



MONTHLY REPORT

JUNE 2020

COMPILED BY

GABRIEL KAPANDA
(COUNTRY DIRECTOR)

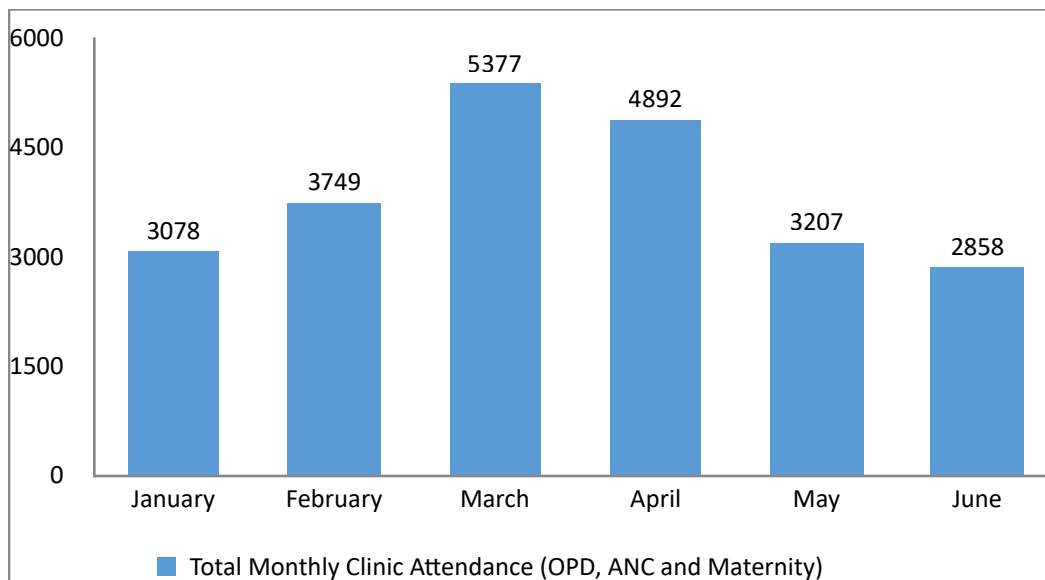
Introduction

Kasese Health Centre (KCH) continues to provide excellent care to the residents of its catchment area and beyond. The major diseases of public health concern in Kasese and Malawi at large is Malaria, with its epidemics in every rainy season. The entire population is affected,

however, pregnant mothers, under five children are at higher risk. The health center provides in details the following services: outpatient's clinic, 24hrs children's observation ward, Maternal healthcare services like obstetrics (Antenatal care, deliveries, provision of family planning methods, cervical cancer screening) In addition, the health Centre provides preventive services through public health like (nutrition supplements, growth monitoring and immunizations). The healthcare program in its provision of services work in collaboration with ministry of health through Dowa district health offices(DHO), other stakeholders like Kasese health advisory committee, (HAC) St Andrews hospital, Reach Trust a non-state actor , Girls Empowerment Network (GENET) and Riders for health.

Monthly patient's attendance

Orant charities Africa provides high impact health care interventions that have improved substantially the health of communities within Kasese areas and beyond. As for the month of June 2020, the health Centre attended to a total of **2,858** patients a number which is lower than last month most likely due to the fact that this time of the year is off malaria season. About **38** children aged between 2 months and 12 years were admitted in 24 hours children's ward, majority having malaria and they all got parenteral treatment of artesunate. Maternity department had **38** deliveries and referred **8** women for caesarian section at Madisi hospital (see figure 2).



Summary of total Monthly patient attendance at Kasese health Centre (OPD, ANC, and Maternity)

Figures 3 and 4 details the breakdown between communicable and non-communicable diseases for June 2020.

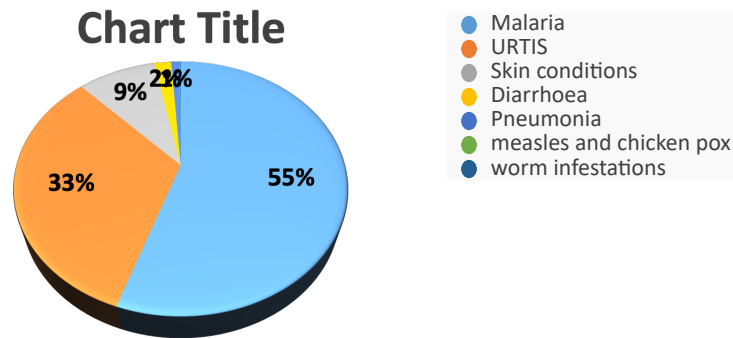


Figure 3: Communicable diseases of public health importance for the month of June 2020.

