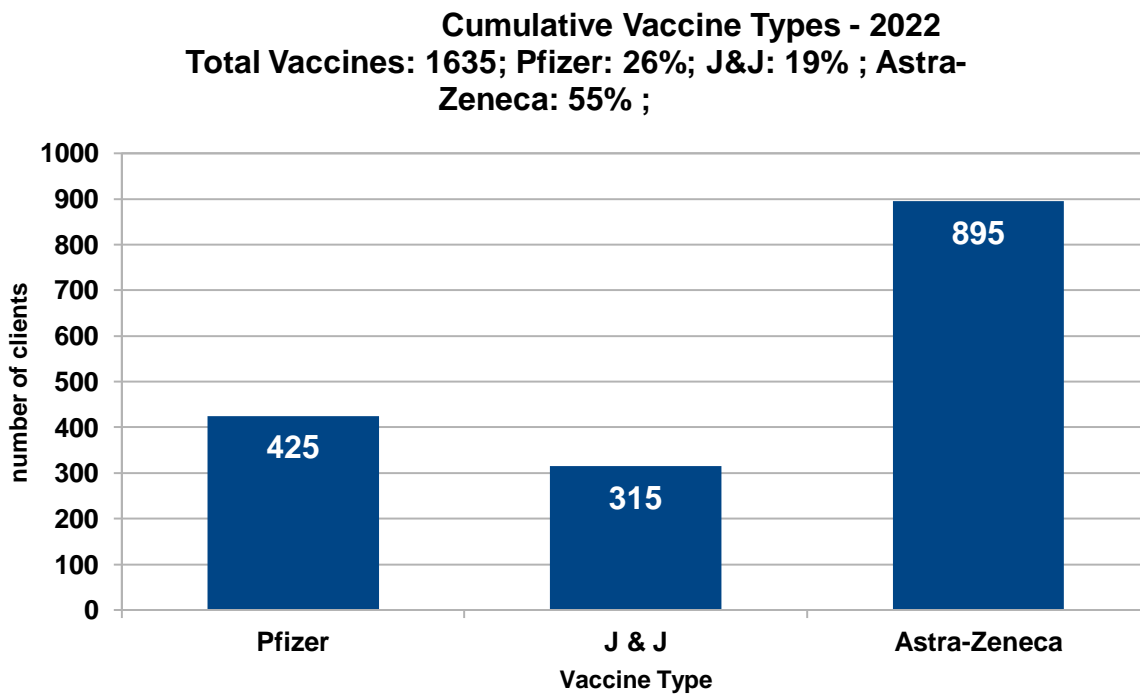
**COVID 19 Vaccine Status – KHC Static.**

Table 6 below shows Vaccine Status in the month of June 2022

<b>Vaccine Type</b>	<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>End Balance</b>
<b>Astra-Zeneca</b>	0	0
<b>J &amp; J</b>	50	0
<b>Pfizer</b>	162	0

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

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

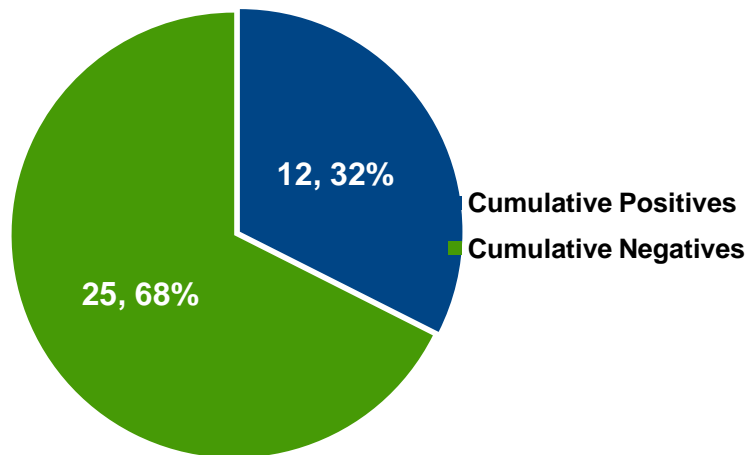


**Figure 5: Cumulative Vaccine Doses Administered at KHC (2022)**



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

**Cummulative COVID 19 Tests - 2022**  
**Cumulative Tests: 37**



*Figure 6: cumulative COVID 19 Tests (2022)*

**Reproductive And Family Planning Health**

**Maternal and New-born Health Care**

<b>Months (2022)</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Admissions</b>	21	26	29	29	24	27	<b>129</b>
<b>Referrals</b>	2	5	2	14	13	9	<b>36</b>
<b>New Babies</b>	22	26	29	29	24	27	<b>130</b>
<b>Alive Babies</b>	22	26	27	29	24	27	<b>128</b>

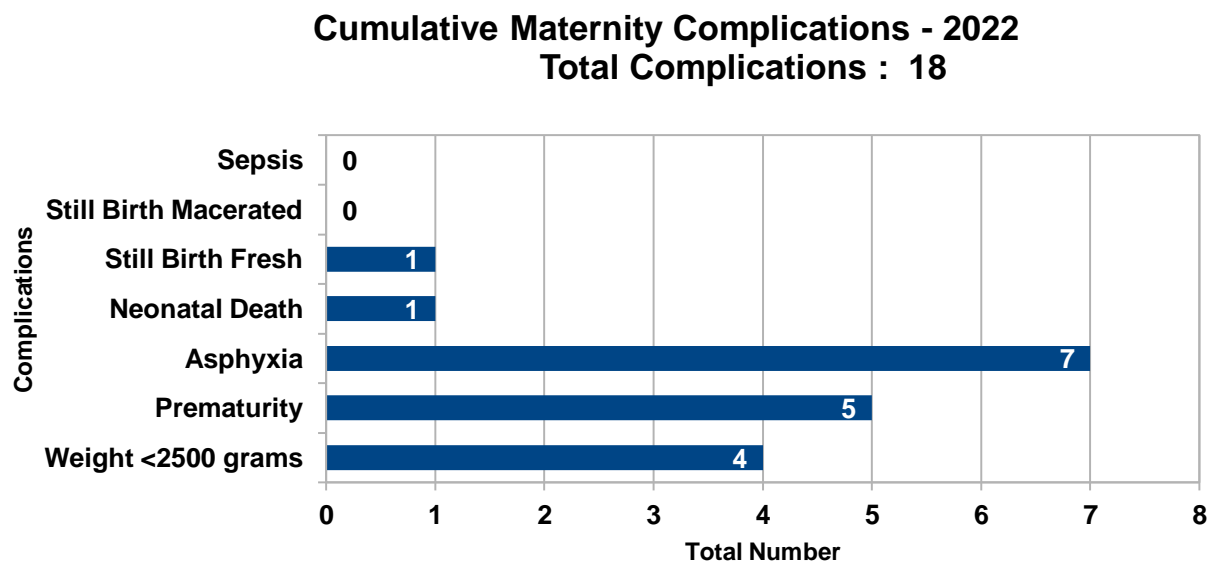
*Table 6: Maternity Data - 2022*

Table 7 below shows Maternity Data of new babies with complications for the year 2022.

