



MONTHLY REPORT

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ACRONMYS:

| | |
|------|---|
| OCA | - Orant Charities Africa |
| OPD | - Outpatient Department |
| ETAT | - Emergency Triage Assessment and Treatment |
| HSA | - Health Surveillance Assistant |
| CBM | - Community Based Management |
| WPC | - Water Point Committee |
| CHC | - Community Health Committee |
| LF | - Lead Farmers |
| TA | - Traditional Authority |
| DHO | - District Health Office |
| MOH | - Ministry of Health |
| WHO | - World Health Organization |
| NGO | - Non Governmental Organization |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

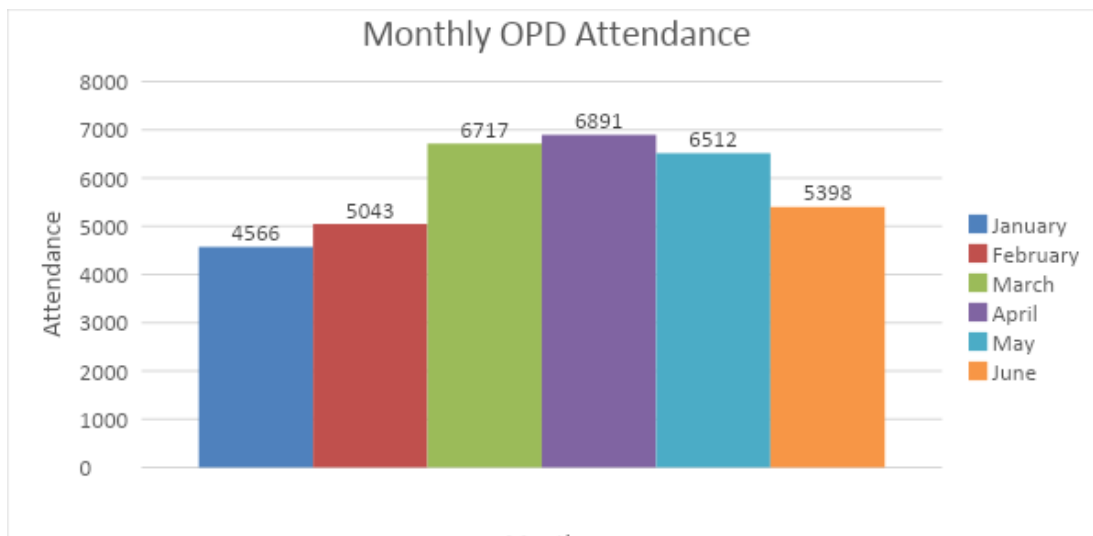
Its mid-year and Orant Charities Africa (OCA) is making tremendous progress in program implementation to achieve its goals. OCA envisions a community in which children flourish, lives are extended, the elderly have hope, young people have opportunity and souls are healed. To achieve this vision OCA implements sustainable programs in healthcare, agriculture, education and water and sanitation. OCA thrives to create a synergy in its programs to ensure that the needs and interests of the community are prioritized. OCA marvels at the effective community participation of the people from our impact areas and the unlimited support from stakeholders such as the Malawi government and other NGO's.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report covers program activities conducted in the month of June, 2018. The main activities were carried in Kasese catchment area which has a population of more than 30,000 people under TA Chakhaza, Dowa. The main donors of these activities is Orant Charities US and Rotary International.

1.1 HEALTHCARE PROGRAM

It is the goal of OCA to increase and improve the provision of healthcare in Malawi. OCA operates Kasese Health Centre in coordination with MOH. In the year 2018, Clinic attendance has been higher than all previous years this can be attributed to spreading of good reputation of Kasese Health centre services and shortage of drugs from other health centers. Figure below depicts the monthly OPD attendance.

