



MONTHLY REPORT

JUNE 2019

BY

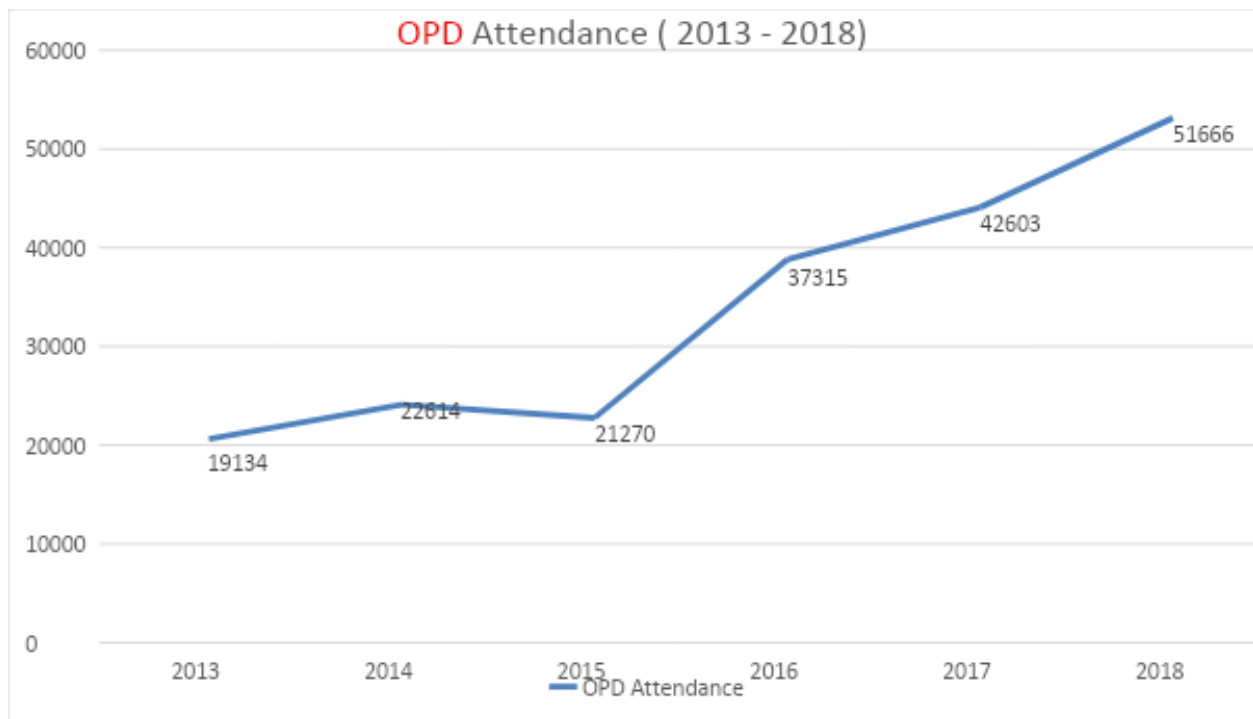
GABRIEL KAPANDA  
(COUNTRY DIRECTOR)

