



MONTHLY REPORT

JULY 2018

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ORANT CHARITIES AFRICA

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ACRONMYS:

EMR	-Electronic Medical Record
OCA	- Orant Charities Africa
OPD	- Outpatient Department
HSA	- Health Surveillance Assistant
CBM	- Community Based Management
WPC	- Water Point Committee
LF	- Lead Farmers
TA	- Traditional Authority
MDG	- Millennium Development Goals
MOH	- Ministry of Health
WHO	- World Health Organization
NGO	- Non Governmental Organization

1.0 MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS: MISSION TRIP

In July, OCA was privileged to receive visitors from USA which included the representation of board of directors, volunteers and donors. A lot of activities were lined up both in Kasese (Dowa) and Bowe (Kasungu). The pictures below illustrate how successful the mission trip was;



Figure 2: Water well repair in progress



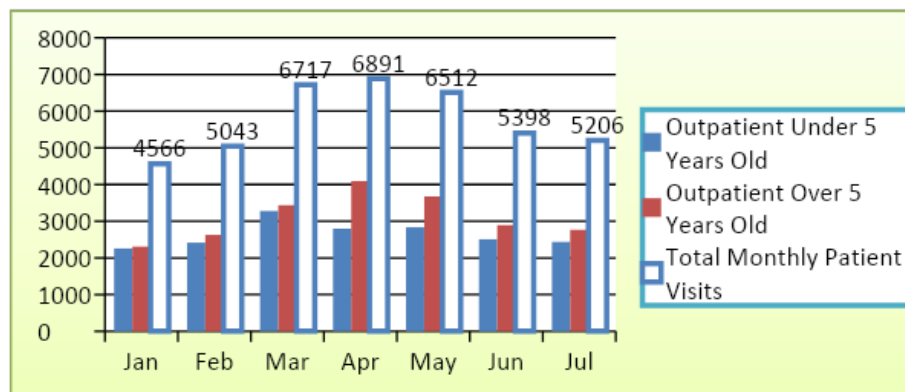
1.1 HEALTHCARE PROGRAM

In the month of July clinic attendance has dropped to 5,206. Outreach clinic had 879 patients, 50 patients were admitted at our 24-hours children's ward and maternity had 50 newborns were delivered.

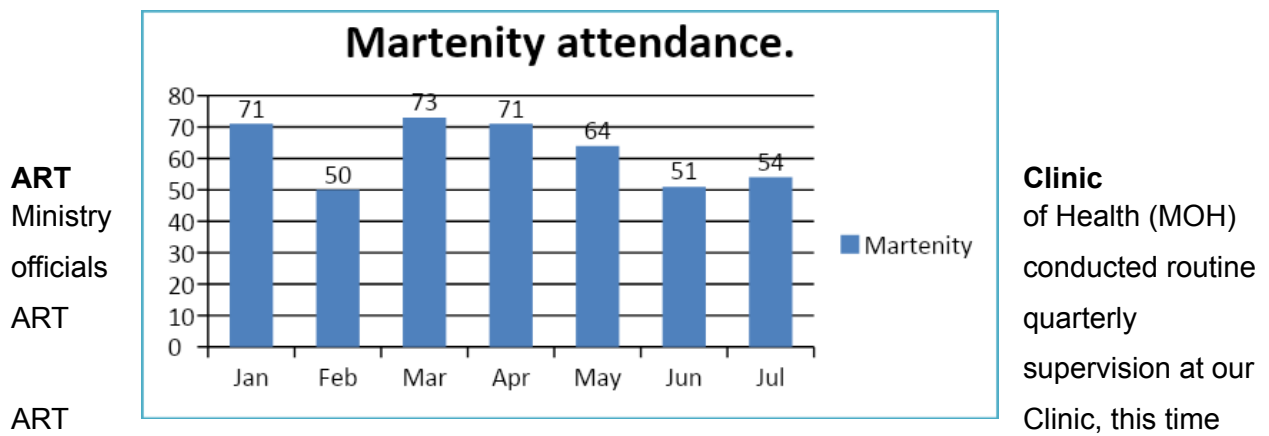
Routine eye clinic saw 30 patients, 5 booked for eye cataract surgery, 4 were given refractory eye spectacle, 2 had cornea ulcer, 11 had conjunctivitis while 7 patients came for post eye operation review.