Months (2022)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Weight <2500 grams	1	1	1	0	1	0	4
Prematurity	2	1	2	0	0	0	5
Asphyxia	1	0	5	0	0	1	7
Sepsis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stillbirth Fresh	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Stillbirth Macerated	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Neonatal Death	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>18</b>

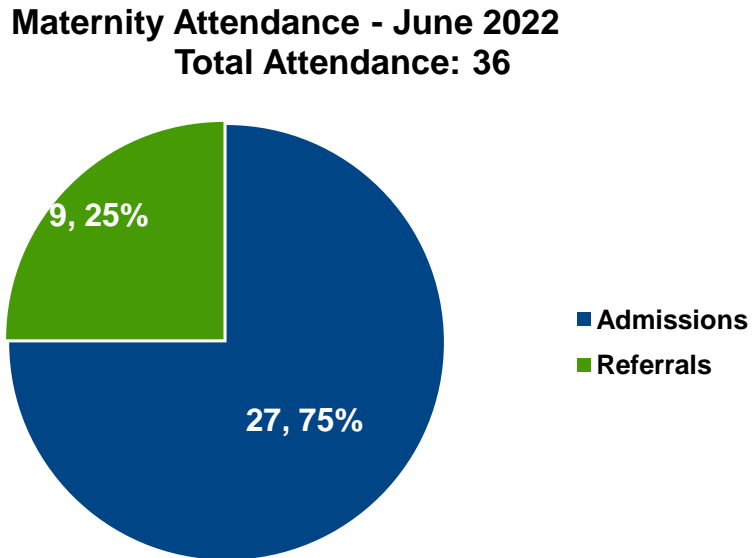
**Table 7: Newborns with complications – 2022**

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.



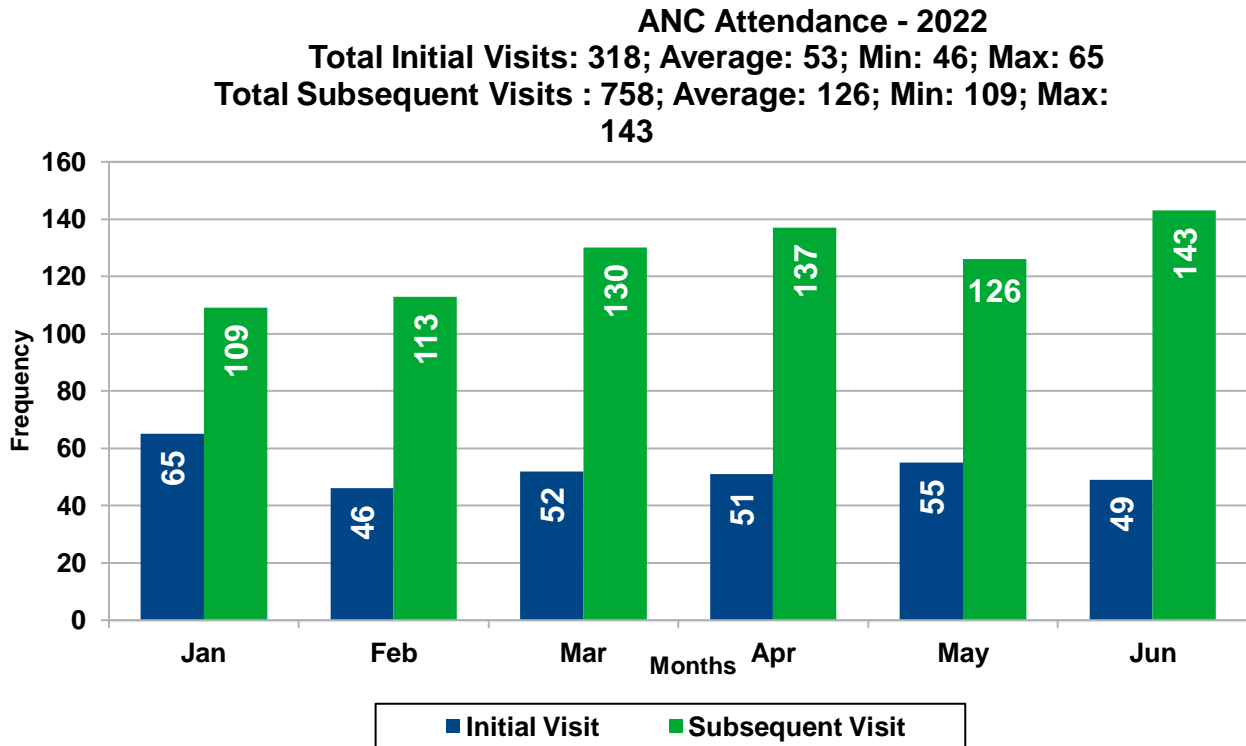
**Figure 9: number of Admissions and Referrals (June 2022)**

Table 8 below shows the reason for the referrals

<b>Referral Reason</b>	<b>Number of Clients</b>
Fetal Distress (FD)	<b>3</b>
Obstructed Labour	<b>2</b>
Antepartum Haemorrhage (APH)	<b>1</b>
Cephalopelvic Disproportion (CPD)	<b>3</b>

**Table 8: Referral Reasons - June 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.

Month (2022)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
<b>Total</b>	15	22	22	15	5	10
<b>VIA Positive</b>	1	2	1	0	0	1

**Table 9: Monthly Cervical Cancer Screening 2022 Table.**

The monthly Cervical Cancer screening remains to be low, there is a need for more community sensitization. The average for the bi-annual screening is 15. May and June are below the average.

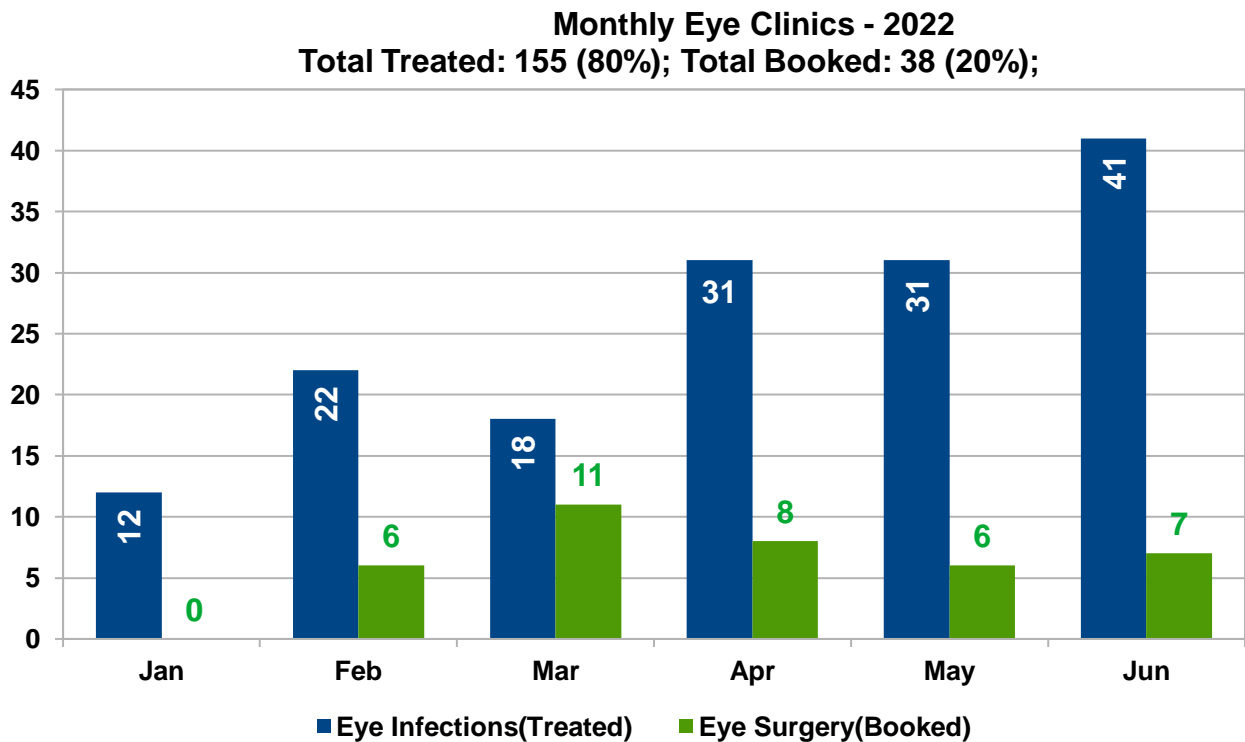
## 5. EYE CLINIC

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
Eye Infections (Treated)	12	22	18	31	31	41
Eye Surgery (Booked)	0	6	11	8	6	7
<b>Total Seen</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>48</b>