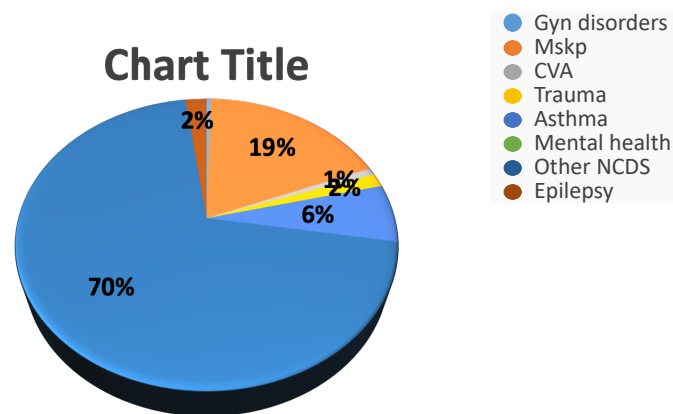


Figure 4: Non communicable diseases for the month of

June 2020

Health facility Corona virus (COVID -19) preventive measures.

Kasese Health Centre , so far has not registered any case of COVID 19. Malawi continues to confirm many cases, by the time this report was written the total confirm case has reached **2,261** with **517** recoveries and **33** deaths. **11** confirmed patients are from Dowa district, the observation is that the local transmission have surpassed the imported cases and health care workers, who are at the frontline are mostly affected.

During the month of June, 2020, the health centre received supervisors from Dowa district who came to supervise the health centre state of preparedness as far as COVID 19 pandemic is a concern. In their report, the health centre has progressed well in terms of infrastructure, (isolation ward), infection preventions, standard operating procedures, and surveillance. However, there are some areas which needs urgent action and that includes:

- ❖ The institution should have rapid response team. (Already formed)
- ❖ The health centre is encouraged to coordinate with Dowa DHO for updates on COVID 19 at the district level.

- ❖ The Kasese community must now and then be reminded of COVID 19 messages, while for those communities in hard to reach areas every effort should be done to reach them with Covid 19 information's.
- ❖ The health centre should keep the records of cases assessed.



Figure 1 above picture shows a security guard checking temperature (using infrared-thermometer) of a woman entering the facility.

Maternal and Child healthcare

The Health Centre continues to provide excellent maternal and neonatal health care. All women access high quality care during pregnancy and delivery. All received quality medicine and most of them, except those born before arrival (BBA) at hospital are attended by our skilled healthcare workers. Referrals to hospitals are done in time, this is evidence by good maternal outcomes as the health centre have not experience maternal related mortality for the past five years.

As for the month of June 2020, the maternity department had 38 deliveries, all spontaneous vertex deliveries (SVD) **one** neonate was born on transit to the clinic (BBA), 8 mothers were referred to Madisi hospital for cesarian section(C/S). The health centre had no neonatal death.

Tables below shows new borns survival / PMTCT for the month of the June 2020.

Alive, not HIV exposed	36
Alive,exposed,no NVP	0
Alive, exposed, NVP started	1
Alive,unknown exposed	1

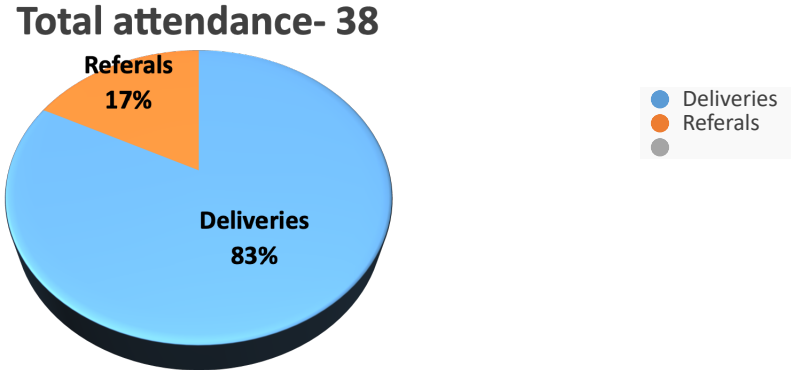
Fresh still birth	0
Macerated still birth	0
Neonatal deaths	0

Newborns complications.