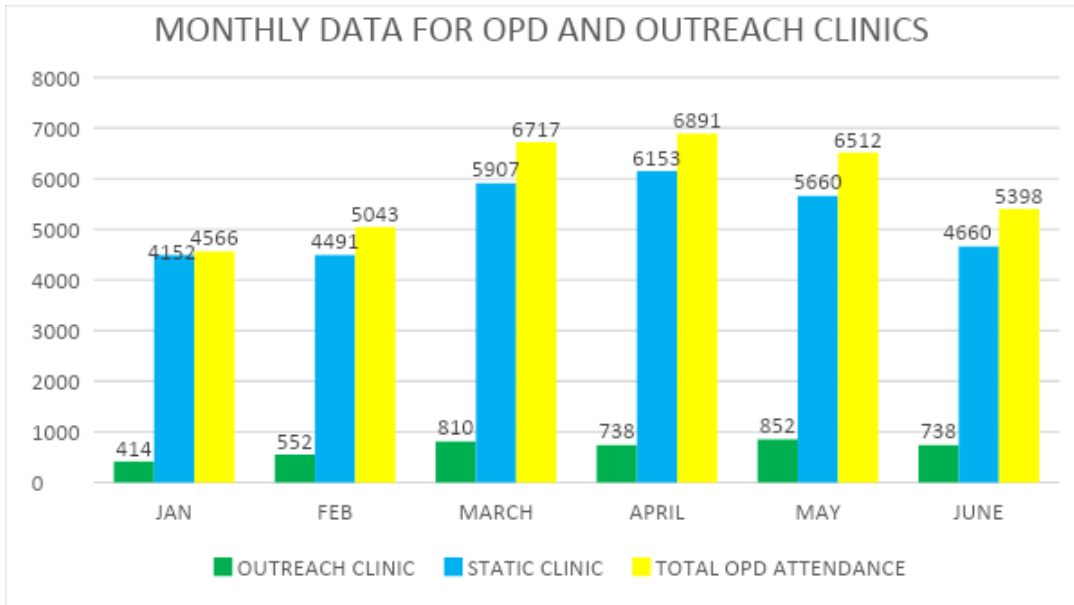


Out of the 5398 patients seen, 738 (13.7%) were assisted at outreach clinics. 57 children were admitted at 24 hours' observation ward and no deaths was recorded. 43 new babies were safely delivered in the maternity.

1.12 Outreach Clinic

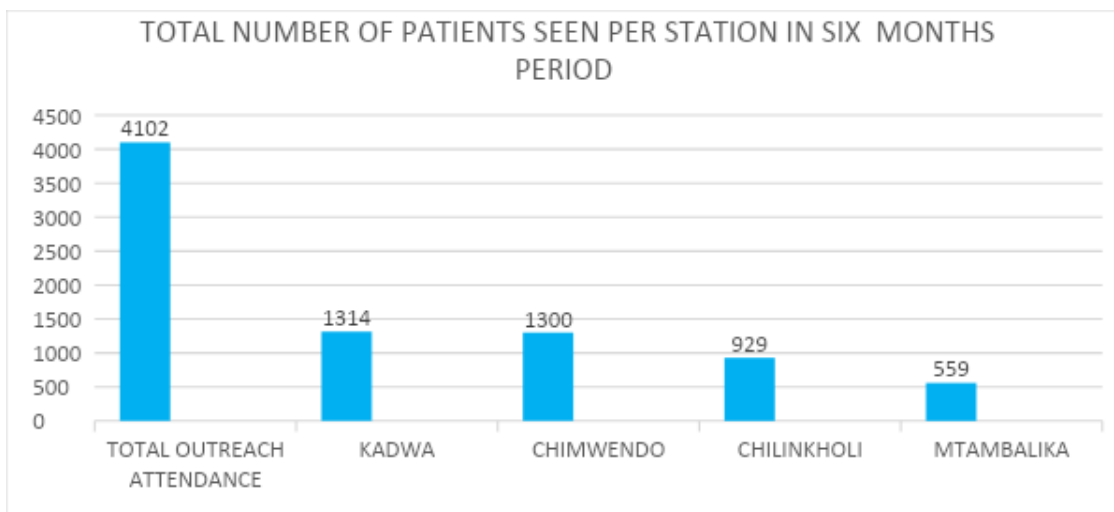
We conduct outreach clinics every Wednesdays and there are 4 out stations, namely; Chimwendo, Kadwa, Chilinkholi and Mtambalika, where we go at least once in a month to each

of the station. In response to this outreach clinic service delivery, the community has been participative enough by among other things coming in their large numbers to the clinics, help to work as volunteers and other communities (like Chimwendo) have constructed a building to be used as clinic.



January 9%,

February 10.9%, March 12.1%, April 10.7%, May 13.1% and June 13.7% of the total OPD patients seen were from outreach clinics



In this

graph, Kadwa has the highest number of patients seen from January to June where as Mtambalika has the lowest

The data displayed above shows the number of patients attended to in our 4 outreach stations from January to June 2018. The total highest number of patients was seen at Kadwa (1340) whereas the lowest at Mtambalika (559). The highest number of patients (304) was seen at Chimwendo (in a single day) in the month of May.