**Table 10: Monthly Eye Clinic Table - 2022.**

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



**Figure 11 : Monthly Eye Clinic – 2022.**

## Malaria Report

Table 11 below shows Malaria tests for June 2022

	<b>Total Tested</b>	<b>Positives</b>	<b>Negatives</b>	<b>Positivity Rate</b>
<b>Under 5</b>	345	47	298	14%
<b>5 Years and Over</b>	400	82	318	21%
<b>Total</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>17%</b>

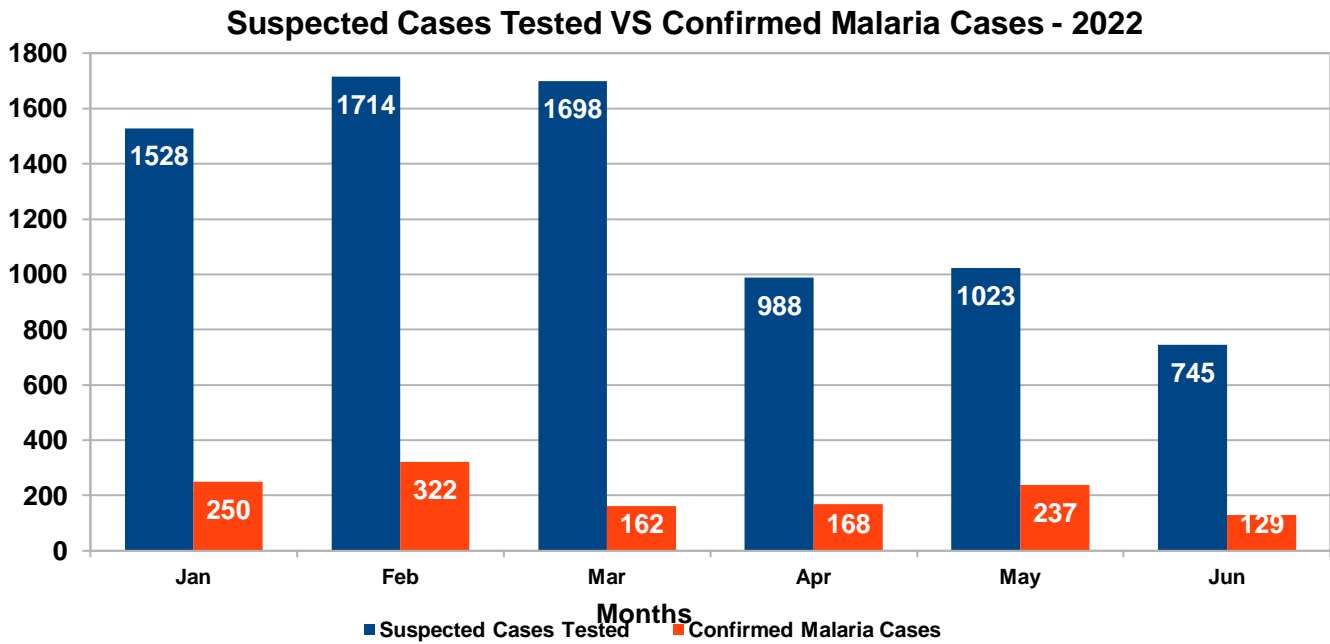
**Table 11: Total Malaria Tests (June 2022).**

Table 12 below shows Total Malaria Cases (MRDT's Positive), LA Issued and Dispensed

<b>2022</b>	<b>January</b>	<b>February</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>
<b>Suspected Malaria Cases</b>	1535	1722	1707	988	1023	754
<b>Suspected Cases Tested MRDT</b>	1528	1714	1698	988	1023	745
<b>Confirmed Malaria Cases</b>	250	322	162	168	237	129
<b>New Malaria Cases Registered</b>	257	330	171	168	237	138
<b>LA Dispensed</b>	257	330	171	168	237	138
<b>LA Issued</b>	690	300	600	270	2470	645

**Table 12: Total Malaria Cases, LA Issued and Dispensed Table.**

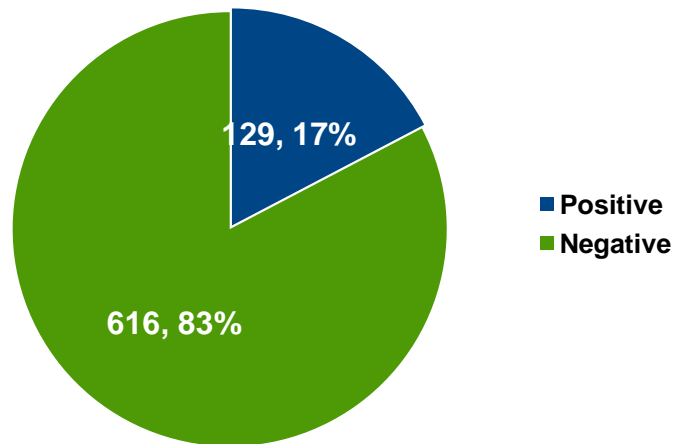
Figure 12 shows Suspected Malaria Cases Tested against Confirmed Malaria Cases in the year 2022



**Figure 12: Malaria Suspected Cases Against Confirmed Cases - 2022**

Figure 13 shows total KHC (Static and Kasese Outreach) Malaria tests (June 2022)

**Total Malaria Test - June 2022**  
**Total Tests: 745**

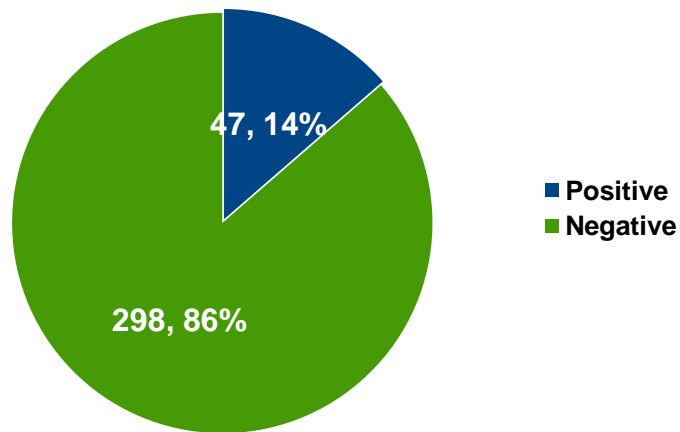


**Figure 13: Total KHC (Static and Kasese Outreach) Malaria tests (June, 2022).**

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

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

**Total Tests: 345**



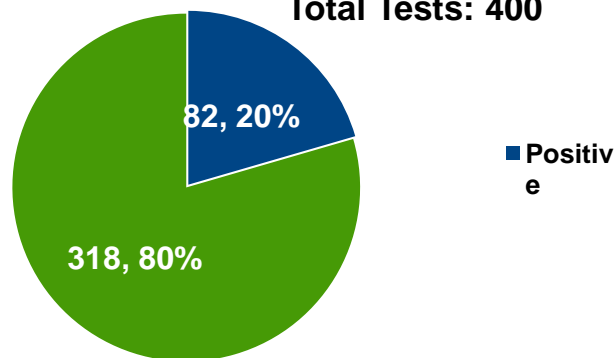
***Figure 14: Static and Kasese Outreach, Under 5 Years Malaria tests (June, 2022).***