New born with no complications	34
Weight less than 2500grams	3
prematurity	0
Asphyxia	1
Sepsis	0
Total	38

Figure 6: Maternity attendants for June 2020

Total maternity attendance for June. 2020



Cervical cancer control clinic report

Cancer of the cervix remains a public health problem in Malawi and amongst the top three leading cause of cancer death (MOH, National cervical cancer strategy 2016-2020). In addressing this problem, the Health Centre conducts routine visual screening of cervix using acetic acid to women of childbearing age between 25 to 49 years. As for the month of June 2020, 31 Women were screened, 2 were suspected of having cancer lesion and were referred to Kamuzu central hospital for further management, they were all supported by OCA in term of

hospital bill payments and bus fare (transport). Below is a table showing Monthly total cases screened and positive results.

Table 1: Monthly number of clients screened for cervical and their outcomes

Month	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept
TOTAL	36	48	80	31	28	31			
positive	0	1	5	4	2	2			

Family Planning

The Health Centre conducts family planning clinics once a week on Wednesdays. In accordance to the ministry of health (MOH) policies and coordination with Banja Lamtsogolo (BLM), the Health Centre provides family planning methods, which include oral pills, injectable and Implanons to women of reproductive age as per their choice and medical indications. As for the month of June 2020, a total of **287** patients received deprovera injection. While **6** clients opted for Norplant's method, as it's the second most liked method. Permanent family planning methods like bilateral tubal ligations (BTL) was not done as the health centre partner BLM stoped the services due to funding challenges. The figure below has the graphical presentation of the monthly family planning attendance and methods provided.

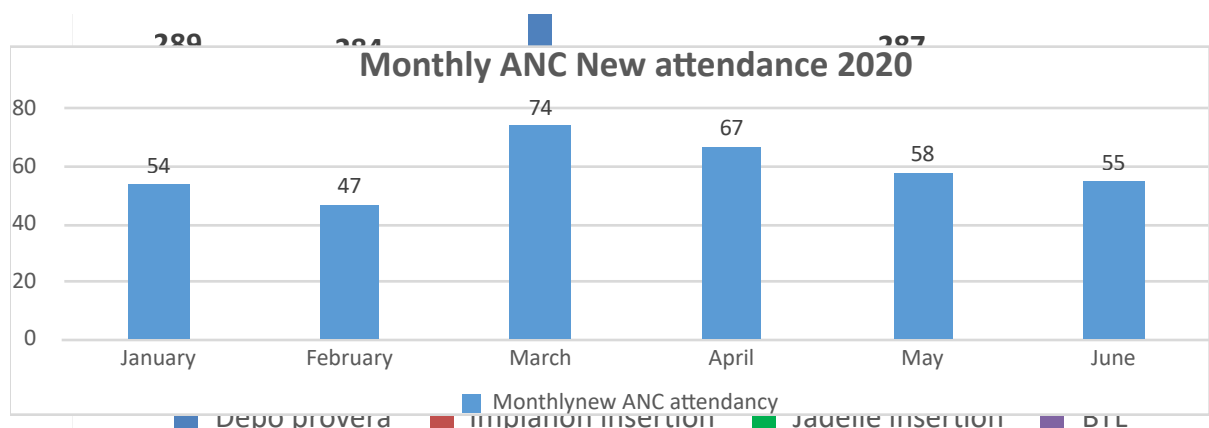
Antenatal Care (prenatal care)

The Health Centre conducts prenatal (antenatal) clinics twice a week, on Tuesdays for those enrolling for the first time and Thursdays for subsequence visit. The recommended visit by world health organization (WHO) for ANC is more than 8 which should start as early as possible. However, according to the data many women do not comply. For the month of June 2020, the Health Centre antenatal clinic registered **55** new mothers.

During the Antenatal clinics, mothers receive; two doses of Tetanus toxoid vaccines, 3 doses of SP, FEFOL tablets, albendazole, Insecticides Treated Nets(ITNS) and get tested for syphilis .