## 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 5km.

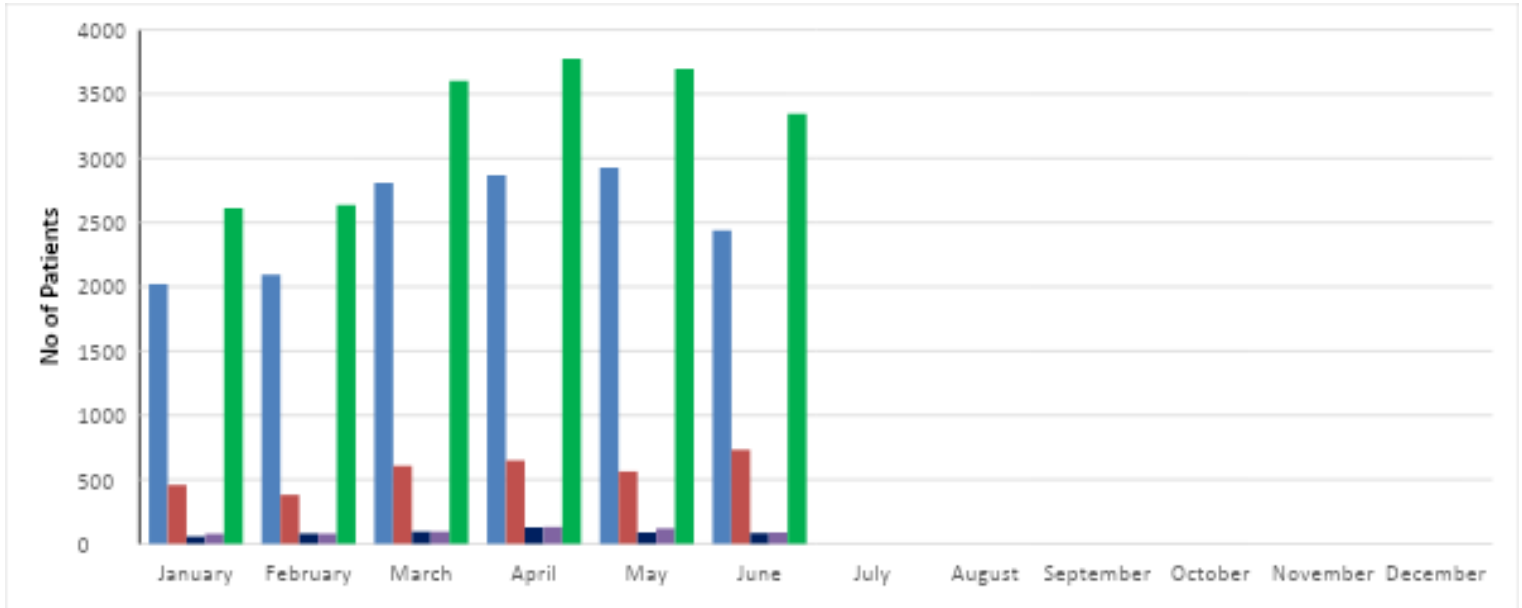
### Annual Patients Statistics



The graph above shows annual patients attendance since 2013 to 2018.

Orant charities Africa took over from lifeline in the year 2015, did renovations of the facilities and then started operating all the clinic services, as you can see the patient's annual attendance has risen since then and there are no signs of decreasing soon, meaning many patients can now access the healthcare in our catchment areas and beyond, in comparison to the year 2013 and 2014.

**Clinic monthly patient's attendances (Months of January to June 2019 graph)**



The health Centre saw a total **3,344** patients. **84** children age between 2 months and 12 years were admitted at 24 hours' children ward, outreach clinics team saw **732** patients, and majorities are elderly who find distance as a barrier to healthcare access. Note that the 732 patients seen excludes those seen in Kasungu by the Mobile clinic. For more information on the mobile clinic., **see the attached outreach clinic report**. The eye clinic conducted by eye specialist Dr Nyaka saw **55** patients, 7 booked for eye surgery. **The picture to the left shows Dr Nyaka examining the eyes for elderly woman using fundoscope.**

**Maternal and child healthcare**

The health Centre Continues to provide excellent maternal and neonatal care. The month of June the health Centre assisted 49 mothers in labor ward, **48** delivered at the facility, all were attended by our skilled nurses. However, one mother was referred to Madisi hospital due to pre-eclampsia. Two neonates weighed less than 2500gram and two infants were asphyxiated during birth.