Outreach clinics have proved to be very helpful to the community especially those that cannot afford to walk long distances such as the elderly, disabled, very sick children who suffer in silence whilst they are in the community. Very sick elderly people and children who were neglected in their designated villages have been helped by OCA medical team and chronic cases have been referred to other health facilities for further medical attention, preventing them from other medical complications or even deaths. Outreach clinics have saved a number of lives in the community.

1.13 Staff Training

OCA values capacity building of staff as a stepping stone for improved service delivery. Clinic staff, including security guards had a 2 days training on Emergency Triage Assessment and Treatment.

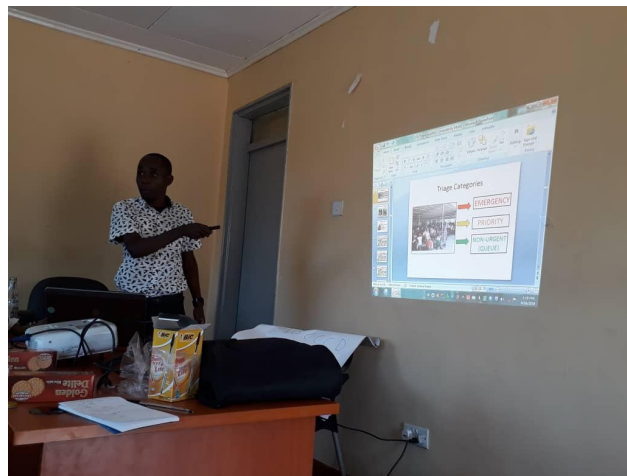


Figure 1: Facilitator Explaining ETAT

According to WHO (2005), ETAT course is designed to familiarize health workers with the ETAT guidelines and to provide them with the necessary knowledge and skills for applying the guidelines. It teaches health workers to:

- Triage all sick children when they arrive at a health facility, into those with emergency signs, with priority signs, or non-urgent cases.
- Provide emergency treatment for life-threatening condition



Figure 2: ETAT training in progress

Facilitators were from Malawi college of Health sciences, who are also MOH national trainers. The main objective of the training is to impact ETAT skills to health care workers in order for them to identify emergency, priority, and non-urgent patients and assist them accordingly. After the training there is big improvement on the patient intake flow at outpatient's department. Furthermore, health care staff relation has been effectively enhanced.

1.14 Clinic Records

Ministry of health has introduced new registers for capturing patient's data, it has been in use effective 1st June 2018.

1.15 Clinic Administration.

Monthly staff meeting was held and among the issues discussed was the evaluation of the new best practice of ETAT adapted recently, which includes patient's intake flow. In overall the new changes has eased the work at the clinic. However, it was noted that there is slight waste of lab reagent due to unnecessary lab test for under-five patients in some cases.

The renewals of medical and nurse's council registrations were done for all the clinicians, nurses and the facility.

The first meeting for health advisory committee was held, the main agenda was to make introductions and to discuss their roles and elect to the chairman.

1.16 Challenges

Outreach clinics lacks a reliable vehicle fit for rough roads to ferry staff to and from the field. It is more challenging to go to outreach clinics during heavy rains. Although the rains were not very heavy this year, a good vehicle is a prerequisite for easy mobility to outreach clinics.

2.0 WATER PROGRAM

OCA thrives to improve water quality and quantity and community access to water and sanitation services. Activities that were lined up to achieve OCA goals included borehole drilling, Water quality testing, training of Masons in pit latrine construction as well as capacity building for Water point committees. A detailed account of the aforementioned activities has been made to highlight the impact so far as outlined below;

2.1 Borehole Drilling and Construction

Additional 252 people in Kasese area can now afford access to potable water in kachigwada village of TA Chakhaza, Dowa because of a new borehole that has been drilled in the area by OCA. Before the new borehole people were drilling from unprotected sources as depicted in the image below. The drilling and construction of this new water facility was preceded by a detailed hydrogeological assessment of the area to locate water bearing zones.



Figure 3: This was the reliable source of water to people in kachigwada before OCA gave them a gift of water

Figure 4: After borehole drilling

2.11 Water Quality Testing and Analysis.

Following the drilling of a new borehole in Kachigwada 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). 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.

