



MONTHLY REPORT

JULY 2019

BY

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MISSION TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

OCA received board members and also visitors/volunteers from USA who were in Malawi from 20th to 27th July 2019. The team members included Micheal Tenny, Scott Beathard, Ryan Tenny, Will Hayes, Ben Dendy, Lori Conley, & Alexandria Nieves. The team participated in all the programs and thus Healthcare, Education, Agriculture, Water and Sanitation. The team also played an advisory role in administration and facilities management. The team also assisted much during mobile clinics and in our Health Centre. It was an exciting week and a lot was achieved during this week as shown in pictures below;



Visit to an Irrigation club



Ben Chatting with a Child



Ngala mountain Hiking



Lexi and Lori teaching kids how to colour pictures



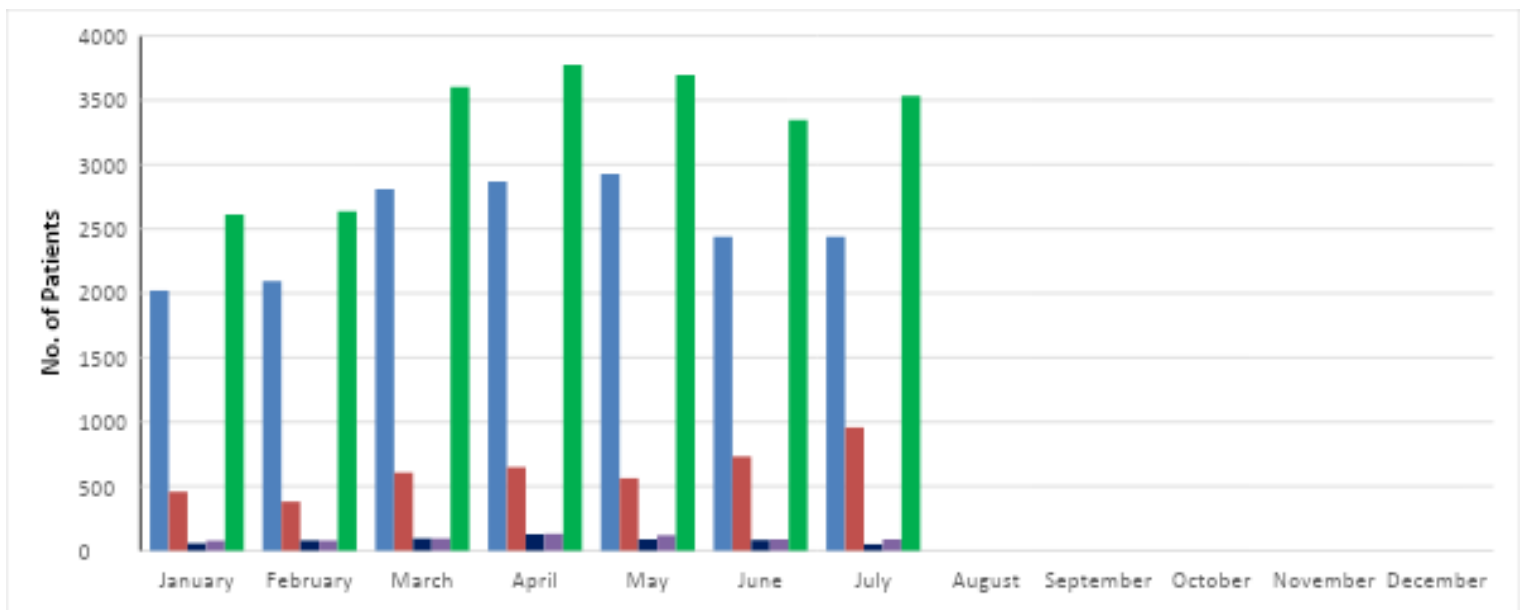
Visit at BOMFA

HEALTHCARE PROGRAM

Introduction

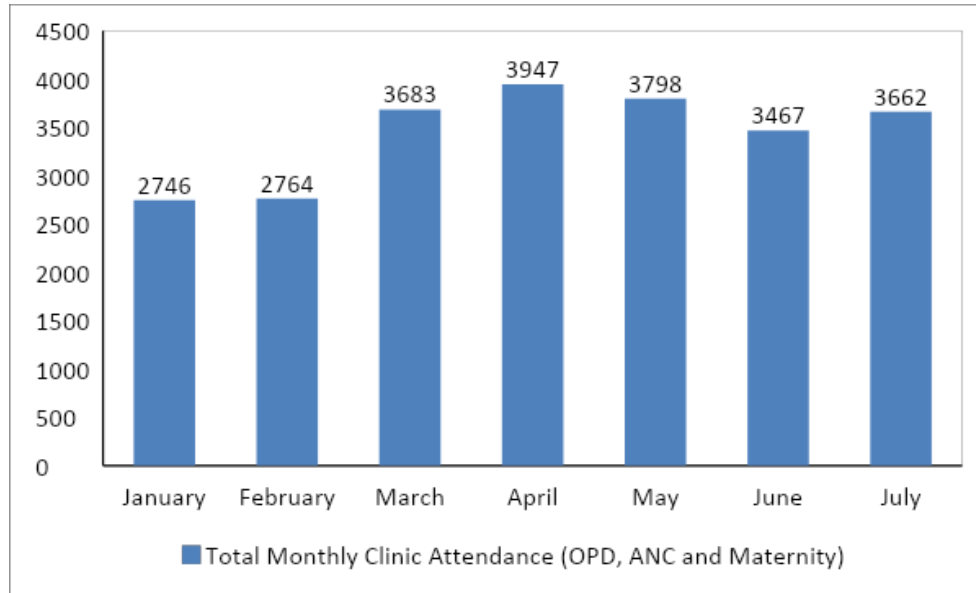
Orant Charities Africa (OCA) operates a rural health centre in the community of Kasese in coordination with the Ministry of Health through the Dowa district Health Office (DHO). Kasese Health Centre provide the following curative services; outpatients clinic, 24hrs children's observation and admission ward, maternal health like obstetrics (Antenatal care & deliveries) and gynecology services, family planning and cervical cancer screening. OCA also conducts Outreach clinics and patients are provided with healthcare services right in their villages. Preventative health and promotion services are conducted through