Monthly Family planning attendance 2020 (graph by methods)

Monthly antenatal attendance



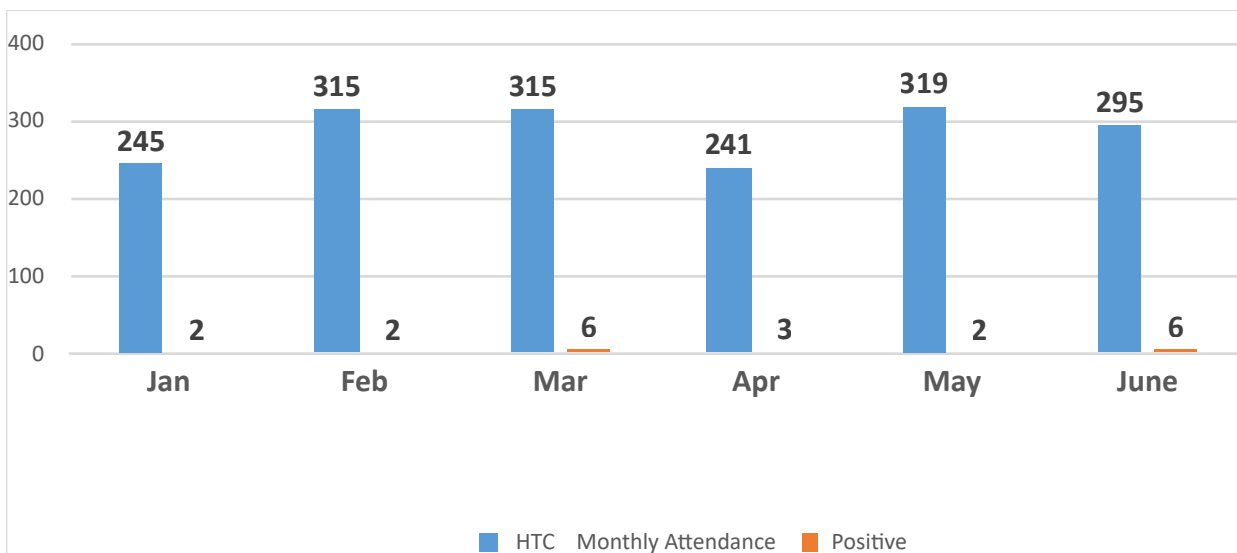
HIV Care Clinic

Kasese Health Centre HIV/AIDS Clinic continues to provide excellent ART/ TB care as depicted by quarterly award of certificate of excellence by the Malawi Ministry of Health through HIV/AIDS unit. The clinic has **274** patients alive on ART medicine, exposed children are 7. Good percentage of patients continue to get their viral results which are routinely done at every visit according to their milestone. The health clinic continues to switch patient's treatment from 5A to 13A which is DTG based regimens (DTG/3TC/TDF). Due to the COVID 19 pandemic and in order to reduce clinic congestion, the Health Centre continues to provide 6 month bottle supply of ARV to all clients who are stable on ART.

HIV Testing and Counselling

The health centre conducts voluntary HIV counselling and testing, the prevalence rate is at 1.2% against national prevalence rate of 8.2%.

Graph below shows monthly HTC attendances and number of HIV Positives cases.



Laboratory Services

The Health Centre Laboratory clinic continues to conduct and provide a reliable test befitting primary health care level, mostly the rapid test, basic microscopic tests for example Tb microscopy tests, malaria tests and HIV test. As for the month of June, 2020 the health centre conducted the following test.

Complete blood count tests.

The Health Centre conduct a full blood count test to the only special cases and for the month of June **54** test was conducted.

Malaria test (MRDTS& microscopy)

The Malaria test is conducted both rapid test (MRDTS) and microscopy blood smear slides. The Malaria epidemic is lower at this time around, A total of **1,538** Malaria tests done and those positive were **952** , the negative test were **586** this represents about 62% positivity rates. Children under five years, total test done were **594** and Positive were **277 (32%)**. For those who are above five years, total test done were **667** , those with positive malaria were **358** representing a positivity rate of **54%**.

Figures below : Shows under five, over five percentage of malaria tests.