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

***Figure 15 : Static and Kasese Outreach, 5 Years and Over Malaria tests (June, 2022).***

**5 Years and Over Malaria Tests - KHC (Static & Kasese Outreach - June 2022)**

**Total Tests: 400**

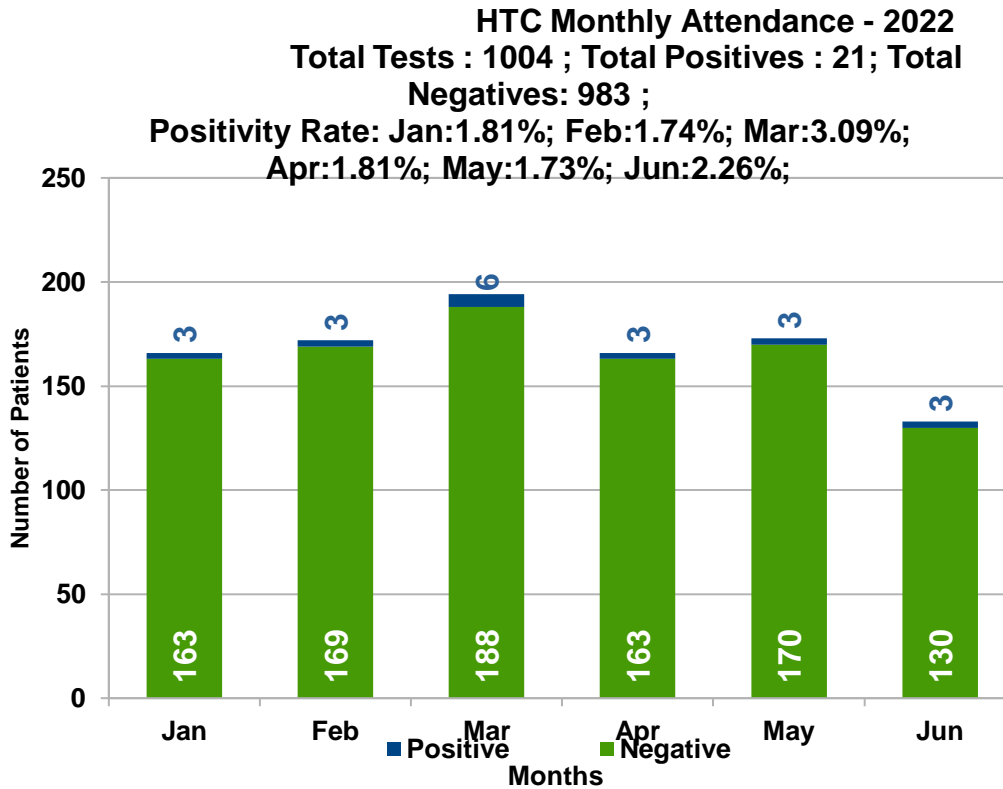


With reference to the figures, 14 and 15 above, more tests were conducted in 5 Years and Over and had more positivity rate (**21%**) than Under 5 (**14%**).



## 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, this could indicate that people adhere to HIV/AIDS preventive measures.

## LABORATORY SERVICES

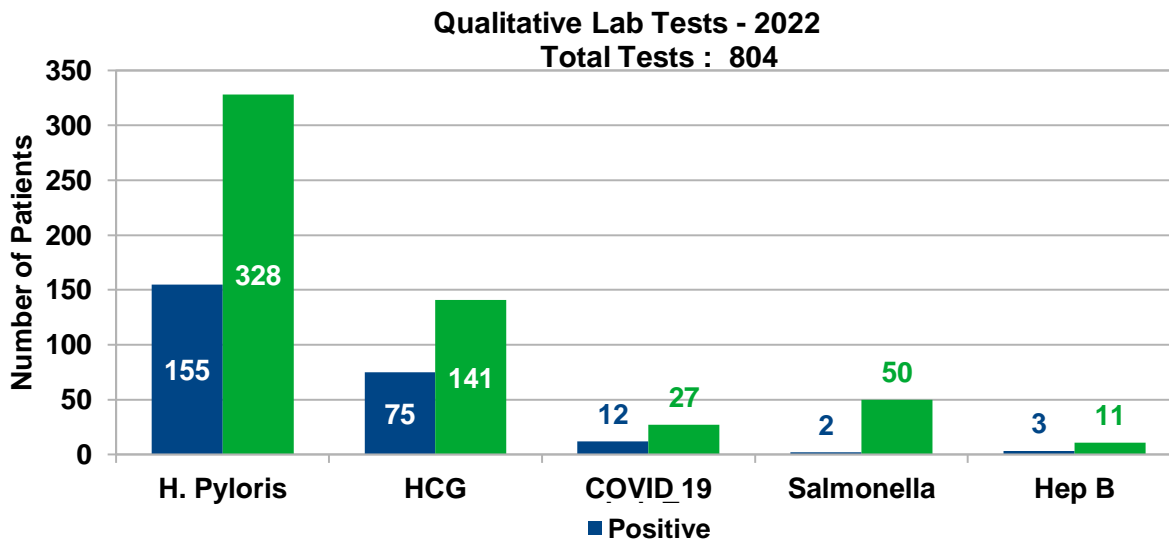
Table 13 Below shows qualitative Laboratory tests conducted in the year 2022 (KHC Static and Kasese Outreach).