2.12 Water Users' Training

Water Users Committee called water point committee (WPC) was established in kachigwada village with an aim of managing the new water facility in the area. In order to build capacity of the

committee, OCA organized 5-day training in operation and maintenance of the water facility for continual health benefits.

The training had 12 participants of which 10 (4 males and 6 female) were committee members and 2 were chiefs. Technical components of the borehole, sanitation and hygiene, group dynamics and financial management were some of the topics covered during the training. The training mode of



delivery include lectures and practical sessions. Moving forward, OCA will continue to monitor and mentor the WPC to see to it that it has the undoubted capacity to manage and operate the borehole.



Figure 6: Practical Sessions

2.2 Community Training in pit latrine construction.

OCA is laboring to upscale adoption and use of improved sanitary facilities by communities around Kasese area. One strategy that OCA has taken is to employ a business model in which sanitation entrepreneurs are equipped with the necessary skills and tools to deliver sanitation needs of their respective communities.

During the reporting period, 9 Masons were trained and provided with start-up materials for constructing a corbelled latrine. A corbelled latrine is a low cost technology which withstands great pressure as well as varying soil conditions and is thus durable, less susceptible to collapsing. The trained Masons are expected to market themselves to the communities and build such latrines across Kasese catchment and beyond.



This intervention is expected in the long run to contribute to the reduction of water related diseases while at the same time economically empowering the Masons. Moving forward OCA will be monitoring the Masons closely giving them the necessary support as need may be.

2.3 Supervisory visits to Water Point Committees

OCA has in the past months been building capacity for communities to manage their own water supply facilities sustainably; this has been done through training of elected community representatives who form a WPC.

During the reporting period, OCA provided supportive supervisory visits to WPCs with an aim of monitoring how they are conducting their business and providing mentorship support where necessary. WPCs are expected to employ various approaches to maintain sanitary conditions in their water supply facilities and see to it that the water facility is providing water throughout. It was learnt that previous efforts by OCA were bearing fruits as evidenced by standard book keeping by the communities and existence of sanitary conditions around the borehole. It was also interesting to note that communities are making good use of waste water for irrigating gardens which generate income to support preventive maintenance activities of the borehole.

2.4 Borehole Repairs

OCA is advocating for Community based management (CBM) of water supply facilities in which the community takes 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. In June, OCA supported repair of 4 boreholes as outlined in the table below;

| No | Name of the Borehole | Repairs Done |
|-----------|-----------------------------|---|
| 1 | Katundu | 4 Pipes, 4 Pump rod, cup seal, Bobins, and road centralizers |
| 2 | Singo | 5 Pipes, 3 Sockets, 8 rod centralizers, Cup Seal, and foot valve. |
| 3 | Ngala | Inner parts (full set) |
| 4 | Joseni | Inner parts (full set) |

2.5 District WASH Meetings

OCA being one of the organizations working in Malawi's Dowa district, it is expected to operate and contribute towards a common district goal. In order to keep itself updated and align its activities to the bigger picture, OCA sits on District Coordinating Team (DCT) meetings. During the reporting month, 1 meeting was called upon where the following resolutions were made;

- That sanitation situation in public institutions such as markets, schools and health centers had reached worrisome levels, partners were therefore asked to consider fostering sanitation activities with a focus on improving fecal and non fecal waste management in these institutions. OCA is already working on improving school sanitation but was asked to consider expanding to markets such as Madisi Trading Centre
- That the district will hold Open Defecation Free (ODF) celebrations which will be presided over by the Minister of Health, and each partner is expected to contribute in cash or kind towards this event.

2.6 Progress of working Plan (Output Table)

| No | Planned Activities | Target | Achievement | Reach / Participants | | |
|----|--|--------|-------------|----------------------|--------|-------|
| | | | | Male | Female | Total |
| 1. | Borehole Drilling and Construction | 1 | 1 | NA | NA | 252 |
| 2. | Water Quality Testing | 1 | 1 | NA | NA | NA |
| 3 | Water Users' Training | 2 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 12 |
| 4 | Community Training in pit latrine construction | 10 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| 5 | Supervisory visits to Water Point Committees. | 5 | 5 | NA | NA | NA |

| | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|----|---|----|----|-----|
| 6 | Borehole Repair | NA | 4 | NA | NA | 840 |
|---|-----------------|----|---|----|----|-----|

2.7 Challenges

The water program rolled out a new reporting form to aid data capture, however incomplete data on the form and difficulties in filling of the form which resulted in gaps in report compilation and potentially under reporting. Continued training on quality data capturing and report compilation will continue with the Field Assistant.