public health program (which includes nutrition, growth monitoring, and immunizations). The healthcare program in its provision of services also work in collaboration with other stakeholders like St Andrews hospital, and other non-governmental organizations such Reach Trust. Kasese catchment area has a population of approximately 36,320. The distance to the nearest government hospital is 78km, and to Madisi hospital which is under Christian health association is around 7km.

Clinic patient's attendances (OPD, outreach, children's ward and weekends / nights)



The Health Centre saw **3,535** patients in OPD, outreach and children ward. **50** children of the age between 2 months and 12 years were admitted at 24 hours' children's ward, outreach clinics team saw **958** patients, in Kasese catchment areas and majorities are elderly and other vulnerable groups who find distance and cost as a barrier to healthcare access. The health care main problem at this time of the year is diarrhea diseases and there was an outbreak of chicken pox.

Below graph shows-Summary of Total Monthly patient attendance in all departments (OPD, ANC and Maternity)



Success story

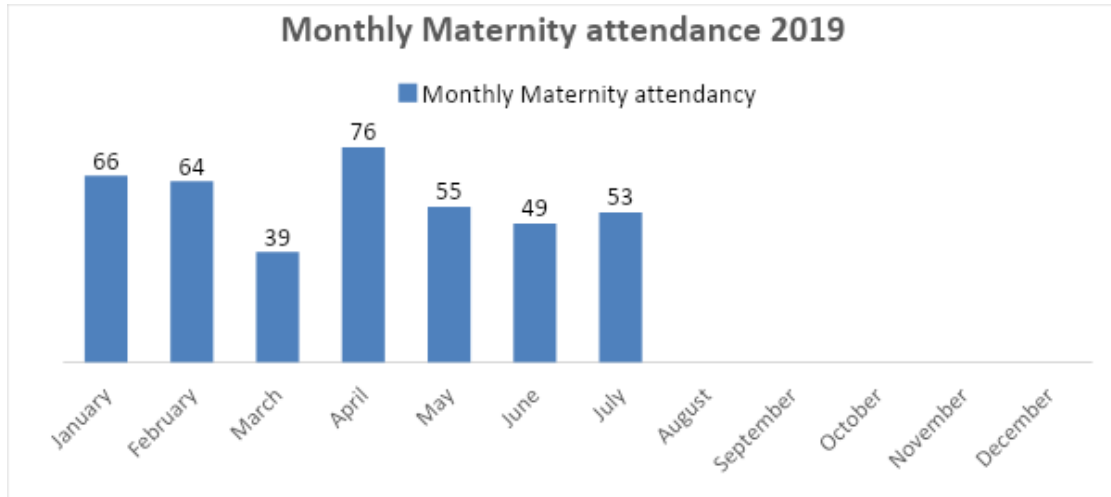


Kasese Health Centre nurses and clinicians are proud of baby ASHAB YOBU who was born with a condition called Gastrochisis, congenital condition that occurs when an opening forms in the baby abdominal wall and the baby's bowel pushes through the hole. Usually, the prognosis in Malawi is poor, but she is lucky to have undergone successful surgery at KCH where she was referred to. Now the baby is 4 months old and growing healthy.