	H. Pyloris		Salmonella		Hep B		HCG		COVID 19	
	Tota l	Pos	Tota l	Pos	Tota l	Pos	Tota l	Pos	Tota l	Pos
<b>Jan</b>	69	26	6	2	2	2	30	8	30	12
<b>Feb</b>	88	24	16	0	1	0	41	17	3	0
<b>Mar</b>	79	21	17	0	2	0	43	15	2	0

<b>Apr</b>	80	25	7	0	4	1	19	0	1	0
<b>May</b>	85	25	5	0	1	0	41	17	1	0
<b>Jun</b>	82	34	1	0	4	0	42	18	2	0
<b>Tota</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>12</b>

**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.**

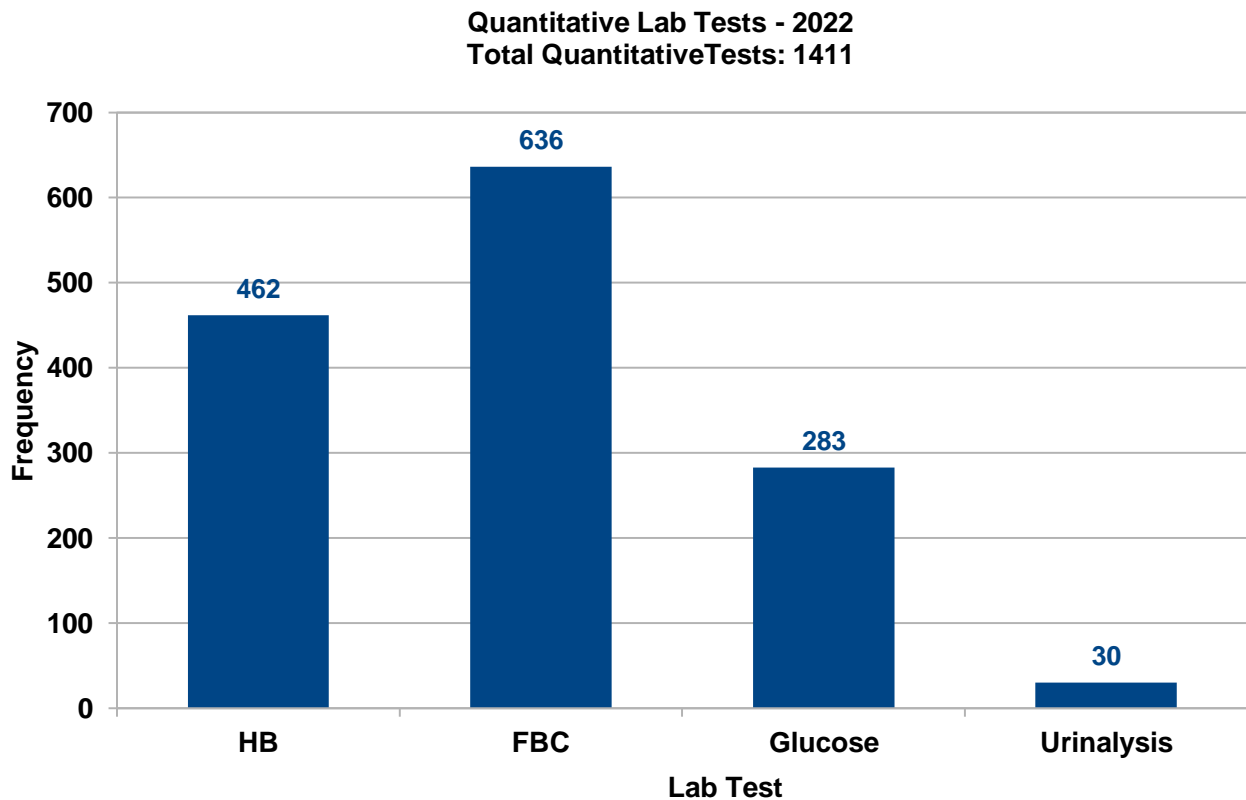
Table 14 Below shows quantitative Laboratory tests conducted in the year 2022 (KHC Static and Kasese Outreach).

	<b>Glucose</b>	<b>HB</b>	<b>Urinalysis</b>	<b>FBC</b>
<b>Jan</b>	47	93	4	102
<b>Feb</b>	30	84	2	98
<b>Mar</b>	36	82	4	109
<b>Apr</b>	33	81	1	84
<b>May</b>	30	48	11	113
<b>Jun</b>	107	74	8	130
<b>Total</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>636</b>

**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.**



**B. Healthcare Finance and Administration**

Table 15 shows the clinic finance table for 2022.

<b>2022</b>	<b>Amount Collected</b>	<b>Amount Spent on referrals &amp; Bills</b>
<b>January</b>	<b>MK 2,008,000</b>	<b>MK 388,170</b>
<b>February</b>	<b>MK 2,509,100</b>	<b>MK 506,506</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>MK 2,821,910</b>	<b>MK 503,235</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>MK 2,141,250</b>	<b>MK 467,235</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>MK 2,600,250</b>	<b>MK 554,705</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>MK 2, 415,300</b>	<b>MK 612,820</b>

**Table 15: Clinic Finances – 2022.**

## **Achievements And Challenges**

### **Success Highlights**

- 1.** The Health Center has introduced screening and management of Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) at the HIV/ AIDS clinic, which includes Hypertension, Diabetic Mellitus and Epilepsy.
- 2.** The Health Center procured medicine and medical supplies on time and in addition, the following equipment's were bought: a Neonatal Ambubag and 5 nasal prong which is used is resuscitation.
- 3.** The Health Center continues to screen for HIV/ Syphilis and soon to be introduced is the Hepatitis B surface antigen at the ANC and Maternity.
- 4.** The Health Center through Disease Control and Surveillance Assistance (DCSA) continues to administer the COVID 19 vaccines.
- 5.** There is reduction in stillbirth cases, however there is still a challenge of Neonatal Asphyxia.
- 6.** The Health Center continues to receive a certificate of Excellence from MOH - HIV unit for outstanding care and treatment of HIV/AIDS in the Clinic.

### **Key Challenges**

- 1.** There is an economic crisis in the country and the cost of living plus most of the commodities which includes medical supplies has risen.
- 2.** The Health Center received many cases of chicken pox diseases, especially amongst the children, luckily all cases had moderate illness.

# Water and Sanitation Program

## Introduction

The month of June marks a major checkpoint for the WASH program as we complete the first half of the year. The progress in annual activity implementation has been good so far. Among the major activities, the WASH program continues to drill new boreholes in communities which had limited access to clean water. Apart from borehole drilling, during the month the water program also conducted other activities in line with the program goal of reducing morbidity and mortality of people of Kasese through improved access to water supply, sanitation facilities and good hygiene practices. The following activities were conducted during the month;



- Water point repairs and rehabilitations (rehabilitation, repairs, services)
- Borehole drilling (James & Mvulayakata village)
- Water Point Committee (WPC) training (Madembo & Kuliyani boreholes)
- Started construction of latrines at Madembo Primary School
- Monitoring visit with Country Director
- WASH Review meeting with Health Surveillance Assembly (HSA) and Area Mechanics (AMs).

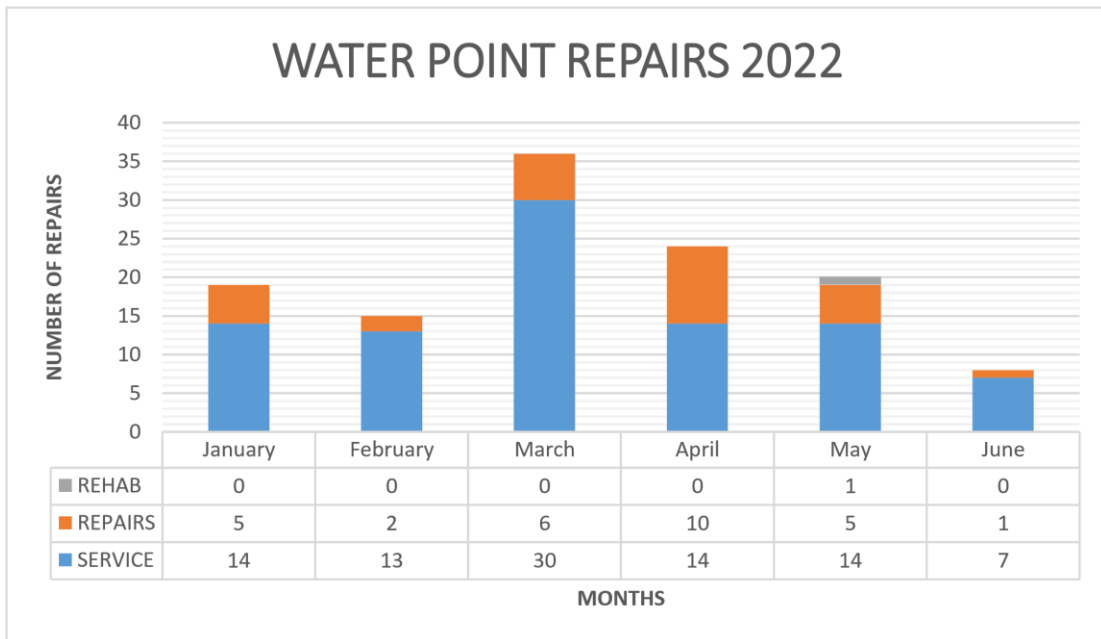
## Water point repairs and rehabilitations