We did not run short of medicine and supplies at the clinic, since the clinic received government drugs consignment on time.

Below is a graph showing total monthly OPD attendance, under 5 years and over 5 years:



There was 54 pregnant mothers who were attended to, 50 delivered at our facility, 1 (BBA)- born before arrival, 3 referred to other hospitals due to obstetrics complications from obstructed labor.



ART
Ministry
officials
ART
ART

Clinic
of Health (MOH)
conducted routine
quarterly
supervision at our
Clinic, this time

the clinic was not awarded the certificate of excellence, due to few challenges in data

management; mothers and infants were not paired on master cards file, the uptake of viral load is very low, 11 patients were done viral load against the expected target of 47 patients per month. Lastly, it was due to 30% documentation of exposed infant.

Medical Equipment

OCA had a meeting with Baobab Health top officers. The aim of the meeting was to finalize the contract agreements to facilitate procurement and installation of EMR at Kasese Health Centre. After a thorough discussion the Baobab team agreed to send a detailed quotation with justification. The Executive Director, Lead Clinician and the Country Director went to the meeting.

A total of 4 Wheel chairs have been procured and they will be used at the outpatient department and maternity.

Meetings and Trainings

Program managers of OCA held a two-day team building in Salima. The health program manager made a presentation on health care program implementation, highlighting achievements, challenges as well as short term and long term strategies.

Innocent Mankhokwe one of the pharmacy assistants underwent a 7 days training in drug dispensing organized by College of Medicine on drugs. The knowledge acquired will benefit the clinic.

Visitors in Kasese

Kasese Health Centre had a privilege to host visitors from USA and some were board members, and also included Dr. Dallas and Anna who is a student nurse. They had chance to experience clinical work at the Health Centre including outreach clinics.

During the visit, clinic staff had time to talk with one of the Board of Directors, to share their concerns. Among the list of the 9 issues, the top most was the inflation currently being experience in Malawi, which brings economic impact.

2.0 WATER PROGRAM



Executive Summary

The following are the major milestones in July the water program:

- Drilled 1 new borehole which is going to serve 2086 people
- 7 Water well repairs completed
- Built a capacity for 12-member Water Point Committee in Community Based Management water supply facilities.
- Trained 3 Water Point Committees in preventative maintenance of boreholes & financial management (Refresher CBM trainings).
- Conducted a Refresher training to 16 Masons in Low cost pit latrine construction

A detailed narration of the above stated achievements has been made in the subsequent sections of the report.

Introduction

Orant Charities Africa's (OCA) Water program purpose is 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.

Progress on Work Plan

No	Planned Activities	Target	Achievement	Beneficiaries / Participants		
				Male	Female	Total
1.	Borehole Drilling and Construction	1	1	NA	NA	1186
2.	Water Quality Testing	1	1	NA	NA	NA
3	Pre-drilling and Post drilling Community Based Management training	2	2	6	6	12
4	Community Training in pit latrine construction	16	16	9	7	16
6	Borehole Repair	NA	7	NA	NA	NA
7	Refresher CBM Trainings	3	3	17	19	36

Narration of activities

Borehole Drilling and Construction

OCA drilled a borehole in Chinkhwali village which is under the Group Village Headman (GVH)

Bweya. The borehole is expected to serve people from Chinkhwali and surrounding villages

which have a total population of 1186 people. However; this population is way too high for one borehole to serve. Before the drilling of the borehole, the untreated water from streams and unprotected shallow wells were the main sources of water in the area. **Figure 1** below illustrates borehole drilling.



Water Quality Testing and Analysis.

Following the drilling of a new borehole in Chinkhwali 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. The water samples were analyzed and results indicated that the water was fit for human consumption.

Pre-drilling and Post drilling CBM trainings

Before borehole drilling Malawi government guidelines requires that a Water Point Committee (WPC) be instituted and trained in borehole drilling supervision to aid them successfully

supervise the drilling process on the ground throughout. OCA facilitated the formulation of such a committee and gave it a day long predrilling training session.

Soon after the drilling and construction works, the WPC underwent a 5 day CBM training whose objectives 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.

The trainings were facilitated by the Water Monitoring Assistant, Health Surveillance Assistant (HSA) – both from Government departments as well as OCA's field assistant. The training was successfully done and it envisaged that the community will be able to sustainably operate and maintain the water facility.



