



MONTHLY REPORT

MARCH 2020

COMPILED BY

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HEALTHCARE PROGRAM



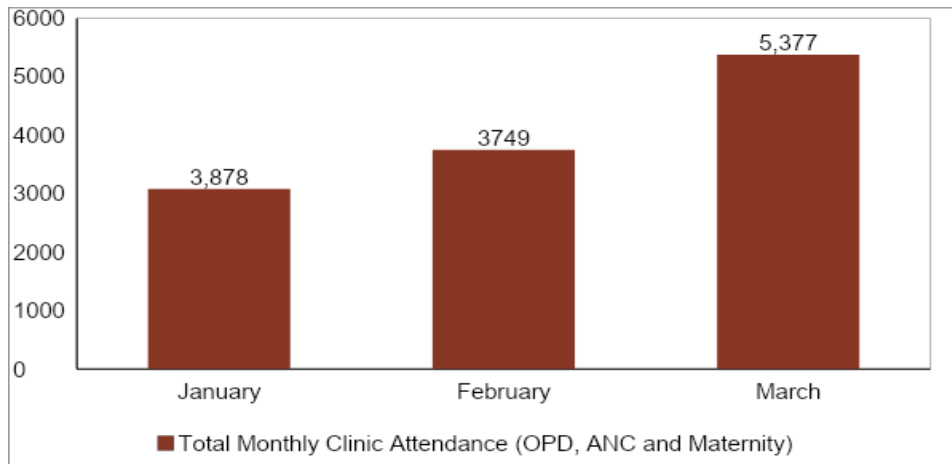
Kasese Health Centre Outpatients department (OPD)

Executive Summary

Orant Charities Africa (OCA) operates Kasese Health Centre in coordination with Ministry of Health (MOH). Apart from operating Kasese Health Centre, OCA has a mobile team of seven qualified medical personnel who go to remote areas and brings medical services right to the community. Efforts from Kasese Health Centre together with the mobile team is improving lives of many patients both in Dowa and Kasungu districts.

Monthly Patients Attendance

In March 2020, the health Centre saw **5,377** patients which is highest since the beginning of the year; about **152** children aged between 2 months and 12 years were admitted in 24 hours children’s ward. The community mobile outreach clinics team saw **1,041** patients in the Kasese catchment area. The outreach clinics saw an additional **4578** patients in Bowe catchment area. Maternity attended to 55, referred 11 to Madisi hospital for c/sections (see graph below).



Summary of total Monthly patient attendance at Kasese health Centre (OPD, ANC, and Maternity.)

The health center has observed an increase in non-communicable diseases that include cardiovascular disease e.g. hypertension. There are no studies at our health centre and other comparable health facilities in a rural set up like ours, but it is believed the disease has been there and it’s only now that people have access to health care hence the increase in the numbers.

Coronavirus (COVID -19) preparedness

Kasese Health Centre continues to monitor with keen interest the daily updates on the coronavirus (COVID 19) pandemic that started in China in 2019. By the time the report was compiled, the country had registered 12 cases with 2 (two) deaths. As part of steps in preparedness, the health centre has conducted trainings to health care workers (Nurses, Clinicians, HAS's) on COVID- 19 in order to equip them with knowledge, skills and attitude on how to manage the outbreak, facilitators took time to clarify misconceptions surrounding the diseases and its precautionary measures. The two days training took place at Kasese campus and was facilitated by Dr. Nyaka and Dr. Boniface from the Ministry of Health.

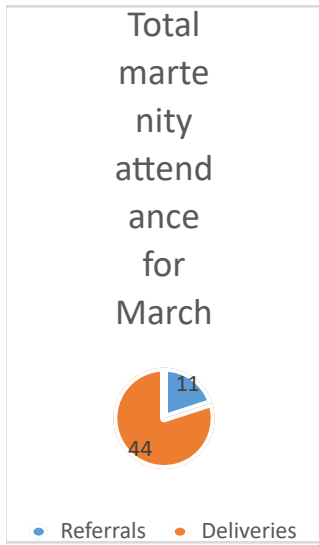
In addition to the above, the health centre has procured protective gears; personal protective Equipment (PPE's) and some needed medical supplies. Furthermore, Orant charities management team has developed a work plan, which lists clearly activities to be undertaken, duties segregation in the event of the disastrous situation. Renovation of a temporary isolation room is ongoing. Personal hygiene measures have been reinforced which include hand washing with antiseptics by everyone entering the hospital premises, the hand washing facility is placed at the gate entrance and in many service delivery points.