3.0 AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

Provision of education and training in Agriculture is one of the goals of OCA. OCA accomplishes this goal through demonstration plots of agricultural practices on its farm, engagement with Lead farmers (LF), School garden projects and agricultural extension and trainings.

3.1 Agriculture Extension and Trainings

OCA conducted 4 trainings in four technical agricultural activities namely; Tomato staking, Manure application, Basal dressing fertilizer application and crop harvest storage using Pic bags. A total of **336** farmers were trained during these trainings. Out of the **336** trained, **54% (182)** were women. The high participation of women is an indicator that the agriculture business is not only left for men in Kasese as was in the past. The crop harvest storage using Pic bags was very welcomed by the LF who marveled at the fact that pic bags can be used for a period of 5 consecutive years which means the farmer will not be required to buy storing bags



for 4 consecutive years. PIC bags are bags used for storing grain crop varieties which include maize, soy bean, groundnuts, beans, rice e.t.c. The pic bags were developed by Purdue university in USA. The pic bags is advanced way of storing grain varieties compared to the commonly method used for storage of harvested crops. The

pic bags are advanced in a way that there is no use of pesticides which results in the farmer forgoing the cost of pesticides .

Tomato staking training targeted 3 irrigation clubs; Timvane club in Mantchondo village, Ndalusa club in Nkhandwe village and Mnthila club in chilemba village. These trainings were done in the field for the members to easily understand the procedure.



Figure 9: Irrigation Club member staking Tomato

Manure application training was conducted in 3 primary school which are Kalikulu, Kamongo and Katsuka. Timvane, Ndalusa and Mnthila irrigation club also received training on manure application. The objective of the training was for the farmers to understand the correct procedure and quantity of manure to be applied to avoid crop damage which may lead to low yield. Basal dressing fertilizer application in tomatoes training was conducted in chilemba village targeting members of Mnthila irrigation club. The training also gave a chance to other farmers who are not members of Mnthila Irrigation to attend. Table below gives a summary of trainings.

| No | Planned activity | Target/ planned | Achieved | Attendance/ participants/ beneficiaries | | |
|----|-------------------------|--------------------|----------|---|----|-------|
| | | | | M | F | Total |
| 1 | Tomato staking training | 3 Irrigation clubs | 2 | 32 | 43 | 75 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|----|----|----|-----|
| 2 | Manure application training | 3 Irrigation clubs and 3 school garden | 6 | 62 | 79 | 141 |
| 3 | Basal dressing fertilizer application training | 2 Irrigation clubs | 1 | 16 | 21 | 37 |
| 4 | Crop harvest Storage using Pic bags training | 75 Lead farmers and 8 irrigation clubs representative | 83 | 44 | 39 | 83 |

3.2 Lead Farmers Follow ups

OCA works with **75** LF who are agents of change in communities who leads by example in adopting best agricultural practices. Data was collected from **24** LF demonstration plots mainly targeting harvest per demonstration plot. The results were used to calculate the 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 from demonstration plots showed that a high yield was achieved on demonstration plots and early adopter's fields which are practicing new and good agricultural practices compared to farmers who uses traditional agriculture methods.

3.3 OCA Farm and Garden

OCA finished harvesting maize and shelling has also been completed. OCA is now banking on vegetable and tomato production in OCA garden on campus. There is good market for vegetables around Kasese trading centre.



Figure 10: Maize shelling process

3.4 Distribution of Farm Inputs

OCA supports LF, Irrigation clubs and School garden clubs with inputs for smooth crop production. The beneficiaries of these inputs are hardworking and have shown exceptional initiatives in farming. Pic bags were distributed to the lead farmers and Irrigation club representative who attended the grain storage training conducted at OCA campus. The main objective for distributing the pic bags was for the farmers to use when training their fellow farmers in their communities. Table below depicts the inputs distributed in June;

| No | Items | Target/ beneficiaries | Remarks |
|-------------------|--------------|--|---------------------|
| 1 | Pic bags | 75 lead farmers and 8 representatives from irrigation club | 64 bags delivered |
| Pesticides | | | |
| 2 | Cypermethlin | 3 irrigation clubs and 4 primary school garden | 8 bottles delivered |