*Pump repair session at borehole during the month*

To ensure sustainable functionality of water points and access to safe water within the OCA catchment. The water and sanitation program supports repairs, services,

and rehabilitation of broken Afridev pumps with spares and technical expertise in collaboration with Afridev pump Area Mechanics. In 2022, the water program repaired and serviced **8** boreholes (Service: **7**; Repairs: **1**). During the month the water program also rehabilitated a water point in Kasese village which had a faulty installation. From below it can be noticed that the number of repairs in June has gone down compared to the previous months. This has been like this due to the transportation challenges we experienced during the month resulting from vehicle breakdowns.



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

## Borehole drilling and construction

In line with Sustainable Development Goal 6 aimed at ensuring universal access to sustainable water and sanitation services, the OCA water program drills boreholes in communities within the Kasese catchment. Under this initiative, the water program has set an annual target of **15** boreholes to be drilled within the Kasese catchment between May to December 2022. In June the WASH program drilled 2 more boreholes in Mvulayakata and James village which takes the total for the year so far to 4. The borehole in Mvulayakata village is expected to benefit approximately **275** people while the one in James village will benefit **225** people. The borehole in Mvulayakata village was drilled with financial support from **Selinger Family**. Similarly, the borehole in James village has been drilled with financial support from **Dr John and Margie Meyer**. Currently, the two boreholes are working properly and the benefiting communities are grateful for the gift of water from OCA.



***Left** – Newly constructed water point in James village during the curing process, **right** – Newly constructed water point in Mvulayakata village and a water point fence under construction*

### **Water Point Committee (WPC) training**



To ensure community participation in the management of their water points, OCA trains water point committees in Community Based Management (CBM) of water points. Thus, training water point committees to conduct minor repairs and sanitary activities of their water points to ensure sustainable access to safe water. The WASH program trained **2** water point committees from Kuliyani and Madembo villages. Kuliyani and Madembo boreholes were drilled in

by OCA in May 2022 with financial support from Selinger and Brenan-Hunt families respectively. In each village, a total of 10 water point committee members were trained. In each village, training sessions were also attended by the Chief who is a custodian of by-laws which are important in borehole management. In total **22** committee members were trained during the month. The training sessions were facilitated by OCA staff in collaboration with government extension workers and Afridev pump Area Mechanics.

### **Review Meeting with Health Surveillance Assistant (HSA) and Area Mechanics (AM)**

WASH programs work with several stakeholders due to the cross-cutting nature of the program. The WASH program organized a review meeting with HSAs and AMs. HSAs support the WASH program in the promotion of sanitation in communities, training water point committees and sensitizing the community in WASH-related disease prevention such as Cholera and COVID 19. On the other hand, AMs support the WASH program in maintaining water points, training water points and data collection. The review meeting was organized with the aim of sharing the WASH progress report for 2021 and 2022 so far. Furthermore, the meeting also acted as a panel discussion on WASH





program challenges and community WASH needs for 2022. The meeting was held on the OCA campus and was attended by a total of **21** participants (**8** Females, and **13** Males).

*OCA Water Field assistant addressing the participants during the joint review meeting with HSAs and AMs*

### **Field Monitoring Visit with the Country Director (CD)**

During the month the Country Director (CD) visited and monitored water program field activities. During the exercise, the CD visited latrines which were constructed by OCA in 2021 and are now in use. The CD also visited the borehole drilling exercise at Mvulayakata



and newly constructed boreholes in James village, and Kuliyani which are also currently in use. The visit by the CD was a great motivation to WASH program staff and the benefitting communities to aim even higher in delivering and sustaining WASH services in the Kasese catchment.

*The Country Director and the Headteacher posing in front of completed latrines at Madzo primary school during the Monitoring Field Visit*

### **Challenges**

The major issue during the first half of the year has been transport challenges resulting from the frequent breakdowns of the vehicle used by WASH program. This has led to the decline in the number of borehole repairs conducted monthly as witness in April and June, 2022.

### **Conclusion**

As we enter the second half of the year the WASH program is excited with the progress made so far. The WASH program is optimistic and motivated to push towards achieving all its objectives set early in the year in this final lap of the year.



# Agriculture and Business

## Agriculture

### Introduction

During the month of June 2022, the agriculture program performed several activities in supporting smallholder farmers in the communities. The activities aimed at empowering the local farmers to live independent lives by having enough food and improved economic levels in their homes through irrigation and rain farming. Below are activities which were carried out during the reporting period.

### Marketing and Selling of Produce

Mwayiwanthu farm club is one of the farm clubs which is working on OCA farm. The club receives support from OCA in the form of land for cultivation and farm inputs to carry out its farming activities. Mwayiwanthu farm club cultivated Soya and groundnuts during the rainy season and have finalized the harvesting process and the marketing process of the harvest was done. Marketing was done on both crops but currently only the market for soya was found by OCA. Marketing focused on finding potential buyers who can buy the produce in bulk and at a better price. Currently Soya grain has been sold in bulk; 2,173 kgs were sold and total money of MK1,629,750 (\$1,576) was raised. After doing loan deductions of MK412,100 (\$398) from soya production, a total of MK1,217,650 (\$1,178) was distributed among the 4 soya farmers. The results have shown that farmers have been able to get profit from the previous rainy season despite some challenges on rainfall.



*Selling of Soya grain*

### Fertilizer application

Irrigation clubs of Tchale, Madula and Chigona are cultivating Maize (corn) and tomato crops respectively. Both of these crops require high application of organic and inorganic

fertilizer. Organic fertilizers were applied during the time of land preparation which will show much of their results during the second year of production. This results in the addition of fertilizers to the plants in low levels. The application of fertilizer in Maize and tomato is being done twice (basal and top dressing). Tchale and Madula clubs which are producing maize crop were involved in basal dressing fertilizer application where NPK was the type of the fertilizer applied. Chigona irrigation club which is practicing Tomato production was involved in top dressing fertilizer where it was seen that the most suitable fertilizer to be applied was D compound. With the power of manure which was applied, the rate of the fertilizer was reduced which has reduced the cost of the production for these crops. These applied fertilizers are of high importance to the plants as it adds a lot of nitrogen to the soils which facilitates fruiting and vegetative growth of the plants. Total of 92 smallholder farmers from clubs of Madula, Tchale and Chigona benefited from this activity.