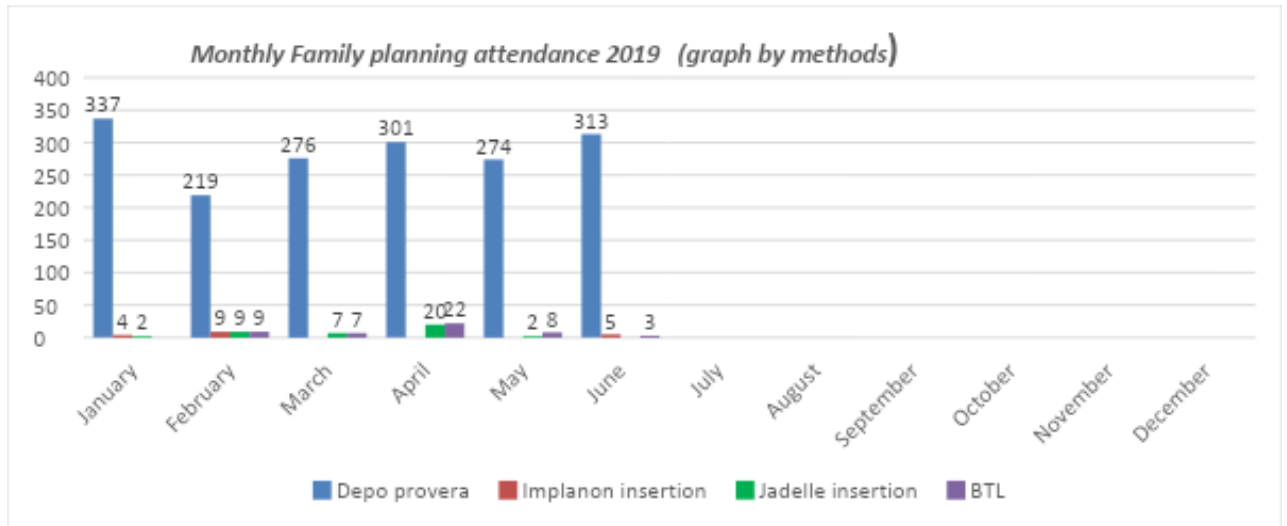
One delivered through vacuum extractions and we had one set of twins.

### Cervical cancer screening (VIA)

Cancer of the cervix remains amongst the top three leading cause of death in Malawi among women. 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 May 2019 the health Centre screened **14** women and 1 case had positive test.

### Family planning clinic

In accordance to with ministry of health (MOH) and BLM the health Centre provide oral, injectable and

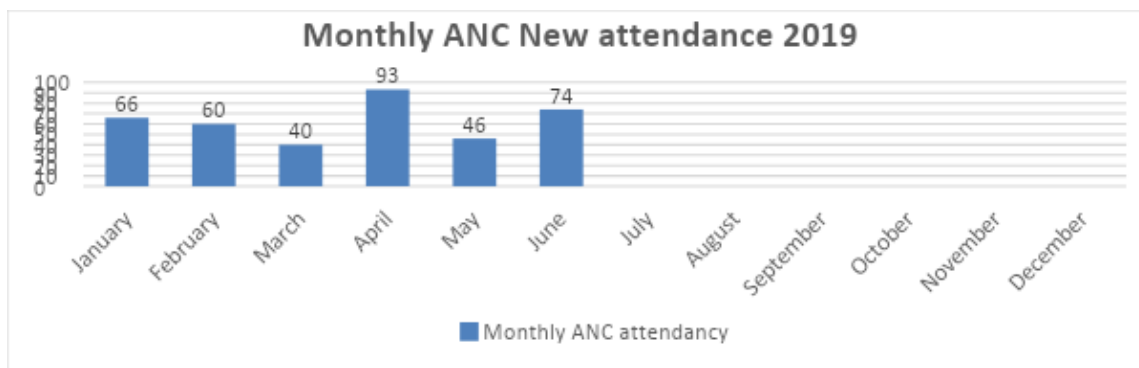


implanons family planning methods to women of reproductive age as per their choice and medical indication, above is the graph showing the number of clients who accessed different methods .

### 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.



## Clinic administration

The health Centre received supervisors from the Ministry of Health (MOH) who came to audit HIV testing and counseling services. Overall, the health Centre's HTC service is update and it has been upgraded from level 3 to level 4 after scoring 92%. However, there was some few observations which deserved immediate actions and includes: standard operating procedures especially at testing site, result file for external quality control, observation checklist, and door tags that indicate if the counseling is in progress.