Maternal and child healthcare

The health Centre continues to provide excellent maternal and neonatal health care. During the month of July the Health Centre attended to **53** mothers in labour ward, conducted **41** spontaneous vertex deliveries (SVD) at the facility, all attended by skilled nurses. Twelve mothers with prolonged labour were referred to Madisi hospital for further management, which includes C/S. One neonate weighed less than

2500gram, two had signs of prematurity and one infant had asphyxia during birth. All deliveries were single tones.

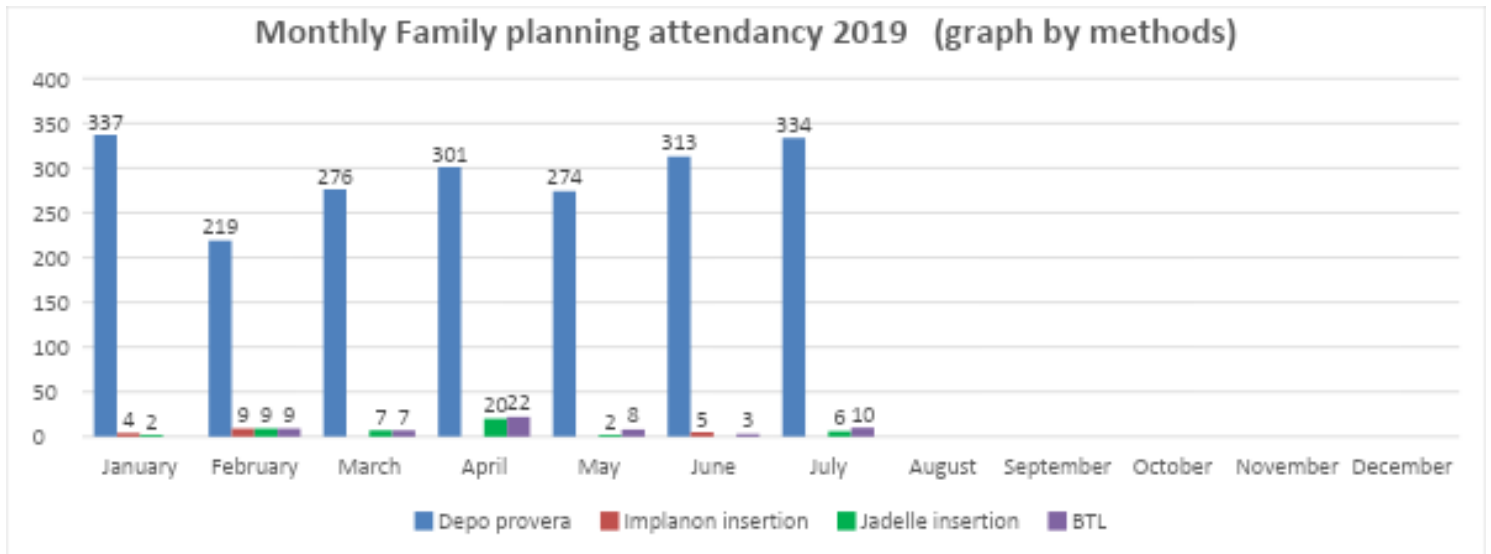


Cervical cancer screening (VIA)

Cancer of the cervix remains amongst the top three leading cause of death in Malawi. In addressing this problem, the health Centre conduct routine visual screening of cervix using acetic acid to women of childbearing age between 25 to 49 years, and for the month of July 2019 the health Centre screened **52** women, none were positive.