### **Pruning of Tomatoes**



Madula, Tchale, Mvunguti and Mantchedza irrigation clubs are producing tomatoes and Maize where activities of taking-off dead leaves and side brunches are being done. Pruning was done with the aim of maximizing photosynthetic efficiency and minimizing risk of pests and disease. The process of pruning was monitored where the use of a knife or a fingertip was encouraged. In tomato production, the pruning process targets most suckers and dead leaves. Suckers are the shoots that are formed in the

axils where side brunches meet the stem. If too many stems are allowed to develop, energy is used in developing the multiple growing tips and fruit production may be slowed. More stems will also result in smaller fruit size being produced. Farmers are encouraged to remove the suckers while they are small in size and it is necessary to remove all suckers



that grow below the first flower cluster. This helps in keeping the main supporting stem strong. Club members were also trained to avoid the removal of upper suckers that will eventually produce flowers and fruits. This will help farmers to have fewer stems which will produce fewer fruits though large in size which is mostly liked by the customers.

*Suckers' removal in progress*

## Staking of Tomatoes

As a way of keeping tomato fruits away from damage by pests, staking has to be done in good time to keep the tomato fruits away from touching the ground. Madzimayela and Chigona irrigation clubs were monitored during tomato staking. Staking is being done in tomato production to ensure cleaner and healthier tomatoes are produced. Staking helps in keeping tomato fruits off from ground hence reduces losses from fruit rots which can be as the result of tomato fruits touching the ground (soil). Farmers are also trained on the importance of staking tomato plants, staked tomato plants are easier to spray or dust for insect and disease control and easier to harvest than those sprawling in the ground. The methods of staking which was brought to the farmers were by the use of steaks which is readily and commonly available in their area. This will help in bringing more profits at the end of the production process.



*Staking tomato plants to avoid from touching the ground*

## Sowing of Tomatoes

Tomato production is mostly encouraged to undergo nursery where healthy seedlings are identified for better yield. There are several ways of sowing tomato seeds such as using seed trays, containers and beds just to mention a few. Smallholder farmers mostly prefer beds since it is cheaper and convenient compared to other methods used for raising seedlings. The Kambalani irrigation club was trained on sowing. Tomato seeds were sown on beds which were properly ploughed for good aeration and improved water holding capacity. Tomato seedlings can be transplanted within 4 to 6 weeks from the day of sowing after going through the process of hardening off. In order to avoid disturbances on the dates of transplanting, smallholder farmers were advised to start preparing the main field immediately after sowing.



## **Pests and disease control**

High quality crops have higher prices at the market hence pests and disease which attack and destroy the crop has to be controlled to achieve high quality produce. Good pests and disease management practice has been taken into consideration during fruiting since most of pest's attack fruits hence bringing poor quality of the produce. Tomato plants at Chigona irrigation club are at flowering stage which is susceptible to different insects and pests. Application of chemicals was done to reduce problems of fruit damage and some diseases which can disturb the production process.



*Pest and disease control in Tomato crops*

## Business and Financial Empowerment Microloans

Financial empowering Microloans continues to be one of the fundamental interventions aimed at alleviating poverty among families within the Kasese catchment area. The program supports women entrepreneurs with microloans that do not have interest and these loans are repaid within a period of five months. Through this program, OCA has managed to uplift the socio-economic situations of families. In the month of June, 2022, the FEM program undertook a number of activities as narrated below.

### Learning Visit to Zoe Empowers Malawi

A learning visit was carried out on 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2022 with Tikondane FEM group to Zoe empowers Malawi in Mponera. Zoe empowers is one of FEM's partners we have been engaging with in terms of training facilitation and training content development. Having noted that their business program is quite similar to OCAs' FEM program, it was deemed necessary to pay them a visit so that FEM women should appreciate what Zoe youth empowering groups are doing and vice versa. At Zoe, the women entrepreneurs were first briefed of Zoe's business program approach. Thereafter, they had the privilege of meeting members of Mwai Mtekateka and Destiny Mafukeni youth empowering groups in T/A Mponera and Dzoole respectively.



*Mwai-Mtekateka youth empowering group performing a song (L) and FEM PM (R) speaking during the occasion*



*Visiting some of Zoe's individual beneficiaries' projects*



## **Lessons learnt**

### **i) Group projects**

Aside from owning individual businesses, the groups had mobilized themselves to have a group business which they were referring to as a group project. These group projects act as backup in scenarios where individual businesses have failed hence ensuring sustainability of the program. This is to say that group members have the liberty to borrow money from the group savings and repay at a group's convenient interest fee. Again, the funds from the group project may be used by the group members to have some leisure time once in a while.

When it comes to division of labour in the group projects, the youth divide themselves into subgroups and each subgroup is assigned a week of duty. In that way, there's assurance of everyone's involvement in running affairs of the group project.



*Visiting Destiny- Mafukeni youth empowering Group's irrigation project*

### **ii) Diversification**

From the individual businesses, it was learnt that they were not only banking on one business but had multiple businesses which they were running concurrently. For instance, one would own a barbershop and from those proceeds, they would invest in irrigation and livestock farming. This had helped the youths to achieve their visions faster than they had anticipated.

### **Feedback session with Tikondane and Tiyanjane FEM groups**

In an attempt to get feedback from the women entrepreneurs for the just ended loan period, a feedback session was organised on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June, 2018. The objectives of the meeting were as follows:

#### **i) Update on progress of loan repayment**

As of May end, five members from Tiyanjane were still owing OCA and the total amount in arrears was MWK 345, 000 (\$333) and were given an extension period up to 18<sup>th</sup> of

June. During the meeting, we wanted to find out if the women entrepreneurs would manage to raise their balances or give them extra time so that they would not feel panicked.

## **ii) Document successes (Short term)**

At the beginning of this year, the women entrepreneurs were tasked to draft goals they want to accomplish in the year through their businesses. We used this forum to establish if those dreams were being fulfilled.

### **a. Business**

The Microloan has helped sustain businesses of the women entrepreneurs in the FEM program. The women entrepreneurs argued that it is because of the loan that the businesses are still afloat in the tough times, if not most businesses would have failed.

### **b. Household level**

The Microloan has really contributed towards achievement of the program goal as some of the members have managed to feed their families, pay school fees for their children and even more so, purchase livestock as a means of keeping money for future investments.

## **iii) Challenges encountered during the loan period**

The aftermath of worldwide inflation really affected many business operations in that the prices of commodities kept going up on a daily basis making it difficult for business owners to return profits and customers. As if that was not enough, the Malawian kwacha has been devalued by 25% resulting in tripling of prices for everything including commodities and transportation costs.

## **iv) Lessons learnt from the previous loan period**

Upon careful scrutiny of the previous loan period, the women entrepreneurs themselves had summarized the lessons taken as follows:

- a. They should take loans that match with the businesses; there was a tendency of impulse borrowing whereby they would request a certain amount because the money is interest free hence felt this was their opportunity to get a loan for other personal stuff.
- b. Secondly, the women entrepreneurs had also learnt that they should avoid taking loans from various sources. For instance, one person may have a loan with OCA and at the same time have loans with friends. This kind of behaviour hinders loan repayment commitment to at least one of the sources engaged.
- c. Mindful of time for repayment: when they get the loan, they should not wait for the actual repayment date to start saving the money for repayment but rather be saving towards the loan repayment immediately after investing the loan.

d. They should Work hard in their businesses so that their dreams are fulfilled.