Kasese health Centre with the support from Girls empowerment network (GENET) and Dowa district council has introduced new program on 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.

One of the nurses Marry Kadzola attended a two weeks in service training on cervical cancer screening held in Dedza organized by ministry of health (MOH). Participants were from all over the country. The main objective of the training wass to equip health workers with knowledge and skill on diagnosis and treatment of cancer of the cervix. In addition, Malawi government through ministry of health recently introduced vaccine ( Gardarcil) to girls aged group 9 to 13 years.

## Health Finance

The health Centre major funding is from donors, which the health Centre receives every month, in addition to the donors the health Centre charge a small fee from patients, which is called user fees. User fee collection is the little money the patients pay at the clinic entry. The cost is within the means and resources of our average community member. However, those who cannot afford are not barred from accessing the service, while others are exempted according to the user fee policy. For this reporting month of June 2019, the clinic managed to collect **MK 756,700** and exempted **113** patients. The healthcare program also assisted a good number of destitute patients with bus fare and payment of hospital bill amounting to **K166,880**.

## WATER PROGRAM

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, OCA Water Program carried out various activities which includes;

- Borehole Drilling and Construction
- Water Quality Testing and Analysis
- Capacity building for 12 Community members in borehole repair and maintenance.
- Repair of 10 boreholes.

## **Borehole drilling and construction**

OCA drilled 3<sup>rd</sup> borehole of 2019 where 1265 people now have a reliable source of water that is not only safe for consumption but also safe from wild attacks. The borehole was drilled in Kapundu village under GVH Buza where people were previously drawing water from the nearby by river which is infested with crocodiles. In 2018 people of Kapundu village lost 2 people- a mother and kid to a crocodile attack as the mother was drawing water from the river. The drilling of this borehole will go a long way to help to access clean water and also prevent save lives from crocodile attacks.



*From left to right: Previous water source, Borehole construction works and Borehole curing after construction*

## **Water Quality Testing and Analysis**

Following the drilling of a new borehole in Kapundu 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.

## **Capacity building for Community members in borehole repair and maintenance**

In the spirit of enhancing the functionality rate of boreholes and reduce the 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 Kapundu 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 (HAS) – 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.

**Repair of 10 boreholes.**

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. During the reporting period the Water Program Team in collaboration with WPCs and Area Mechanics managed to complete 10 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;

| SN | VH       | Repair(s) Done  |
|----|----------|---|
| 01 | Gauzi    | 4 sockets, 2 rod steel, 8 rod centralizers, 4 bearings, foot valve, 2 pipes, 1 cup seal, fulcrum pin, hunger pin.   |
| 02 | Chimamba | 11 rod centralizers, 4 bearings, 1rubber flapper 1 cup seal, foot valve, brass plunger, pump handle.                |
| 03 | Mnkwichi | 7 pipes, 8 sockets, 12 rod centralizers, 1 foot valve, 4 bush bearings, 1 fulcrum pin, cylinder, pump head, handle. |
| 04 | Nambera  | Inner Parts full set  |
| 05 | Joseni   | Inner parts full set  |
| 06 | Chilemba | Pump head, 4 Bush billings  |
| 07 | Katalima | 6 Pipes, 2 Sockets, 4 Bush Bearings fulcrum pin.  |

|    |              |  |
|----|--------------|--|
| 09 | Bweya school | 4 Pump rods, 6 rod centralizer, Foot valve, 2 Bobins, Cap seal 4 pipe. |
| 10 | Mkunda       | 3 pipes, 2 double end sockets, 3 pipe centralizers and hunger assembly |

The 10 boreholes repaired this month brings the total number of the repaired boreholes to 44 in 2019 as shown in graph below.

