



MONTHLY REPORT

JANUARY 2019

BY

GABRIEL KAPANDA
(COUNTRY DIRECTOR)

HEALTHCARE PROGRAM

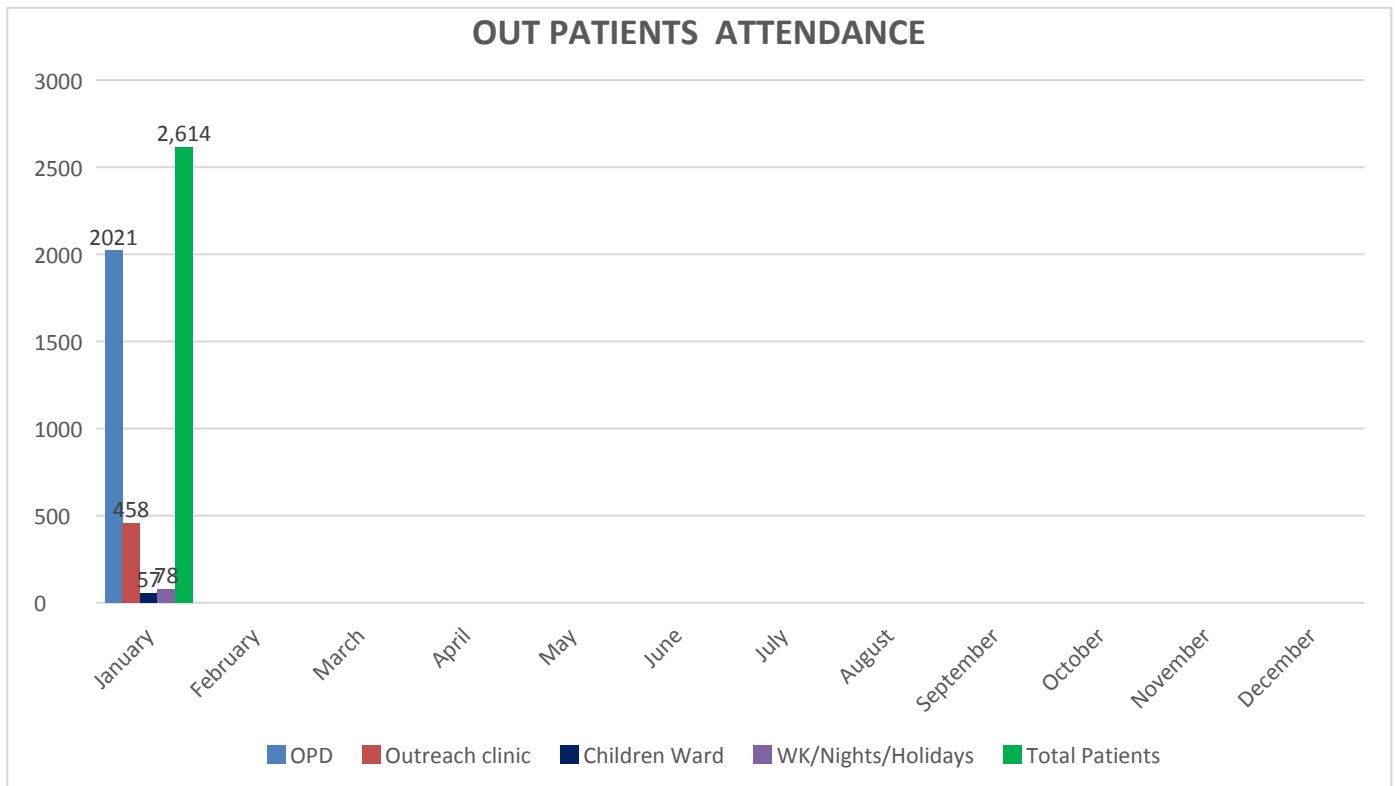
Introduction

Kasese healthcare program is at the core amongst the four programs under Orant Charities Africa (OCA), a non-governmental organization. The healthcare program, strives to provide adequate holistic primary health care, which commensurate with the health needs of the population of approximately 30,000 in its catchments areas. The program provides highest quality health services within its limited resource through curative services in its static Kasese health Centre, and many public health services programs. The health center in delivery of the services work in collaboration with ministry of health and other non-governmental organization like Banja La Msogolo, St Andrews Hospital and Reach trust, among others.