Training session in progress in class (Right) and Left during practical session

Community Training in pit latrine construction

OCA adopted a sanitation business model as vehicle of cascading and promoting sanitation and hygiene in Kasese catchment Area. In this model, sanitation entrepreneurs (in this case masons) are trained and empowered to create demand for sanitation facilities by marketing and selling various sanitation products and services. In 2016 OCA trained Masons who were expected to carry on with the sanitation business. It was learnt that the masons lacked necessary materials as such they were having hiccups in executing their business. It was against this background that OCA organized refresher training for the Masons and supported them with starter up materials to boost their business. A total of 16 Masons were trained. This brings the number of trained Masons to 25 adding to the 9 who were trained in the month of June.

Water Well (Borehole) Repairs

The Water Program team in collaboration with WPCs and Area Mechanics managed to complete 7 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.

Name of the Village/ Borehole	GVH	Repair/Replacements done	Remarks
Nkhandwe	Kachala	Full set of pump inner parts	Completed Successfully.
Mkunda	Mkunda	4 Bush belings and Hunger Pin and rubber flapper	Completed Successfully

Chimwendo	Kamphata	6 Pipes, 2 Sockets, 4 Bush Bearings fulcrum pin	Completed Successfully
Bweya School	Bweya	Full set of pump inner parts	Completed Successfully
Ngala Primary School	kachala	4 Pump rods, 6 rod centralizer, Foot valve, 2 Bobins, Cap seal 4 pipe	Completed Successfully
Mazinga	Mazinga	3 pipes, 2 double end sockets, 3 pipe centralizers and hunger assembly.	Completed Successfully
khungulu	Lungu	Rehabilitation of Civil Works	In progress

3.6 Refresher CBM Trainings

It is common knowledge that most communities face problems in maintaining and operating their water supply facilities (boreholes). The root cause of this problem is that most members of Water Point Committees are not fully trained and do not have knowledge in proper operation and maintenance of Afridev pumped boreholes. In order to enhance communities' capacity in this respect, OCA conducted refresher CBM trainings to Water Point Committees. A total of 30 WPC members plus 6 chiefs making a total of 36 participants attended this training. These were 2-day training sessions facilitated by Health Surveillance Assistants

(HSAs), Water Monitoring Assistants (WMAs) as well as Area Mechanics who were helping in the practical sessions.

4. Challenges

Water Program has no unique challenges to report from the reporting month.

3.0 AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

Agriculture Extension and Trainings

Main activities were done in irrigation clubs and the following trainings were conducted; tomato staking, top dressing fertilizer application, tomato seedling transplanting. A total of 4 irrigation clubs and 35 local irrigation farmers were trained. Trainings in vegetable seedling transplanting, were conducted in school garden projects targeting 2 primary schools. A total of 94 farmers and 19 pupils were trained under irrigation and school garden projects.

Description of the Trainings

Tomato staking is done in tomatoes with the aim of providing support to the plant. Tomato staking training was conducted in 2 irrigation clubs i.e Timvane and ndalusa irrigation clubs in Mantchondo and Nkhandwe villages respectively. The materials for staking which are locally found were sourced by the farmers while OCA provided the technical support. Despite the mindset among the local farmers that staking is mostly done by men it was encouraging to see the participation of women club members. The farmers were also briefed on the importance of staking which is to increase yield. It has been observed that staked tomatoes has a yield potential of three times more than unstaked tomatoes. Staking helps the plant to be exposed to sunlight and have clean fruits. Figure below shows farmers preparing sticks for tomato staking at Timvane Irrigation club.



Tomatoes after staking at Ndalusa irrigation club

Vegetable transplanting involves removing the seedling plants from the nursery seed bed to the main bed was conducted at Kalikuli primary school. Though the school is on holiday the training was conducted with students who are members of the Agriculture committee. Some of the advantages of transplanting include improved uniformity of plant if recommended spacing is followed and reduction in input cost and pressure from the weeds.

2 Irrigation clubs in Chilemba village were trained on fertilizer application where the recommended application rate was used in order for the farmers to achieve maximum yield per cultivated area. The specific objective was for the farmers to understand the type of nutrient and rate required by the plant.

Independent local irrigation club members were trained in tomato transplanting where recommended tomato spacing was used. The farmers were selected from Katalima and Phamba section, targeting smallholder farmers growing tomato under irrigation.