*Miguel (L) presenting group deliberations*

**v) Considerations/Measures to be taken going forward**

Considering the hardships that businesses had undergone from the said loan period, it was necessary to find out from the women entrepreneurs whether they would want to get another loan or give it some rest for some months before taking another loan. From the deliberations of the feedback session, it was noted that the women entrepreneurs were very much eager to get the loan before the end of June. The reason being, the period of harvest in Malawi is considered as when more people have money to spend. This is the case because 80 percent of our population relies on agriculture hence having a greater effect on expenditure patterns and business operations.



*Tikondane (L) & Tiyanjanane (R) FEM groups during a discussion session on the day of the feedback meeting*



## Microloan disbursement to Tikondane and Tiyanjane FEM groups

In the reporting month, 26 women entrepreneurs from Tikondane and Tiyanjane FEM groups have been supported by business Microloans. The total loans disbursed for the period were MWK 6,160,000 (\$5957). From the total loan, MWK 3,730,000 (\$3,607) (Representing 61% of the total loan for the period) was disbursed to Tikondane FEM group and the remaining MWK 2,430,000 (\$2,350) (Representing 39% of the total loan for the period) was disbursed to Tiyanjane FEM group. As usual, the women have been given a grace period of one month before starting repayment. Repayment is expected to start at the end of August, 2022.

*Table 1 Tikondane Loans disbursed for June- November 2022 loan period*

Loan number	Name	Loan Amount	Instalment Mwk	# of Instalments	Start Date	Due Date
P-01	Olipa Malizani	200,000	50,000	4	8/27/22	11/27/22
P-02	Alinet Machisawo	480,000	120,000	4	8/27/22	11/27/22
P-03	Rabecca Yohane	500,000	125,000	4	8/27/22	11/27/22
P-04	Mary Mndolo	200,000	50,000	4	8/27/22	11/27/22
P-06	Lonily Lameck	100,000	25,000	4	8/27/22	11/27/22
P-07	Dorothy Jelao	-	-	4	8/27/22	11/27/22
P-08	Deborah Mauagule	250,000	62,500	4	8/27/22	11/27/22
P-09	Edilina Jonathan	400,000	100,000	4	8/27/22	11/27/22
P-14	Mary Levison	150,000	37,500	4	8/27/22	11/27/22
P-15	Gloria Chidzanja	200,000	50,000	4	8/27/22	11/27/22
P-16	Miguel Bright	500,000	125,000	4	8/27/22	11/27/22
P-17	Maligelita Josofati	200,000	50,000	4	8/27/22	11/27/22

P-18	Racheal Phiri	200,000	50,000	4	8/27/22	11/27/22
P-19	Patricia Simbi	250,000	62,500	4	8/27/22	11/27/22
P-28	Lizineti Thokozani	100,000	25,000	4	8/27/22	11/27/22

*Table 2 Tiyanjane Loans disbursed for June-November 2022 Loan period*

Loan number	Name	Loan Amount	Instalment Mwk	# of Instalments	Start Date	Due Date
P-05	Tamale Kachingwe	100,000	25,000	4	8/27/22	11/27/22
P-10	Malita Banda	350,000	87,500	4	8/27/22	11/27/22
P-11	Patricia Banda	300,000	75,000	4	8/27/22	11/27/22
P-12	Ireen Hendelesoni	80,000	20,000	4	8/27/22	11/27/22
P-13	Stella Kalimbakatha	300,000	75,000	4	8/27/22	11/27/22
P-22	Editta Mtsitsa	300,000	75,000	4	8/27/22	11/27/22
P-23	Maness Nkhoma	100,000	25,000	4	8/27/22	11/27/22
P-24	Gladys Chiodzalo	100,000	25,000	4	8/27/22	11/27/22
P-25	Sofeleti Manjawira	200,000	50,000	4	8/27/22	11/27/22
P-26	Dorothy Makuta	100,000	25,000	4	8/27/22	11/27/22
P-27	Emily Dambuleni	200,000	50,000	4	8/27/22	11/27/22
P-30	Ndazona Mchonjo	300,000	75,000	4	8/27/22	11/27/22

## **Monitoring visits**

Monitoring visits were also carried out during the reporting period to monitor as well as evaluate progress of businesses of women entrepreneurs. As of 30<sup>th</sup> of June, we had managed to monitor 7 businesses out of 15 businesses in Tikondane group and 9 businesses out of the 12 businesses in Tiyanjane group. The rest were not monitored due to other challenges including transportation.

## **Weekly VS&L meetings**

VS&L meetings continued to take place for both Tikondane and Tiyanjane FEM groups. These meetings help the women to be able to save some proceeds from the business on a weekly basis as it may not be as easy to keep money in their houses for such a long time. Furthermore, it is an opportunity to bring together all the members of each group so that they may share business experiences and keep each other updated.

## **Conclusion**

In the FEM program, we have had a number of successful interventions which have contributed to realization of our goal and mission thus empowering women and improving lives. As OCA, we strive to empower the women in the communities as it is believed that Women empowerment is a crucial aspect in realisation of financial inclusion for the nation and beyond.

# Education Support Program

Orant Charities Africa (OCA) education program was founded with a vision to empower girls to become a contributing and productive part of the society. We believe all humans have the ability to overcome obstacles, and if given the right motivation and resources, they can



achieve wonders. This is what we aim for with our mission of empowering girls from the most socially and economically disadvantaged communities of Malawi.

The following activities were conducted by OCA education program in the month of June, 2022

## School Visits

In the month of June, the education program visited only two schools because students were on holiday. Students closed for a two weeks' holiday after writing second term exams and after reopening Madisi secondary and Ngala Community Day Secondary School (CDSS) were the schools which were visited for monitoring progress and mentoring. The education program managed to check the progress reports of the students for the previous term (second term) and the reports showed that most of the students at Madisi secondary school are performing well in their studies and there is need for improvement on some students at Ngala CDSS. The education program encouraged all the students to keep on working extra hard in order to excel and achieve their goals.



Students from Madisi secondary school (left) and Ngala CDSS (right)

In addition to that, the students also received counseling on behavior. The students were told to have good behavior because it is extremely important in school life as it sets foundations for their success later in life. It is a transferable skill in life and it can bring on many virtues, such as professional success through being focused and staying healthy. Good behavior is what helps students to achieve good performance in school.

### University selection

In the 2021/2022 academic year, OCA had 5 students who qualified for University admission. These students applied to different universities and OCA is happy to say that 2 students who were studying at Nkhamenya girls secondary school under Rotary Sponsorship have been admitted into the University to pursue various programmes for the 2022/2023 academic year.

- Below is the list of students, University they have been selected to, and the course to study;

<b>Name of student</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Course</b>
1. Christina Nyasulu	University of Malawi	Bachelor of Education (Social studies)
2. Marah Kamutu	University of Malawi	Bachelor of Arts in humanities

This is a great achievement to OCA because each year students are selected into university since the education program started in 2017. In Malawi the competition is always high and for the year (2021) out of the 7410 students who have been selected to different universities. Out of this number 42% are girls. Therefore, it is not easy for the 2 OCA students to be among the 42%. These students have done very well and this has indeed contributed to the success of OCA education program.



2022 OCA University selected students; Marah kamutu (left) and Chrsitina Nyasulu (right)

### **Conclusion**

Education is critical in tackling gender norms and empowering girls to drive change. It gives girls the skills to become leaders, innovators and change makers, and to tackle future crises.