Clinic patient's attendance

The patient's attendance at outpatient is fair and the usual malaria epidemic is currently under control when compared to the same period previous years. The reduction in the patient numbers can be attributed to timely preventive measures which included mass distribution of insecticide treated nets(ITN) and education on its proper usage by the ministry of health (MOH). The other reason could be good supply of medicine and medical supplies by the government at the nearby health Centre. Furthermore, the increased user fee which was instituted last year may also have contributed although this is not conclusive as proper research needs to be done in future.

Therefore, for the month of January 2019, Kasese health Centre, received and treated **2,614** patients. The same period last year, the numbers were **4,580**. Out of the 2,614, 79.9% represent patients from

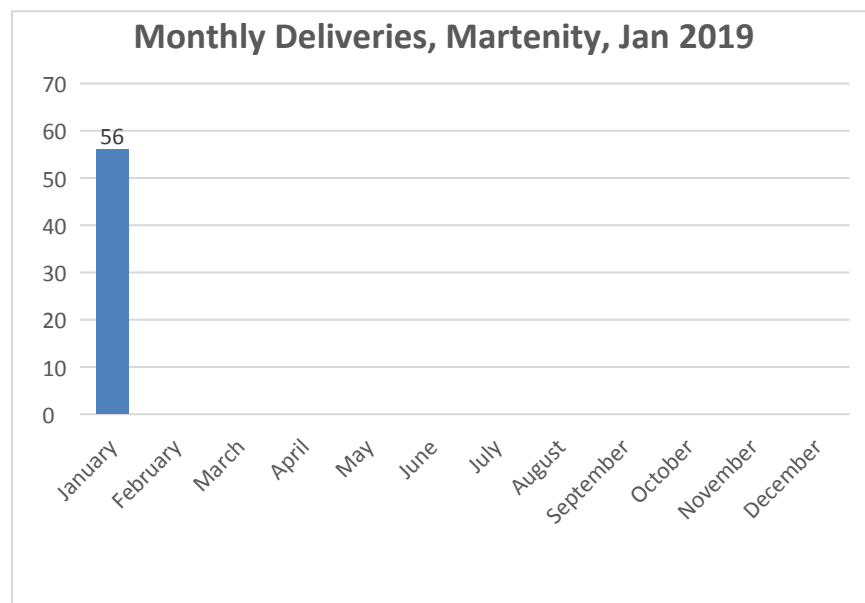


Kasese

health Centre catchment area, while 20.1% are from outside catchments area, majority came from Madisi. The health Centre also conducted **56** safe obstetric deliveries in maternity ward, admitted **57** children in 24 hours Children ward and treated **458** patients at four-satellite community outreach clinic.

Maternity ward

There were 66 mothers, 10 referred to Madisi due to several reason especially Cephalopelvic Disproportion (CPD). Two mothers delivered babies before arrival. In total we had 55 singletons, 1 set of twins. There were No maternal deaths but there were three-macerated stillbirth and one mother had pre-eclampsia, four mothers were started on ART before delivery as PMTCT.



Health care achievements

The health Centre (HIV/ AIDS) clinic once again received award of certificate of excellence from the ministry of health. Kasese health Centre continues to perform well in diagnosis, care and treatment of HIV/AIDS as per supervisors who come for routine supervision. Most of the patients who are eligible for new fix dose combination ART regimen 13A (TDF, 3TC & DTG) has transition from 5A (TDF, 3TC & EFV) and majority are men. The medicine is more potent, more durable, convenient, better tolerated and it has fewer drug-interaction. The trainings for new guidelines are ongoing and providers who are yet to be trained will soon undergo the trainings.

Eye Clinic

The year 2019 began with sad news of the sudden passing on of eye clinician MR Divala from St Andrews hospital. The late has been treating patients monthly at Kasese health Centre for the past two years. The

health Centre lost a very important health worker and who made the eye program possible, many patients can now see because of his humble work.

As for the continuity of the eye clinic, Dr Nyaka who is the eye specialist from Lilongwe Rotary club has volunteered to come every month to conduct eye clinics. The first clinic will be on 8/02/2019.

Clinic administration

The long-standing electricity outage problem at outpatient department is rectified, rechargeable touches and bulbs have been procured and installed, what remains unfixed is the solar charging system of batteries in the OPD. The contractor came to conduct assessment and has promised to come again to fix everything as soon as possible

Continuing professional development/ trainings

The lead clinician attended a seven days training in Spirometry at competency level in Mponela organized by REACH trust partner NGO. Spirometry is a lung function test, which test the airflow and lung volumes. It is also used to diagnose respiratory obstructive and restrictive lungs disease like asthma and bronchitis. The pilot project under REACH trust is in the process of winding up and Orant charities is expected take over the project in Kasese hence the training. In addition, there is need to lobby for medicine like bronchodilators to be prescribe after the test.