| | | | |
|---|------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| 3 | Decis | 3 irrigation clubs and 4 primary school garden | 19 tubes delivered |
| 4 | Chrolipyrifos | 3 irrigation clubs and 4 primary school garden | 9 bottles delivered |
| 5 | Copper | 3 irrigation clubs and 4 primary school garden | 7 packets delivered |
| 6 | Diathen | 3 irrigation clubs and 4 primary school garden | 7 packets delivered |
| 7 | Abamectin | 3 irrigation clubs | 6 bottles delivered |
| 8 | Fertilizer (100 Kgs of NPK) | 1 irrigation club | 2 bags delivered |

3.5 District Level Coordination

Three meetings were conducted with the following platform and stakeholders; Dowa District Agriculture Executive Committee (DAEC), Auction Holdings and Agriculture Commodity Exchange (ACE). Meeting with AU and ACE was to market agricultural produce for farmers.

3.6 Challenges

Over reliance on rain-fed agriculture entails one-time agricultural production annually on OCA farm.

4.0 EDUCATION PROGRAM

OCA supports vulnerable students in education through provision of tuition and school materials. The goal of the education program is to keep students in schools, see them graduate and be able to develop the nation of Malawi. A number of activities are conducted in the education program such as support visits, carrier guidance, strengthening parent's interests on studies of their children, among others. The following activities have been conducted;

4.1 Attending a Graduation Ceremony

OCA was invited to attend a graduation ceremony at Chamkango CDSS. The graduation was for the outgoing form four students and we were invited as one of the guest speakers to inspire the students. It is within the mission of OCA to inspire hope to others. The education support program manager inspired hope to the graduating students by acting as a role model and making a speech. Students were encouraged to work extra hard in preparation of the Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE). It was a great honor for OCA to attend this graduation ceremony and encourage the students since OCA is sponsoring 3 students at this school with funding from Rotary International.



4.2 Meeting with Parents of Sponsored Students

The aim of the meeting was to highlight the importance of parents getting involved in their children's education. And also articulate responsibilities of parents toward their children's education. It was a very fruitful meeting and OCA learnt that a lot of parents were not getting involved in their children's education. The action points raised during the meeting expects parents to;

1. Provide a supportive environment in the house
2. Connect with their children's school teachers
3. Ensure that their children are not over-scheduled
4. Encourage their children to work hard perpetually
5. Monitor how their children learn

Parents suggested monthly meetings so that we should help one another on how best our students can excel in their academics.



4.3 Visit to Secondary Schools

Nkhamenya girls and Bishop Mtekateka secondary and St. Peters primary are some of the schools visited in the month of June. Nkhamenya girls secondary school was visited together with OCA board Chair (Mrs Ivy Chihana). The Board Chair interacted with the students and encouraged them to work hard in class. An excellent rapport was created and the students were very happy and able to interact with OCA representatives. The student explained a lot about their academic life and their goals and were able to ask questions. The students were inspired with the visit of the Board Chair and look forward to further interactions and career guidance.



Figure 13: The Board Chair interacting with students

At Bishop Mtekateka Secondary school, OCA program manager interacted with the student and the head teacher. The student was not performing well and was encouraged to work extra hard. The Head teacher assured OCA to be helping the student in areas she is not doing well. Lastly groceries were to two primary students at St. Peters primary schools. However, meeting the primary students was futile as they were busy writing weekly tests.

4.4 Challenges

Our biggest challenge so far is the poor performance of our students. The performance of most of our students is not satisfying. From the schools we have visited this month, there are a few who are doing better and also a few who are improving. To improve this situation, OCA is working hand in hand with school authorities, parents as well as students. School authorities

have assured OCA that they will be helping the students whenever possible in areas which needs improvement. Parents have also promised to take part in their children's education by encouraging them and also making sure that they are aware of what their children are learning.

4.5 Recommendations

It has been observed that one of the causes of the student's poor performance can be due to poor academic background. Most of our students were targeted before they started form 1 and they actually did better in their primary education but they are now finding difficulties in their secondary education. The second reason for poor performance could be delays in adjusting to the transition between primary and secondary schools. We expect excellent performance in form 2. For future programming, it is advisable that students selected for the sponsorship should be those who are already doing well in secondary schools.