Staff undergoing training on COVID -19 preparedness

Maternal and child healthcare

In March 2020, the health centre attended to 55 mothers in labour ward, conducted 42 spontaneous vertex deliveries (SVD), 2 neonates was born on transit to the hospital (BBA), 11 mothers were referred to Madisi hospital for delivery, 3 had obstructed labour, 7 had other complications. Total deliveries at Kasese was 42. As observed last month, the health centre still receives infants born before arrival.



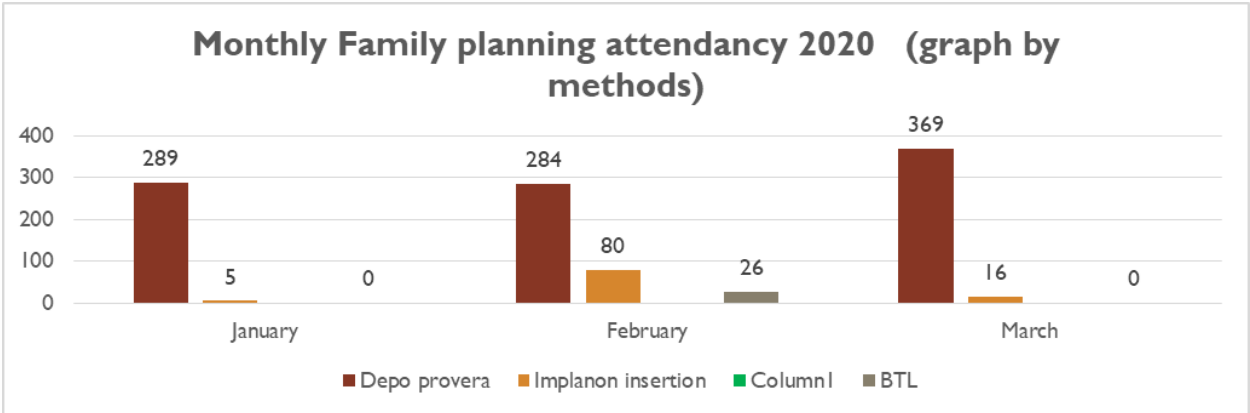
Cervical cancer control/screening

Cancer of the cervix remains amongst the top three leading causes of death in Malawi. In addressing this problem, the health Centre conducts routine visual screening of cervix using acetic acid to women of childbearing age between 25 to 49 years and for the month. Below is a table showing monthly total cases and cases screened.

Month	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept
TOTAL	36	48	80						
positive	0	1	5						