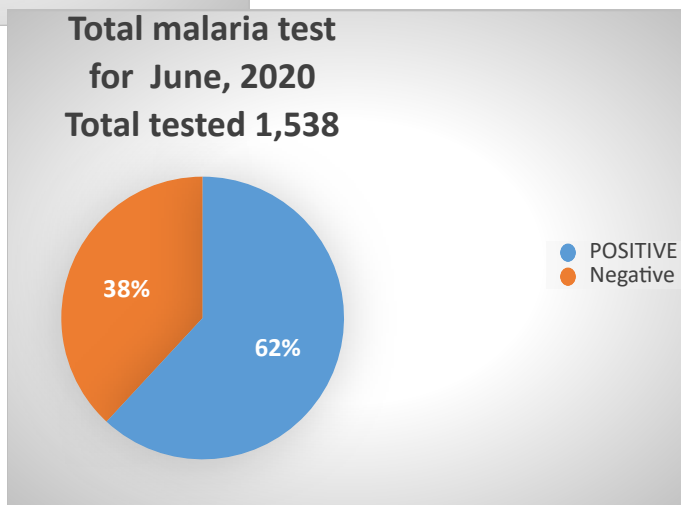
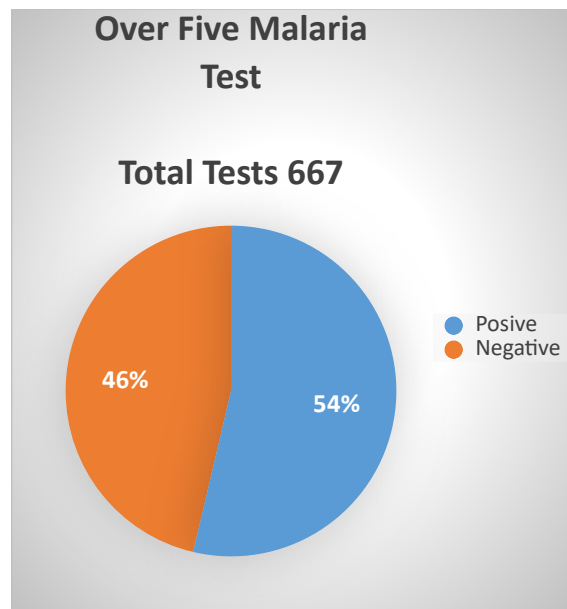
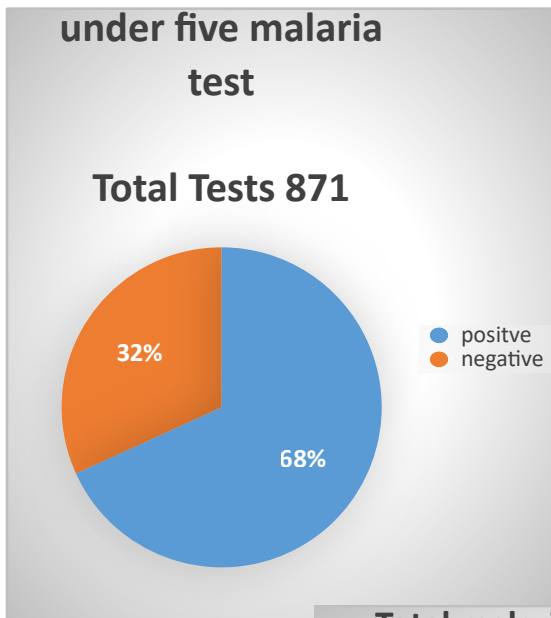


Table below shows other laboratory tests conducted.

Tests	Total tests	Result(pos)
H. PYLORIS	52	11
salmonella	6	0
Hep B	3	0
VDRL	1	0
HCG	56	21
TB MICROSCOPY	8	0
GLUCOSE	37	

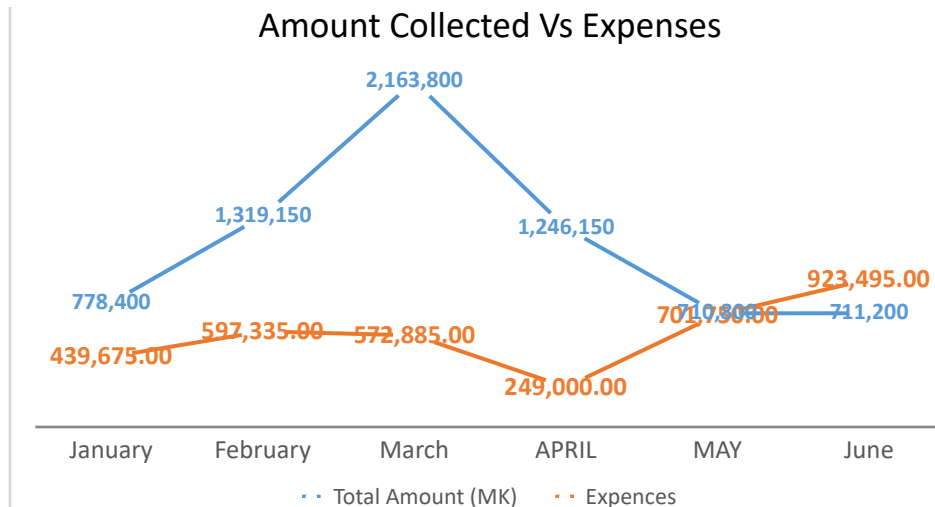
Clinic administration.