Health care challenges.

Road traffic accidents at the nearby main road continue to claim many lives, recently the health Centre received accident victims. The patients received first aids thereafter referred to hospital. But in order to assist such cases effectively and efficiently without getting overwhelmed, there is need for spacious room to accommodate three couches and equipment's. Furthermore; there is need for staff trainings in disasters preparedness.

Conclusion

As the number of patients at outpatient's department (OPD) will continue to be low in comparison to same period last year (2018), we are hopeful that money spent on drugs over this year may reduce as we will be seeing reduced number of patients.

WATER PROGRAM



Introduction

In pursuit of a 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, the activities included;

- Distribution of HTH chlorine
- Hygiene Awareness campaign.
- Repair of 09 boreholes.
- Revamping 5 Water Management structures
- Capacity building for 44 Community members (4 WPCs) in borehole repair.
- Review meeting with area mechanics and Chiefs

Narration of Activities

i. 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, OCA distributed water treatment Chemical ; HTH chlorine to households and schools across the Kasese catchment. A total of 50 KGs of chlorine of which 34 KGs was distributed to households through HSAs and the 16 KGs through school sanitation clubs. 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. The distributed chlorine is expected to last two weeks and more than 4000 households benefited from the excise.

ii. Hygiene Awareness campaign

In order to avoid the possible Cholera outbreak in OCA operation area, OCA conducted massive hygiene education sessions aiming at raising awareness on how cholera and other related diseases could be avoided during this period. This involved working with Health Surveillance Assistants (HSA) in educating communities in various water treatment options such as the use of the distributed HTH chlorine, boiling, among other approaches.

OCA took advantage of pre-existing community gatherings such as under-five clinics to disseminate the messages. A mass dissemination event was held at Katsuka Primary School, this event involved public lectures and theatre for development as the means of disseminating messages. About 1500 people received these messages.



Part of the Audience during the meeting

iii. Borehole Repair

Much as OCA is advocating for Community based management of water supply facilities in which the community take charge and ownership of water supply facilities using communities' own human, material and financial resources, there are some repairs which the communities' need to be supported. OCA supports communities with major repairs or repairs which the community have failed completed to do. During the reporting period the Water Program Team in collaboration with WPCs and Area Mechanics managed to complete 09 well 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 conducted.

No	Name of the Borehole	Repairs Done
1	Chimwendo	Pipes, Pump rods, 1 cup seal, Bobins, and road centralizers
2	chipata	Pump Head, Bush berings, Hunger Assembly
3	Khambako	Inner Parts-full set
4	Bvulabango	Inner parts (full set)
5	inje	Pipes, 4 Sockets, 4 Bush Bearings fulcrum pin and a rope.
6	Mtukula	Pipes, Pump rods and plunger
7	Lombwa	Cylinder, Pipes and pipe Centralizers
8	Vinyatsi	Pump Rods, pipe centralizers

9	Nkhandwe	Fulcrum pin, Pipes, socket
---	----------	----------------------------



Replacing pump rods with community involvement

iv. Formation of Water Management Structures

In order to achieve sustainable water supply management, having community water management structures is a must. 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 non-functionality of most wells in Malawi. During the reporting period, a total of four such structures were established in areas where other partners' drilled boreholes without establishing such structures, these structures are called Water Point Committees and are responsible for overseeing day to day operations. Each WPC comprised of 10 members, at least 6 of whom were female.

v. 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 (26 female and 18 males) were trained during the period under review. The trainings were facilitated by the Water Monitoring Assistant, Health Surveillance Assistant (HSA) – both from Government departments as well as OCA water program staff. The trainings were successfully done and it is envisaged that the community will be able to sustainably operate and maintain the water facility.

vi. Review meetings with area mechanics and Chiefs

The Water program held an annual review meeting with chiefs and Area mechanics who are major stakeholders in its activity implementation. The aim of the meeting was to review areas progress and areas that need to be revised in order to reach out to people as per OCA's mission. Both parties (OCA and the stakeholders) aired out their expectations from either party for a stronger working relationship. Chiefs committed to support in enforcing bye laws that promote health seeking behaviors and support OCA in its operations. The chiefs and area mechanics lobbied OCA to expand their territory of operations for water repairs because other areas within T/A Chakhaza needs such services.