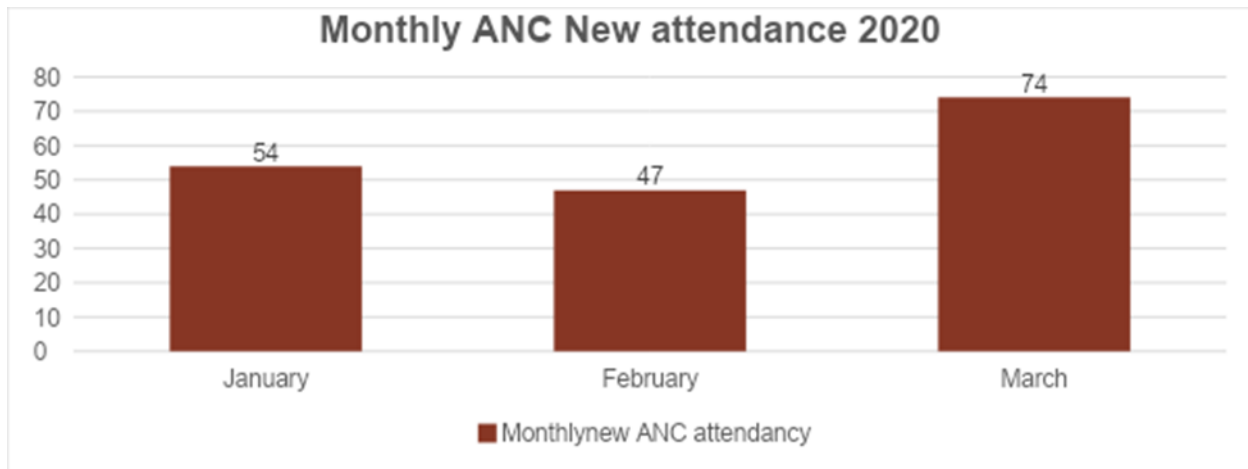
Family Planning

The graph below depicts family planning provision at kasese health centre in line with MOH policies and coordination with banja la mtsogolo. The highest number (369) opted for Depo-Provera birth control method because it is easy to administer. None of the clients chose long-term permanent family planning methods bilateral tubal ligations (BTL).



Antenatal Care (prenatal care)

The health Centre conducts prenatal (antenatal-ANC) clinics twice a week, on Tuesdays for those enrolling for the first time and Thursdays for subsequent visits.



The recommended visit by the world health organization (WHO) for ANC is more than 8 which should start as early as possible. However, according to the data many women do not comply. For the month of March 2020, the health Centre antenatal clinic registered 74 new mothers. According to the Booking cohort outcomes from September 2019 to March 2020, those who completed the ANC visit were 62. Among them 9 had one visit, 8 had 2 visits, 27 had 3 visits, and 15 had 4 visits.

During the Antenatal clinics, mothers receive; two doses of Tetanus toxoid vaccines, 3 doses of SP, FEFOL tablets, albendazole, Insecticides Treated Nets (ITNS) and get tested for syphilis. However, according to the report for March; 52 got the TTV doses, 44 got antimalarial prophylaxis (SP) 31 got albendazole, and 59 received ITNS. Many mothers did not get full protections since they did not comply with the clinic visits schedule.

HIV care clinic

The clinic has **285** patients alive on ART medicine. Good percentage of patients continue to get their viral results which are routinely done at every visit according to milestones. The health clinic continues to switch patient's treatment from 5A to 13A which is DTG based regimens.

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the health Centre provided 6-month bottle supply of ARV to all clients who are stable on ART.

Laboratory services

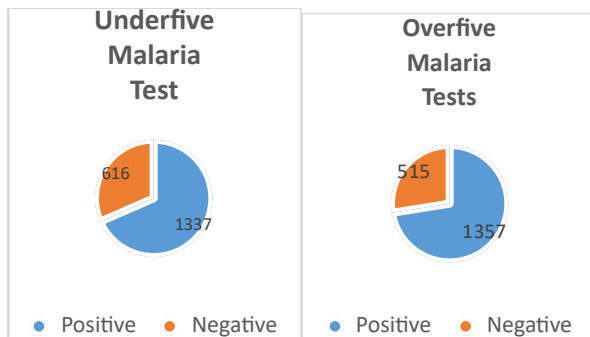
The following are some of the tests conducted;

Complete Blood Count Machine

The health Centre is proud to have received a donation of complete blood count (CBC) machine commonly called full blood count machine in Malawi (FBC). It was successfully installed and in use now.

Malaria test (MRDTS & microscopy)

The malaria test is conducted both rapid test (MRDTS) and microscopy blood smear slides. The malaria epidemic is high at this time of the year. A total of **3,825** malaria tests were done and those positive were **2,694** and negative tests were **1,131** this represent more than 70% positivity rates. Children under five years, total test done were **1,953**; Positive were **1337**(68%) and **616 (32%)** negative. As for those who are above five years, total tested for malaria were **1872** and those with malaria positives were **1357** giving **72%** positivity rates.