- After all the infection prevention measure are put in place and training of outreach Clinic volunteer for Kasese and Kasungu, there is plan to resume Mobile outreach clinics by end July 2020 depending on the Covid-19 situation.
- As a way of motivating staff for their constant excellence work, the health Centre management provided T-shirts to ART team (Clinician, Nurses, and HIV testing counselors)
- The health centre did not run short of medicine and medical supplies in the same month of June.

Health Finance

The health Centre major funding is from donors (Orant Charities USA), 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 point (Cashier desk). The fee is within the means and resources of our average community member. However, those who cannot afford are not barred from accessing the services, while others are exempted in accordance to the user fee policy. For the month of June 2020, Kasese health centre collected a total of **MK 711,200 (\$961)** and at the same time assisted good number of destitute patients with bus fare and payment of hospital bills, which amounted to **MK 923,495 (USD 1,247.9)**. Specifically, **MK 513,495 (USD 693.9)** went to cervical cancer patients, while **MK410,000 (\$554.05)** was spend on other patients bill at Madisi Hospital.

Figure below: shows monthly user fee collected and expenses.



WATER PROGRAM



Introduction

June was a historical month in OCA’s history as its water program managed to drill two boreholes in a single month thanks to the generosity of our donors and partners. During the period OCA also continued with its effort to ensure steady supply of water in the existing boreholes through repairs and also community wide sanitation interventions in a wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. This report provides a detailed account of the aforesaid activities. it starts by providing a summary of the progress of activities against the work plan followed by a detailed narration.

1. Progress on work Plan

No	P l a n n e d	Target	Achievement	Reach / Participants
----	---------------	--------	-------------	----------------------

	Activities			Male	Female	Total
1.	Borehole Drilling and Construction	2	2	NA	NA	600
2.	Water Quality Testing	2	2	NA	NA	NA
4	Supervisory visits to Water Point Committees.	17	17	NA	NA	NA
5	Follow Up of Water Facility Servicing	33	17	NA	NA	NA
6	Borehole Repair	NA	7	NA	NA	NA

Narration of Activities.

Borehole Drilling and Construction

During the reporting period, OCA drilled the second and third boreholes in 2020. Additional 600 people in Kasese area can now afford access to potable water in Shawa and Mankhaka villages of TA Chakhaza, Dowa owing to the two new borehole that have been drilled in the area by OCA.

Before the new boreholes people of Shawa village used to access water from hand dug wells which are unprotected and recently a child nearly drowned in it, this will not happen again as the village now has a proper water supply facility. On the other hand, people from Mankhaka used to fetch water from a borehole located at Katalima primary school which is not only overloaded but also at a distance from the village. The drilling and construction of this new water facilities were preceded by a detailed hydrogeological assessment of the areas to locate water bearing zones.



Figure 1: Borehole Construction works in Progress (left) and the Final Product (Right) in Shawa



Previous Source of Water in Shawa Village

Water Quality Testing and Analysis.

Following the drilling of a new borehole in Shawa and Mankhaka s village, there was need to ascertain the quality of water if it was fit for human consumption as per World Health Organization (WHO) and Malawi Bureau of Standards (MS) standards. OCA thus engaged the Central Water Laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Water Development to carry out a full biological and chemical analysis. Preliminary results indicated that the water was fit for human consumption.

Borehole Repairs.

OCA continued to support communities with major repairs during the reporting period, 07 wells were repaired as indicated in the table below;

SN	VH	Repair(s) Done
01	Makonola Market	1 fulcrum pin, 4 bush bearings,13 rod centralisers,1 cup seal,2 Bobbins
02	Chikwangula	6 sockets,1fulcrum pin, 4 bearings, 12 rod centralizers, 2 pipes, 4 rod steel 2 Bobbin, 1 cup seal
03	Buza	2 pipes, 6 sockets 12 rod centralisers, 2 rods, 4 bearings
04	Ndeka	4 sockets,2 pipes 3 rods,12 rod centralisers,4 bearings
05	Nkhandwe	Cylinder, 4 rod steel, 12 rod centralizers, 6 sockets 4 bearings, 6 pipes, 12 pipe centralizers, 1 corn plate 1 corn rubber 1 cup seal 2 Bobin 1-foot valve Solvent cement
06	Inje	1 Rubber flapper,10 Rod centilisers,9 rod steel,1-foot valve, 2 Bobbins 4 bush bearings, 1 corn plate