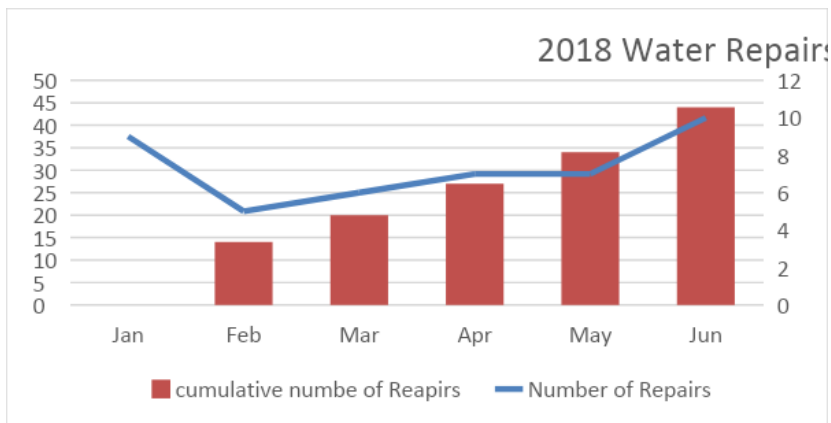


Figure 1: image (left) work in progress; team taking out pipes and (right) Graph showing repairs done in 2019

### Conclusion

The month of June 2019, was another great as the water program managed to serve communities as per its plan. Additional 1265 people (230 households) now have sustainable access to water through the new borehole that has been given and hundreds others from 10 villages have been given a chance to see other borehole work again and enjoy good health.



## AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

During the reporting month of June 2019, several activities were carried out in agriculture department supporting people in improving their farming practices. The activities carried out during reporting month targeted irrigation project, compost making through lead farmer's initiative, school garden pilot project and OCA farm.

### Irrigation Project

On irrigation project, the activities focused on training farmers on safety measures when handling chemicals, planting of maize, fertilizer and chemicals application.

### Training on safety measures when handling chemicals

Nkhamalidyetsa irrigation farmers were trained on safety measures using locally available materials in reducing risks of exposure to chemical poisoning. Considering the dangers of poisoning pesticides may cause, it is necessary to design some locally available materials to be used when handling or dealing with pesticides. The materials gathered are those that farmers can find easily and at a low price e.g. empty sacks and plastic papers. The use of gloves and apron is expensive to local farmers and hard to find locally.



*A farmer wearing a protective cloth made of local materials*

### Fertilizer application

Mantchedza irrigation club is practicing maize production and basal dressing fertilizer was applied. Maize is a heavy feeder in as far as nutrient uptake is concerned hence for normal growth and high yields NPK fertilizer was applied at the rate of 5 grams in between planting station using dollop method. D Compound was applied in tomato plants at Kasangadzi irrigation as top dressing fertilizer to improve fruit quality.



*Basal dressing fertilizer application in progress*

## **Marketing**

As Ndalusa and Timvane irrigation clubs are practicing tomato production, the crop is ready for marketing. The targeted areas for marketing the Tomato produce were secondary schools, hotels, colleges, hospitals and restaurants where better prices can be achieved. Currently the supply of Tomatoes is low in local markets and very good prices are expected with the high demand.

## **Irrigation farming demonstration**

Through partnership with Bayer in demonstration during rainy season, Bayer has shown its interest in working with OCA in irrigation farming demonstration. Demonstration has been done at Nkhamalidyetsa irrigation club in Chapuwala village where Maize crop has been planted. Bayer its main activities on this demonstration plot focus much on training farmers about chemical use and application. Farmers are being trained on different kinds of pesticides such as Decis 40 and Belt in control of different kinds of pests such as fall army worms and there recommended rates. These trainings will equip farmers under Chapuwala village with knowledge on how best they can use chemicals in different types of crops. This will help farmers to achieve better harvest since pests and diseases will be prevented or reduced.

## **Compost manure making**

OCA is training local farmers in making compost (Organic fertilizer). In every village the focal points are Lead farmers. This Organic fertilizer is being derived from animal matter, human excreta or vegetable matter as they are locally and commonly available materials in areas where farmers live. Total of 118 households from Tembo, Kapachika and Bweya villages benefited in compost manure production training during reporting month.