The meeting was jointly organized by the Water and Education program with the participation of the health program as well.

AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

The Agriculture program carried various activities which focused much on Irrigation clubs, OCA farm demonstration plots, school garden and Lead farmer's assessment.

Irrigation clubs

OCA is working with smallholder farmers in irrigation farming with an aim of improving lives of the poor people in the villages. The total number of farmers worked with in these 3 irrigation clubs adds up to 76. These irrigation clubs include Timvane, Ndalusa and Nkuyu where they are practicing Tomato and Maize production.

Nkuyu irrigation club which is under Group Village Headman Nambela was practicing Maize production and they planted Maize in October 2018 and they have managed to take care of Maize plants until the month of January where harvesting has been done. The Maize variety which was planted is MH 43A which is Orange in colour and the main aim of planting this type of maize crop was to make farmers be aware of the nutrition value of feeding their families with orange maize while on the other hand, dealing with hunger problems in the villages.





Happy farmers standing on their maize field

As OCA is taking part in raising awareness of Orange crops to smallholder farmers around Kasese catchment area since last year 2018 by relying on rainfall and now Orange maize is being planted in irrigated farming. Orange maize has a lot of advantages but the main one being the ability to deal with Malnutrition problems since Orange maize contain Vitamin A. It also improves health of pregnant and lactating mothers and their children and also prevents eye problems. Last year 2018, our catchment area was affected with drought and using irrigation is a solution to prevent hunger and ensure food security. Orange maize is good for both eating boiled fresh or preparing as flour for Nsima or porridge as such hence more than 60 people been saved from hunger.

OCA is also working with Ndalusa irrigation club in Nkhandwe village where Maize production was taking place. Ndalusa irrigation club is cultivating along Bua River where we always have enough water for irrigation during dry reason. The river this year has received a lot of water than the past years which has resulted into flooding. The flooding has affected the irrigation site where we planted Maize and we were expecting to start harvesting in the month of February, 2019 and as of now the field is filled with water. Club members were relying on the produce for their food security but with the floods has greatly affected them. The affected farmers are lobbying for support so that they come out of the hunger situation. OCA is assessing how best the farmers can be helped.



Maize field affected with floods

Timvane irrigation club which is in Mantchondo village is practicing tomato production and the plants are anticipated to be harvested in February. Despite some pest attack, the club will produce enough tomatoes and be able to make profits in this production cycle.



Tomato plants almost ready for harvesting

School garden project

Information on sowing vegetable seeds was disseminated to a total of 85 students and teachers in 3 primary schools. The training targeted Mndinga, Katsuka and Kamongo primary school. The training focused on producing good vegetable seedlings and to have high yielding and best quality of vegetables. Students were trained on proper sowing and good care for seedlings which involved two different systems thus; broadcasting and line sowing. These two systems were done for learning purposes so that the students must compare for themselves the best system which can produce the best strong seedlings and also be able to practice what they learn in class.