Clinic administration

- The health centre conducted a series of meetings in COVID 19 preparedness with various stakeholders for example with Dowa DHO and village chiefs. Dowa district hospital with the help of the National response team are prepared to transport using special ambulance COVID 19 suspects and confirmed cases to special quarantine places.
- The health centre signed an MOU with DHO at district council level which helps the district council monitor NGOs or programs in Dowa district.
- During the same month the health Centre lost the chairman for the Hospital advisory committee (HAC) by the name Neman, He died after he was involved in a road traffic accident along Mchinji road. May his soul rest in peace.

WATER PROGRAM



Introduction

In pursuit of the goal to ensure sustainable access to water and sanitation services, the water program conducted various activities in the month of March 2020, however there was a slowdown in the usual activities that the water program does because of the COVID-19 outbreak in Malawi. Activities therefore focused on making water and sanitation more available to people through well repairs, provisioning of sanitation tools i.e. disinfectants in order to prevent the spread of the disease. In this report a detailed account of the activities has been provided as follows;

Training of School Sanitation Clubs on HTH Chlorine Dilution and Use.

In wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, OCA intensified its efforts offering sanitation and hygiene education to various sectors of the Kasese catchment area. During the period under review, OCA trained three schools sanitation clubs in making 0.05% Chlorine solution to be used for hand washing in schools, the same platform was also used to educate students on COVID-19 prevention and its signs. Chiliphiza, Chiwira and Katalima schools benefited from the exercise, each school also received doses of HTH chlorine for use. The exercise however did not reach out to the rest of the schools due to the closure of all schools in Malawi.

Distribution of HTH Chlorine to Communities

The distribution of chlorine to communities was aimed at making it possible for communities to use antiseptics for hand washing since most of them cannot afford soap. The exercise extended to all villages within Kasese catchment through the 17 HSA zones. A total of 100KGs of HTH Chlorine was distributed. During the exercise health education talks were delivered mainly on COVID-19 prevention.



Image showing HSAs delivering a health talk bordering on COVID-19 prevention

Borehole Repairs

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 some repairs which the communities' need to be supported. OCA supports communities with major repairs. In the month of March, 07 repairs were conducted as indicated in the table below,

SN	GVH	VH	Repair(s) Done	Number of Users on the Repaired Borehole
01	Bweya	Chikhwali	11 rod centralizers, 4 bush bearings, 4 double end sockets, 4 pipes, 1 cylinder	316

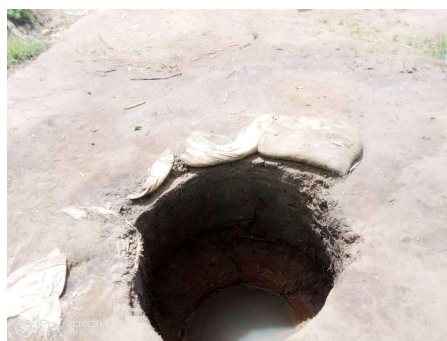
02	Khomo	Khomo	<p>9 double end sockets, 2 rod steel, 10 rod centralizers, 1 cup seal, solvent cement, 1 o-ring. 4 bush bearing, 1 nylon rope</p>	618
03	Kachala	Chanduzi	<p>pump handle, 12 rod centralizers, 1 rubber corn, 6 double-end sockets, bobbin 2 bush bearings 4 solvent 5 pipes</p>	353

04	M'biya	Makosana	1 cylinder, 4 double-end sockets, 4 bush bearings, 12 rod centralizers, 1 hunger pin, solvent cement	649
05	Chidya	Mtandadza	5 pump rods, 6 double-end sockets, 1 cup seal, 11 rod centralizers, 4 bush, bearings, 2 bobbin, O-ring solvent cement	418
06	Makombwa	Kachigamba	10 Rod centralizers, 2 Bobbins, 1 Cup seal, 4 Bush bearings, 1 Cylinder, 4 Sockets, 3 Pipes, 3 Pump Rods.	

07	Chilinkholi	Chilinkholi primary school	Head pump, 9 R o d centralizers, 1 Rubber corn, 2 Pump Rod, 2 Bobbins, 4 B u s h bearings, 1 Fulcrum pin, 1 Hunger pin	
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Community needs assessment for a reticulated water supply system.