The methods of making compost manure included using wooden frame, Chimato, Changu (Chinese) and Bokash. Materials for making these compost manure include grass, crop residues, leaves of various plants, a booster inform of animal manure and top soil from virgin land. The list of all required materials are commonly available in areas where farmers stay hence making it simple for farmers to adopt the system. The materials required are also of low cost in comparison to inorganic fertilizer and it also supply

nutrients in succeeding years after application. Manure are important in such a way that it supplies plants with nutrients in forms that can be easily taken up. Compost manure improves top soils structure through the supply of organic matter which in turn improves root penetration, permeability, water retention capacity, resistance to soil erosion and aeration in the soil. Compost manure also reduces leaching of nutrients and improves soil microbial activities.



*Demonstrating compost manure production*

Farmers were also trained in ploughing the field before making ridges. Ploughing the field early helps in breaking pests cycle which are found in soils during dry season e.g. fall army worms through exposure to sunlight. The ploughing depth was highly encouraged to be 30cm dip. Ploughing also helps in improving infiltration of water and aeration.

### **School garden**

Primary school going children are enjoying working on garden project where they are able to gain some knowledge on garden management. It has been found that some learners are able to practice garden activities in their homes through backyard garden. Some parents are impressed with the project since their children are able to practice a home backyard garden through knowledge and experience gained during trainings conducted at schools. Teachers are also impressed with the project since they are able to see some difference in performance of learners in class especially in subjects concerned with agriculture work.

### **OCA Farm**

Activities in line with OCA farm focused on treating the Maize produce through fumigation to keep self from weevil's attacks. Fumigation was done on the Maize harvest which was shared with the tenant and Maize from demonstration plot with an aim of keeping or maintaining the quality of Maize produce for good and competitive market. The total bags treated were 50 where 30 bags were from OCA demonstration plot and 20 were from shared crop by OCA tenant.

Bagging of the unshelled shared Groundnuts from OCA tenant was done and 140 bags of groundnuts were packed each bag holding 3.14 pales. This gives a total of 440 pales as total quantity which was shared by OCA tenant considering crop share of 28 percent as it was in our farming contract agreement.



Packaging have been done for all 2019 harvest where quantity and estimated prices for these produce have been summarized in the table below.

| Description       | Crop       | Total outcome (bags) | Total outcome (kgs) | Expected Price (Mk) | Expected income (MK) |
|-------------------|------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| OCA demonstration | Soya       | 2                    | 95                  | 400/kg              | 38,000               |
|                   | Groundnuts | 10                   | 30 pales            | 2,000/pale          | 60,000               |
|                   | Maize      | 30                   | 1470                | 350/kg              | 514,500              |
| OCA leased farm   | Maize      | 20                   | 978                 | 150/kg              | 146700               |
|                   | Groundnuts | 140                  | 440 pales           | 1500/pale           | 660,000              |
| <b>Total</b>      |            |                      |                     |                     | <b>1,419,200</b>     |



*bagging and packaging of produce*

### 3. Meetings

Attended meeting at Madisi EPA where main points of discussion focused much on promoting manure production. The manure production has been encouraged to be promoted in all sections around Madisi EPA with an aim of promoting sustainable agriculture. After the meeting, a day was proposed to conduct manure launch where all farmers will be encouraged to participate and agriculture specialists from Kasungu ADD will be available during this day to deliver some important messages on manure production to the farmers.

## **EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM**

OCA education program had a great month. In this month, students in different schools were visited for encouragement, support and progress. OCA received Board of Directors and other visitors from USA in the same month. The visitors were so much interested to learn from different activities of OCA programs and education program was one of them that they had a chance to visit some students and interact with them.

The following were the students who were visited by OCA education program in June.