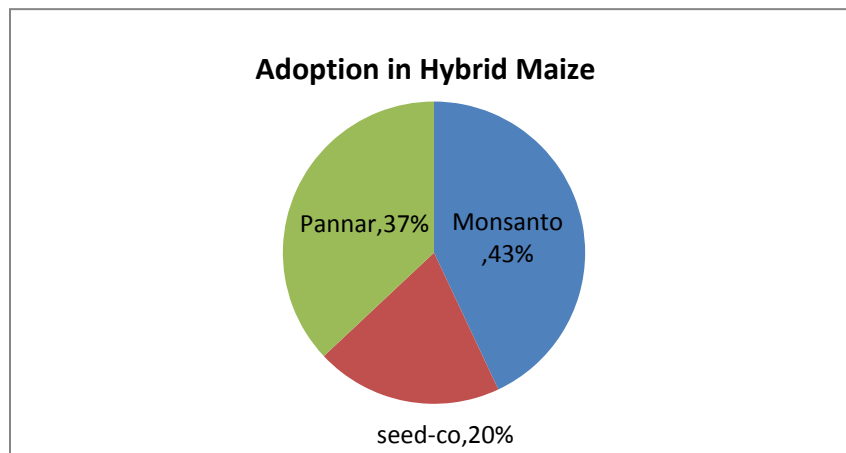


Leaners demonstrating bed making and sowing

Lead Farmers Program

Assessment of Lead farmers was done with focus on technology adopters of the different farming technologies(systems) which we used in production of Maize in last year growing season. Each lead farmer was given a task to identify farmers who have been able to adopt some of the technologies and as of of January 2019, 127 farmers have been identified as technology adopters. The data shows that, large numbers of farmers are able to adopt and practice the Sasakawa system of Maize planting in their farms. There is also a large number of farmers who have been transformed from using local maize varieties to hybrid maize varieties despite hybrid maize being too expensive at the market. The Data shows that farmers have cultivated much of maize varieties from seed producing companies such as Monsanto, seed-co and Pannar seed. Through the data collected, it gives high probability of dealing with hunger problems in our catchment area.

The pie chart below shows data on adoption percentages in different hybrid Maize.



OCA demonstration plot

OCA demonstration plot which act as learning area for all farmers, was top dressed (second fertilizer application) with Urea with an aim of facilitating vegetative growth and fruiting since Urea fertilizer are essentially carriers of Nitrogen. There is also heavy attack in Soya as well with pests such as beetles hence pesticides were applied to control the problem.





Application on pesticides in progress

Maize crop stand after top dressing

Challenges

The problems of fall army worms in maize around our catchment area is still more severe hence farmers were encouraged to use pesticides. Soya beans have been attacked with beetles which can also result into low yields and farmers were also encouraged to use recommended pesticides.

EDUCATION PROGRAM

The month of January was a very busy month for OCA education program since it was when students reopened for their second term. OCA had to make sure that all students in all schools have registered for the term and tuition has been paid. In addition to that, the Education program also received a visitor from USA, the Executive Director who has great passion and interest in the Education program. The following activities were conducted in the education program during the month of January 2019;

Meeting with Group Village Headmen's (GVHs)

OCA education program attended a meeting with 42 GVHs from Kasese catchment area. The meeting was to initiate the community to advocate for poor girls to have access to education. It was a very successful meeting since OCA and the chiefs had a lot to talk about the education program and shared knowledge on how to support and care for the poor girls at community level. Girls being part of the community should be supported by everyone. Therefore, the community has the responsibility to support and advocate for the girls.



Attending a meeting with GVHs

The chiefs were very thankful to OCA for the support it is giving to their children and are looking forward for continued support by OCA to educate a lot of girls in Kasese.

Distribution of school materials to Geo-shack students

Amongst the 8 different schools which OCA is sponsoring students with support from Geo-Shack, Nkhamenya Girls secondary school was one of the schools visited by OCA to provide students with notebooks, pens, rulers, mathematical instruments, scientific calculators among others. This is important because it helps the students to excel in class because the government of Malawi does not provide such materials for the students. Since these students come from very poor families and their families cannot afford to provide for them all the necessary materials, OCA thought it wise to provide support of school materials to them in order to keep them in school and also that they are able to do better in class because their basic needs are met. OCA is committed to empower girls and to removing any barriers that prevent full participation of girls in their life. The students showed gratitude for the good work OCA is doing to them and they promise to work hard in class and achieve their goals. At Nkhamenya girls there are 7 students sponsored by Geoshack and all of them received; 9 hardcovers, 5 pens, 1 ruler, 1 mathematical box (Instrument), 1 Calculator, 2 pencils and an eraser. Distribution of school materials is in progress for the other schools.



Nkhamenya Geo-shack sponsored students after receiving their school materials



Orant Charities Executive Director distributing school materials and the Sister is giving a thank you handshake for the support OCA is giving to the students.

In addition to provision of school materials, OCA visited the students to encourage them. From the visit, OCA discovered that a lot of students are performing well only a few needs more encouragement.

Communication with Donors

Students have started writing letters to their donors and some of the letters has been sent to US through the OC Executive Director. The goal of this communication is to create a bond between the donors and the students. The donors also appreciate and are happy to get to know the students they are sponsoring. On the part of students, they work hard so that they should not disappoint the person who is helping them go to school, become self-reliant and come out of poverty.

Visiting schools

We have a total of 16 secondary schools where we support students. Out of the 16 Secondary schools, 14 were visited. The remaining 2 schools will be visited in the next month as distance is a contributing factor. These secondary schools are in Dowa, Kasungu, Dedza, Lilongwe & Nkhatakota districts. All schools were visited in this month for the payment of school fees and collection of progress reports of the students. OCA is pleased that a lot of its students are performing well in their studies. This has been due to the continuous support and encouragement OCA is providing to the students.