Family planning clinic

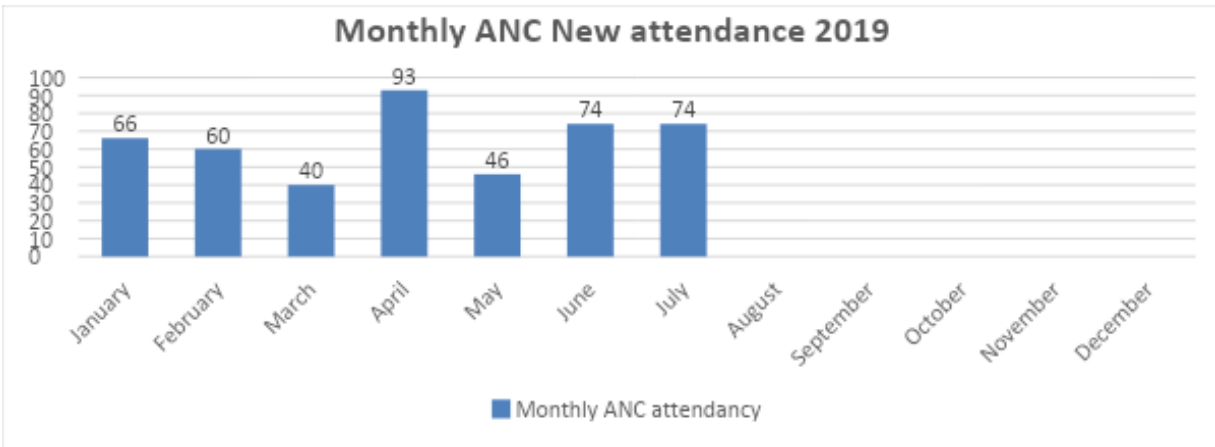
In accordance to with ministry of health (MOH) and partnership with BLM the health Centre provide family planning methods which includes: oral pills, injectable and Implanons to women of reproductive age as per their choice and medical indications, The graph below shows the number of clients who access different methods .



Antenatal Care (prenatal care)

The health Centre conducts prenatal clinics twice a week, on Tuesday for those enrolling for the first time and Thursdays for subsequence visit.

Below is the graph showing monthly antenatal attendance.



Laboratory services

The health Centre does basic Laboratory test befitting primary health care level, mostly rapid test strips and basic microscopic tests (Tb and malaria). As for the month of July 2019, the lab did the following tests;

Malaria test

A total of **1,758** malaria test done and those positive were **555** and negative test were **1,207** this represent less than 50% positivity rates. This trend is common at this time of the year, when the malaria infection is low. Patients above five years; total test done **1,052**. Positive 331 and 721 tested negative. For those who are under five years; total tested for malaria 706, those with positive malaria 224, and negatives were 482.

- H. pylori's Total test done 115, positive 23 and negative 92.
- VDRL- Total test done 24, positive 4 and negative 20.
- Pregnancy test- (HCG) Total test done 52, positive- 26, negative 26.
- T,B test - total microscopy done 4, none was positive.
- Salmonella test (typhoid test) total test done 4 positive 1 negative 3.

Clinic Administration

The health Centre received board members (Michael and Scott) from Orant Charities USA, accompanied by volunteers from the USA. Overall, during their supportive supervision they commented on the outstanding work and the cleanliness of the facility. They advised on the need of proper scheduling and

reduction of locums. In addressing the above, clinic work schedule has been revised, this is in line with these recommendations in order to minimize overtimes and locums, therefore the clinic will be closed during weekends, and public holidays only emergencies will be attended to and it includes maternity cases.

The board members also advised senior managers to take a leading role in fundraising which includes writing project proposal for Grants. As of now, a proposal for eye clinic is being drafted in coordination with an eye specialist who conducts eye clinics at Kasese Health Centre. Such proposals can be sent to possible donors like TOPCON . The board members also talked OCA management team about importance of good stewardship, transparency and accountability. These are important for sustainability, retaining donor trust as well as efficiency and effectiveness in program implementation. The Health Centre also received donations of medicine, medical equipment and medical supplies from USA, which included drugs, Stethoscopes, ETTS, batteries, touches just to mention but a few.

Girls empowerment network (GENET) and Dowa district council in coordination with OCA has introduced new program in Kasese Health Centre in Youth friendly health service. The youths aged between 10 and 24 years are drawn from Kasese catchments areas, will receive health education on preventive and curative health services. They meet weekly on Wednesdays. Below is a picture of youths receiving health education from health provider.



Health Finance

For this reporting month of July 2019, the clinic managed to collect **MK 1,356,200** and exempted **165** patients. The healthcare program also assisted good number destitute patients with transport and payment of hospital bill and other payments amounting to **K463.455**.