07	Mseule	cup seal, rubber flapper, hunger pin, 6 pipes, 4 sockets, 1 cylinder, 3 rods
----	--------	--

Follow Up of Water Facility Servicing

In a bid to improve efficiency of water points and reduce the number of major well breakdowns, OCA is encouraging trained water point committees to be conducting routine preventive maintenance activities once every three months. During the reporting period, OCA followed up on WPCs whose boreholes were due for service during the April-June quarter of 2020. About 17 (51 %) of the total 33 were scheduled for servicing. The fraction was fairly good but OCA has committed to work more and encourage the communities so as to improve the efficacy of the water supply facilities that have been installed in Kasese Catchment.

Conclusion

The month of June 2020, was another great as the water program managed to serve communities as per its plan. Additional 600 people now have sustainable access to water through the two new boreholes that have been given and hundreds others from 2 villages have been given a chance to see other boreholes work again and enjoy good health.

AGRICULTURE PROGRAM



Introduction

During reporting month of June 2020, several activities were carried in supporting smallholder farmers around catchment area through Irrigation program and other activities were also carried on OCA demonstration harvest. The activities conducted are as follows;

Planting

Planting activity was done for Maize and Tomato. Mayela and Mantchedza irrigation clubs are working on Maize production while Nthila irrigation club is working on Tomatoes. Irrigation clubs which are producing Maize were advised on proper seed selection and also Sasakawa system of planting. Irrigation clubs which are producing Tomatoes were advised to sow the seeds into lines which gives healthier seedlings which are suitable for transplanting. Club members were also advised on practicing intercropping whereby Maize can grow together with sugar beans. This system of intercropping has more benefits as it increases production, there is greater use of environmental resources, reduction in pests, diseases and weeds damage, and also it improves soil fertility and increases nitrogen.



Planting in progress

Stalking

Stalking of tomato plants was done at Mvunguti Irrigation club and the activity was monitored. Stalking supports tomato fruits off from the ground as tomato fruit rots when in contact with the ground. Stalked tomato are also easier to spray chemicals, easier to harvest and cleaner and healthier tomato fruits are achieved from stalked tomato plants.

Harvesting and Marketing

Harvesting was done at Timvane and Kasangadzi irrigation clubs where members for these clubs are producing tomatoes. Despite some challenges which these irrigation clubs have been going through e.g. water lodging, pest and disease attack, these clubs are expecting bumper harvest as some of these challenges were managed properly during early stages. The marketing activity which was conducted during reporting month, has supported in securing better buyers for the produce hence better prices being achieved.



Ripen tomato fruits ready for marketing (Right)

Pruning

Pruning is a continuous activity which involves removal of suckers and dead leaves and has to be done weekly until last day of harvesting. Suckers and dead leaves have many side effects on tomato production and has to be removed immediately after they appear in tomato plants as it creates breeding areas for pests and diseases. Suckers were removed as too many brunching stems requires high amount of energy for plant development hence it results into slow fruit production and smaller sized fruits. Ndalusa irrigation club was monitored on pruning to check if the activity was done in appropriate way and in accurate time.

Storage

Smallholder farmers were trained on storage of grains after harvesting using Perdue Improved Crop Storage bags (PICS bags) to prevent from weevil's attack. Smallholder farmers are more used to apply pesticides to control weevils hence a training was conducted on use of PICS bags which is chemical free. PICS bags can be used for keeping all different crops that can easily get attacked with weevils such as Maize, Beans, Groundnuts and Rice just to mention few. These bags do not involve any chemical for its action hence it warrants farmers in consuming food that is free from chemicals. PICS bags have another advantage since it can be reused for over three years with greater results.



Farmers participating in the training for the use of PICS bags

OCA Demonstration harvest

During rainy season of 2019-2020, demonstration plots were mounted in support with several agriculture partners which include Farmers World, AFAP and Bayer. The crops which were grown on demonstration plots include Maize and groundnuts. These crops have been fully harvested, fumigated, weighed and packed into the container. The total bags of maize which have been achieved from demonstration plots are 21 bags of maize and 5 bags of Groundnuts.

Below is the table displaying total yield and expected outcome from Maize and Groundnuts.