Farmers appreciating tomato seedling ready for transplanting

Data Collection of Lead Farmers

Data collection from OCA lead farmer demonstration plots is an ongoing activity. Data of 4 lead farmers about harvest per demonstration plot was collected. The results are used to calculate the average yield which a farmer can get per hectare. From the results a comparison was made between the yield from demonstration plots where good agriculture practices were implemented and farmers who practices traditional agriculture methods.

The results continue to show that a high yield was realized on demonstration plots and early adopters field which are practicing new agricultural and good agriculture practices compared to farmers who uses traditional agriculture methods.

OCA Farm and Garden

The main activity carried out on OCA farm is the commencement of land preparation on OCA farm for the 2018/19 season preparation. About 13.5 hectares was cleared in the month of July using casual labor. The removal of stumps was done as part of preparation for ploughing using

a tractor on the areas which were not ploughed using a tractor last growing season. Below is an output table depicting the planned versus achieved activities on the farm.

No	Planned activity	Target/ planned	Results
1	Land Preparation/clearing and removal of stamps	14 hectares	13.5 hectares
2	Vegetable harvesting	31 beds	22 beds
3	Pesticide application	20 beds	17 beds
4	Fertilizer application	20 seed beds	20 seed beds

Distribution of Inputs

The farm inputs such as PICS bags, pesticides and fertilizer were distributed to lead farmers, Irrigation clubs and also primary schools participating in school garden project. The main inputs being distributed were pesticides followed by PICS bags which are used for storage of grain crops. A detailed summary of farm inputs distributed are presented in the table below.

No	Items	Target/ beneficiaries	Remarks
1	PICS bags	13 lead farmers	13 PICS bags delivered
Pesticides			
2	Cypermethlin	3 irrigation clubs and 2 primary school gardens	6 bottles delivered
3	Decis	3 irrigation clubs and 3 primary school gardens	15 tubes delivered

4	Chrolipyrifos	3 irrigation clubs and 4 primary school gardens	4	12 bottles delivered
5	Copper	3 irrigation clubs and 3 primary school gardens	3	9 packets delivered
6	Diathen	3 irrigation clubs and 4 primary school gardens	4	6 packets delivered
7	Abamectin	3 irrigation clubs		7 bottles delivered
8	Fertilizer (NPK)	2 irrigation club		4 bags delivered



Farmers sharing fertilizer before application in the irrigated farm

Meetings

OCA agriculture program being one of the organizations working in Dowa district was invited to Dowa District Agriculture Executive Committee (DAEC) in Mponela where preparation for the 2018 Dowa district agriculture fair was discussed.

Other activity

The other activity was playing an advisory role to farmers on the type of crop they can grow depending on soil type and the source of water for their irrigation.

4.0 EDUCATION PROGRAM

All Primary and secondary students closed for their end of year holiday during the month of July. However, we have 5 students from Nkhamenya (3 rotary students and 2 OCA students) and 1 student from St. Peters secondary school who has written her Malawi School Certificate of Education in the month of July. Therefore, we are remaining with 16 students at Nkhamenya under rotary international sponsorship.

Progress of Activities

The following activities were conducted in the month of July 2018;

1. Meeting with students

OCA had two meetings with students. Both meetings were held in OCA premises because the meetings were conducted after students have closed school. The participants were day and boarding students from Kasese catchment area. The first meeting was joined by one of our Board members, Mrs Ivy Chihana. The Board Chair interacted with the students and encouraged them to work hard in class. The students explained a lot about their academic life and their goals and were able to ask speak out their concerns and challenges. It was observed that the students marveled at the interaction and they learnt a lot from the experiences of the board chair.



Board chair interacting with students

Secondly, OCA representatives met with the students again to further encourage them and give them some resources which will help them in their academic life. The resources include;

- I. Sanitary pads
- II. Toothpaste and tooth brushes
- III. Body lotion
- IV. Bathing soap
- V. Pairs of socks
- VI. Pens
- VII. Chocolates/candy



Students pose with their presents

2. Visit to schools

The education program manager visited Mlanda girls, Nkhamenya girls and Madisi secondary schools and St. Peters primary school in the month of July. It was the time when students were approaching their end of year exams. Students were encouraged to work extra hard and prepare well for the coming exams.



Form four girls Andria (left) and Princes (right) standing for a pose in their classroom

Challenges

There are a lot of needy or vulnerable students compared to the capacity of the current scholarship support.