Summary

During the month of July, the health Centre introduced youth friendly health services, and continued with autonomous outreach clinic which extend to Kasungu district. Malaria incidence has declined and in total, the health Centre saw 3662 patients, the number includes antenatal and maternity cases. There was an outbreak of chicken box and scabies. The health Centre had no shortage of medicine and

medical supplies. The health Centre assisted 165 patients by providing transport and some hospital bills paid on their behalf by OCA.

WATER PROGRAM



1. Introduction

Orant Charities Africa (OCA)-Water program in the month of July 2019, focused on increasing steady access to water supply service and sanitation in its impact area. This was done in pursuit of the goal to ensure sustainable access to water and sanitation services in Kasese Area. Activities that were lined up included borehole drilling, Water quality testing, water well repairs, as well as capacity building for Water point committees. In this report, a detailed account of the aforementioned activities has been made to highlight the impact so far. The report starts by providing a summary of activities and their impact followed by a detailed narration.

2. Progress on Work Plan

No	Planned Activities	Target	Achievement	Reach / Participants		
				Male	Female	Total
1.	Borehole Drilling and Construction	01	01	NA	NA	628
2.	Water Quality Testing	01	01	NA	NA	NA
3	Updating Madzi Alipo database.	09	09	NA	NA	NA
4	Capacity building for Community members in borehole repair and maintenance.	12	12	7	5	12
5	Borehole Repair	NA	08	NA	NA	

3. Narration of Activities.

3.1 Borehole Drilling and Construction

During the reporting period, approximately 628 more people were given the gift of potable water through the new borehole that was drilled in Chadzerakuti village. The people of Chadzerakuti used to drink from unprotected hand dug wells and streams during dry season. The drilled borehole is expected to solve a water crisis that has been there since time in memorial to the people of Chadzerakuti and surrounding villages.



Image (left) completed well and image (right) drilling in progress

3.2. Water Quality Testing and Analysis.

Following the drilling of a new borehole in Chadzerakuti 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 for results indicated that the water was fit for human consumption.

3.3 Updating Madzi Alipo database.

In order to enhance the efficiency in water facility management, OCA adopted the use of a web-based application called Madzi Alipo. This application tracks functionality status of water facilities in Kasese catchment. As of June ,2019, 89 of the 109 reported water facilities had been imported into the database. In July 10 more water points were captured and imported, the target is to have all the 109

water points captured and monitored through this application by August end. This will assist OCA to have a detailed map of all water points in the catchment area.

3.4 Capacity building for Community members in borehole repair and maintenance.

In the spirit of enhancing functionality rate of boreholes and reduce down time of water facilities, OCA trains community members to conduct minor repairs and preventive routine maintenance on their water facilities. During the reporting period, OCA trained 12 members from Chadzerakuti village who have since been entrusted to run the affairs of their borehole and see to it that it is properly maintained. Specifically, the training was aimed at achieving the following objective;

- 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 water program staff. The training was successfully done and it envisaged that the community will be able to sustainably operate and maintain the water facility.

3.5. Borehole Repairs

OCA is advocating for Community based management of water supply facilities in which the community takes charge and ownership of water supply facilities using communities’ own resources. There are some repairs which the communities need to be supported. OCA supports communities with major repairs. During the reporting month, OCA supported repair of 07 boreholes as outlined in the table below;

SN	GVH	VH	Repair(s) Done	Number of Users on the Repaired Borehole
01	Chiliphiza	Chiliphiza primary school	1 fulcrum pin, 4 bush bearings,13 rod centralizers,1 cup seal,2 Bobins	1640

02	Nankumba	Chazaila	6 sockets,1fulcrum pin, 4 bearings, 12 rod centralizers, 2 pipes, 4 rod steel 2 Bobin, 1cup seal	469
03	Buza	kapundu	2 pipes, 6 sockets 12 rod centralizers, 2 rods, 4 bearings	1265
04	Nambera	Ntata	4 sockets,2 pipes 3 rods,12 rod centralizers,4bearings	430
05	Nkhandwe	Nkhandwe	Cylinder, 4 rod steel, 12 rod centralizers, 6 sockets 4 bearings, 6 pipes, 12 pipe centralizers, 1 corn plate 1 corn rubber 1cup seal 2 Bobin 1-foot valve 1 rubber flapper 1 rope 1 Brass plunger 1 O-ring Solvent cement	419

06	M'biya	Mseule 2	1 Rubber flapper,10 Rod centilisers,9 rod steel,1-foot valve, 2 Bobins 4 bush bearings, 1 corn plate	260
07	M'biya	Mseule 1	cup seal, rubber flapper, hunger pin, 6 pipes, 4 sockets, 1 cylinder, 3 rods	412



Images showing repairs in progress

4. Conclusion

The month of July, 2019, was another great as the water program managed to serve communities as per its plan. Additional 628 people now have sustainable access to water through the new borehole that has been given and hundreds of others from 07 villages have been given a chance to see their borehole work again and enjoy good health.

AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

In the month of July 2019, agriculture department carried out several activities supporting smallholder farmers in improving there farming practices as outlined in this report. The activities during the month focused much on irrigation clubs and school garden.

Irrigation clubs

On irrigation project, the activities focused on training farmers on tomato staking, tomato pruning, fertilizer application in maize crops, pesticides application and sucker's removal in maize plants.

1.1 Training on tomato pruning

Smallholder farmers were trained in pruning with an aim of maximizing photosynthetic efficiency and minimize risk of pests and disease. Kasangadzi irrigation club was trained in pruning tomato by the use of knife or finger tips. Pruning in tomato involves the removal of suckers. These are the shoots that are formed in the axils where side branches 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 into smaller fruit 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. Farmers are 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 large fruits which is mostly liked by the customers.



1.2 Training on tomato staking

Staking is done in tomato production to ensure cleaner and healthier tomatoes. Staking training was being conducted at Kasangadzi irrigation club farmers with an aim of keeping tomato fruits off from ground. The aim of the training was to reduce losses from fruit rots when fruit touches the ground (soil). Farmers are also trained on importance's of staking tomato as supported tomato plants are easier to spray or dust for insect and disease control and easier to harvest than those sprawling in the ground. The method of staking which was encouraged to the farmers were by the use of steaks which is readily and commonly available in their area.



1.3 Training on fertilizer application in maize crops

Maize is the staple food in Malawi and Mantchedza irrigation club is practicing maize production where top dressing fertilizer was done. UREA is the type of the fertilizer being applied at the rate of 5 grams per planting station and the farmers were trained on the recommended fertilizer for top dressing and the recommended rate. UREA fertilizers are essentially carriers of Nitrogen which facilitate vegetative growth and fruiting. Farmers were also trained on using dollop method as it ensures proper use of fertilizer by targeted plant hence reducing cost of production.

1.4 Training on sucker removal in maize crops

Suckers in Maize affect yield as it competes for food with main plant. Mantchedza club members were also trained on importance of removing the suckers in maize. Suckers are vegetative or reproductive

shoots that grow from the axillary buds on the lower five to seven stalk nodes of a maize plant. They are identical to the main stalk and can even form their own root system, nodes, leaves, ears and tassels. These suckers don't have enough time to develop into mature ears before the weather turns and frost kills them. Farmers were trained on side effects of keeping suckers in maize plants as suckers compete for food, pesticide and water with main crop resulting into reduced yield.

1.5 Training on proper watering in crops

Maize crops need water starting immediately after planting and it needs a lot of a water during a period of tassel emergence. Well timed irrigation also eliminates moisture stress during critical plant growth periods and helps the crop efficiently use fertilizer and other inputs e.g. pesticides. Mantchedza irrigation club farmers were supported with watering canes by OCA. The farmers were also trained on properly use of those watering canes and trained on watering crops timely as late watering will cause yield losses while irrigating too much will waste energy, money and water and also cause leaching of nutrients.



Watering Maize in progress

School garden

School garden's helps learners understand the agricultural principles learned in class. The economy of Malawi being more agricultural based, Agriculture lessons are very important. Sowing of vegetables was conducted at Mndinga primary school where seeds of Mustard, Rape and Chinese cabbage were sown. Sowing was done on mother beds using broadcasting method where later will be transplanted into mother beds. Despite being holiday period, learners were encouraged to participate in watering during holiday and learners starting from standard 5 up to 8 were given special days for them to participate in watering the garden hence the work to be continuous during holiday.