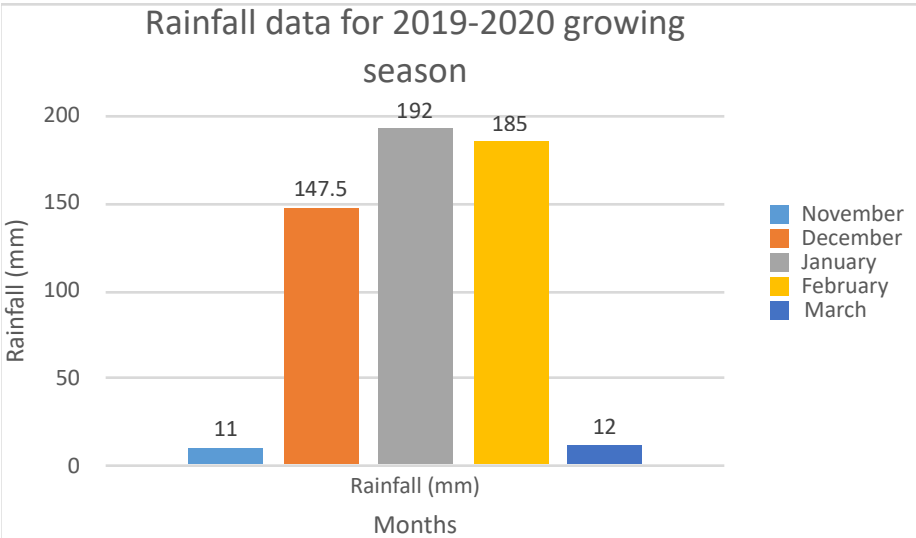
Crop	# of bags	Total outcome	Expected Price (Mk)	Expected income
Maize	21	1050 kgs	350	367,500
Groundnuts	5	10 pales	2500/ pale	25,000
Total				392,500

Rainfall Data

The primary source of water for Agriculture production for many farmers is Rainfall. During rainy season for the year 2019-2020 growing season, data for Rainfall was recorded. The volume of rainfall in particular year differs from place to place hence Rainfall data also being recorded in different sections around catchment area.

Data collected for rainfall helps most in planning for planting as planting with right amount of rainfall helps in high percentage of germination. Different crops have different suitable amount of rainfall for planting and the suitable volume of rainfall in Malawi for planting of Maize is 25 Millimeters (mm). The data collected for the year 2019-2020 growing season shows that, the rains started around 31 November 2019 with the volume of 11 millimeters (mm) and the planting rains for the people living around Katalima section was at 9th December 2019 with the volume of 29 mm. The rains started very well compared to the past year although the rains disappeared very early during (Around 12 March 2020 with the volume of 3mm) hence leaving crops not fully matured. This has brought big fears to the community as it may result into hunger problems at the end of 2020.

Below is the graph showing rain pattern for the year 2019-2020 growing season



EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM

Executive Summary

Almost six million school-going children in Malawi have been home since 23rd March due to the Government of Malawi's Coronavirus disease (COVID -19) prevention measures to close schools with the aim to prevent the spread of the virus.

With the school closures, learners were told to continue with their learning from home as much as they can. But for OCA learners, learning from home has its obstacles. The challenges they face is when they get stuck on a particular subject, they cannot ask teachers for help because they are not on campus.

Another challenge is that many secondary schools in the country, have a shortage of textbooks. As a result, very few students, are able to take textbooks home, and for vulnerable children which OCA is helping, their parents cannot afford to buy them. They mostly rely on the notes written in class.

Despite these problems, students are determined to make learning from home work, and they have set themselves a timetable. As for the form four's, it is a critical year for them as it is their last year of secondary school, and they have to sit for the national examinations.

However, before students were sent home, the school management gave them advice on how they can manage working from home. Many students have already adopted. They were told that when they are home, they should carry on reading their notes, and work in pairs from home, that way they are prepared when schools reopen.

OCA Education program has also observed that many students are having challenges not being able to understand their studies on their own and are unable to receive adequate assistance from parents who do not have much knowledge on the subjects.

Conclusion

Students were advised on the importance of good hygiene in preventing the transmission of COVID-19. They were also encouraged to listen to all the information coming from the government on handwashing with soap and not touching their face. But even with these measures, handwashing with soap is a challenge for poor families. Some do not even have radios in their homes to listen to the COVID-19 messages being disseminated.