### **I. Rotary students**

The Education support program visited students being sponsored by Rotary donors. The students were from Nkhamenya girls secondary school. It was a great visit since OCA was accompanied by some its Board of Directors and other visitors from USA. The visitors received a warm welcome by the school Head Mistress, Sr. Mfunne, some teachers and students as well. At nkhamenya, OCA has a total of 26 students. 19 students are sponsored by Rotary, and 7 students are sponsored by Geo-shack donors. The students learnt a lot from the visitors, they had a science class project with one of the visitors (Joseph) and some science materials were left behind so that the students can be practicing on their own. They interacted well and the students were able to ask and answer questions.



*Nkhamenya students having a science discussion with Joseph*

In addition to that, the students at Nkhamenya were also taught how to make Rosaries by OCA visitors. The students were happy to learn such skill and almost everyone managed to make a Rosary of their own. Nkhamenya girls Head mistress was impressed with the knowledge and skills the students learnt from visitors and she was so thankful for the wonderful visit.



*Sr. Theresa, the head mistress admiring the Rosaries made by the students*

## **II. Geo-shack students**

OCA education program visited students being sponsored by Geo-shack. The students which were visited were from Dowa secondary school, Byanzi secondary school and Chayamba secondary school. At Dowa secondary school, OCA is sponsoring 7 girls, 6 girls at Chayamba secondary school and 4 girls at Byanzi secondary school. The aim of the visit was to check on the students' progress and encourage them to work hard in school. OCA provided some material support to the students which will help them in school. The items include; buckets, washing soap, bathing soap, toothpaste, tooth brush, body lotion, sugar, sanitary pads and toilet paper. Below are the pictures of students after receiving their material support



*Dowa secondary school students girls*



*Byanzi secondary school*



*Students from Chayamba secondary school*

The students were so happy and thankful with the items and assured OCA that they will work extra hard in their studies and pass exams since the education support given to them is so important in their lives and they now have most of the things they were lacking.

### III. **OCA Students**

OCA is sponsoring 16 students from two day schools. Ngala and Tchale community day secondary school (CDSS). At Ngala CDSS, there are 11 students in total and OCA is directly sponsoring 7 students while the other 4 are being sponsored by Geo-shack. At Tchale CDSS, there are 5 students being sponsored directly by OCA. OCA education program together with one of the Board Members from Malawi, Mrs. Ivy Chihana visited these students. It was an inspiration visit and the students were greatly inspired from what Ivy shared with them. She checked their school reports and asked them to share their views, challenges, and how they are faring in school. OCA was impressed and very thankful to Ivy for spending some time with the students to encourage them. Ivy is very much interested with visiting the students and is planning for a career guidance talk with them. Some of the challenges which these students raised include;

- Long distance to and from school
- Time management challenges. They are sometimes busy with household chores

- They need torches to use during studying at night since they stay in villages with no electricity
- Fear and being shy during menstruation periods

From the above listed challenges, there is need for some extra funds for the students in order to provide them with reusable sanitary pads. Currently, we are searching for a better market of reusable sanitary pads. These extra funds will also help in providing torches to ensure that students are able to study during the night. And for the distance to school and being busy with household chores, there is need for parents to be advised to give their children more time to study. On the other hand, students may also go to school as early as possible to study and have class discussions with fellow students so that when they go home they have already studied. In this way there can manage time properly and have a balance between school and home activities.

- Below are pictures showing Ivy having an inspiration talk with the students



*Ivy with Ngala CDSS Student students*



*Ivy with Tchale CDSS*

One of OCA previous students was also visited at her home village by the visitors from USA. This student is Princess Phiri who was studying at Nkhamenya girls secondary school and she graduated last year (2018). She passed her Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE) and has now been enrolled at Salima Technical College located in Salima district. Princess has been offered to study Rural and community development course which covers 18 months and an advanced diploma will be obtained. The school is opening on 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2019. OCA started supporting Princess when she was in primary school through Mr. Michael Tenny. Michael has so much passion in assisting girls like princess with education. He believes that “ *If girls like Princess can be educated, they have a positive impact in Malawi and will be an inspiration to other women*”.





*Michael with Princess at Princess' home village siblings*



*Princess and her younger siblings*