Future Irrigation Projects

Irrigation projects are improving lives of many people in the village. Irrigation projects provides employment to the people in the village, helps them learn more best agricultural practices and helps the community have more food or money compared to simply relying on rain-fed Agriculture. As such it is necessary to promote the irrigation clubs. However, to ensure sustainability, there is need of using

sustainable approaches such as Microloans. In this case, Microloans for agricultural inputs will be disbursed to irrigation clubs and the clubs will pay back the loans at the end of the growing season. Issues to do with disasters such as droughts or flooding will be taken into consideration to ensure that the irrigation clubs prosper even in uncertainties. OCA has started engaging irrigation clubs to discuss more about the Microloan approach.

EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM

In this month, students were writing end of final term exams and they also went for holiday in the same month. The other academic year is expected to start in September. OCA Education Program visited a few schools in this month since the students were writing exams and they were not to be disturbed. During the same reporting period, OCA received Board members and visitors from USA who were interested to know and learn a lot from the education program.

The following is the update for OCA education program in the month of July, 2019.

I. Rotary students

Previously, OCA had 30 students sponsored by Rotary but is now remaining with 21 students. The number has dropped down because 8 students from Nkhamenya girls secondary school have written their Malawi School Certificate of Education exams (MSCE) and one student from Chamkango Community Day Secondary School (CDSS) dropped out due to pregnancy. At Nkhamenya girls secondary school, OCA was sponsoring a total of 19 students and 11 students are remaining, these 11 students will be in forms 2,3 and 4 in the next academic year beginning September, 2019. The other 10 students sponsored by Rotary are in 7 different schools and they will all be in form 3 in the coming academic year.

In the month of July, OCA education program together with its Board members and visitors/volunteers from USA visited students at Nkhamenya Girls secondary school. It was when the students had finished writing their end of final term exams and the visitors went to interact with the students by encouraging them to work hard and wished them good luck as they go for the holiday.



OC USA visitors/volunteers being welcomed at Nkhamenya girls secondary school

II. Geo shack students

Since 2018/2019 academic year, OCA has 42 students sponsored by Geo shack donors. OCA is happy that in this first academic year none of the students dropped out and all of them will be in form 2 in the coming academic year (2019/2020). Students sponsored by Geo shack are from 8 different schools thus; Chayamba secondary school, Byanzi secondary school, Dowa secondary school, Dzenza secondary school, Likuni girls secondary school, Lilongwe girls secondary school and Ngala Community Day Secondary School (CDSS). All these students wrote their final term exams in the month of July and have gone for a 7 weeks' holiday.

III. OCA Students

Students being sponsored directly by OCA are in three categories; Primary students, Secondary students and University students.

Primary students

OCA is sponsoring 3 students in primary school. Two students; **Omega** and **Christopher** are at St. peters secondary school in Mponera. In the coming academic year (2019/2020) Christopher will be in standard 7 and Omega will be in standard 5. Another student is **Modester Patrick** from Chapuwala village, she is studying at Embangweni school for the deaf since she is deaf. When OCA started sponsoring her, she has been a happy student and she is doing very great and in the next academic year she will be in standard five.



Christopher and Omega at school



A happy girl, Modester

Secondary students

OCA sponsored 15 students; 14 day-school students and 1 boarding student in the last academic year (2018/2019). As of now 12 day-school students and 1 boarding student (a girl with Albinism) because two students dropped out due to pregnancies. OCA is working hard to identify other needy students who will take the place of the two students who dropped out. Those who dropped out are being encouraged to go back to school next year (2020). The 12 day students will be in form 3 in the next academic year and the 1 student in boarding school will be in form 2.

University Students

Three Students are being sponsored by OCA at University level. One student is **John Nyirenda** studying Nursing at Embangweni college of Nursing in his final year and will finish studies in August 2019. After that he is expected to write examinations from the Nurses Council. John has interests to work with Orant Charities and has been volunteering in the past while he was a student. The other one is **Alick Nathan**, studying Metallurgy and Materials Engineering at Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST). Alick is in third year and his course covers 5 years.

OCA education program visited another student, **Princess** at Salima Technical college. Princes is in her first year of study and her course covers 2 years. She is studying Rural and community development. The aim of visiting her was to encourage her to work extra hard and also to give her some items which was given to her by **Michael Tenny** when he visited Malawi.



The College student; Princess Phiri holding her items given by Michael Tenny

IV. OCA Visitors

In the month of June, OCA received visitors from USA. The Visitors also included OCA board members. The visit was to check on the progress of activities of OCA programs. They had time to interact with the education program personnel and it was a great chat because the main agenda was to discuss on how the education program is progressing and the way to move forward.