OCA is developing a proposal to be submitted to SUEZ foundation, as part of the proposal development exercise, the water program conducted a needs assessment in areas where there are saline boreholes to pick the current picture of the problem. Data from such communities and has been fed into the proposal which is going to be submitted to the foundation by April, 30th .



One of the current water sources in the area.

Challenges

The outbreak of COVID-19 caused many changes in the programing and certain activities that were initially eye marked were not conducted instead other activities aimed at responding to the pandemic were done.

Conclusion

Despite the challenges that came with the outbreak of COVID-19, the water program still managed to serve people by ensuring constant water supply in these times when water for hand

washing is needed most, in the month of March , OCA intends to increase the proportion of people with access to potable water by drilling one more well starting in May 2020.

AGRICULTURE PROGRAM



Introduction

During reporting month of March 2020, Agriculture program performed several activities supporting people in the communities to live a healthy and productive life. The activities carried out focused on Irrigation projects as well as OCA farm.

Irrigation project

Several activities were conducted in irrigation club's clubs which include; supporting irrigation clubs with farm inputs, sowing, transplanting of tomato seedlings, application of fertilizer, pruning tomato plants, staking and pests and diseases control

Sowing

In tomato production, sowing is regarded as most important stage which has to be done with great care because production of poor seedlings, will result into poor performance on the main field. Mvunguti and Kasangadzi irrigation clubs were trained in sowing of tomato seedlings in which manure was applied and mixed with soil. The system of sowing which was focused much on was sowing in lines. Lines are spaced at 10cm apart and seeds are sown in those lines. Sowing in lines helps in reducing problems of high density of seeds which can result into poor seedlings being produced.



Sowing of Tomato seeds in lines

Transplanting of tomato seedlings

Tomato seeds are mostly sown in mother beds and after 3 to 4 weeks from sowing date, it is transplanted into baby beds. Transplanting of Tomato seedlings was done in these Irrigation clubs; Timvane, Mvunguti and Kasangadzi. Seedlings were transplanted at spacing of 50cm by 60cm with an aim of producing good tomato fruit size, creating enough space for aeration and giving enough room for sunlight penetration. Before the time of transplanting, club members were trained and encouraging on the importance of applying manure into their respective fields so that the soil structure can be improved.

Fertilizer application

Fertilizer application is done to boost up nutrient content in the soil. The fertilizer was applied at the rate of 5g per planting station which is regarded as enough for a plant and it will help in obtaining high yields and maximum returns and dollop method of fertilizer application was used. Club members are advised to apply basal fertilizer in tomato plants within five days from the day of transplanting.

Pruning

Pruning of tomato plants was done at Timvane Irrigation club with an aim of keeping the plant health and producing better fruits. Pruning was done to maximize the efficiency of photosynthesis and minimize the risk of pests and disease. The pruning activity was done by removing dead leaves and suckers. The best way of pruning is by using knives to reduce problems of wounds to the plant which can also be regarded as entry point of pests and some disease.



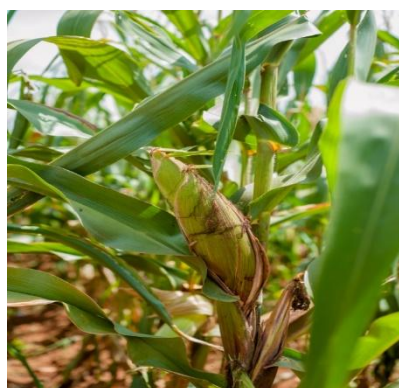
Tomato plants after pruning

Staking

Tomato fruits has to be controlled from going off the ground or soil and has to be horded up the ground to avoid some pests and disease from penetrating into tomato fruits. Timvane was involved in activity of staking to ensure cleaner and healthier tomato fruits are harvested. The materials used for staking include steaks which are readily available to the community and it is cheaper. Strings were used for tying up tomato tree to the stick. Stalked tomato has some advantages as it can be easily sprayed with chemicals to prevent the fruits from pests and diseases attack. Stalked tomato is also easier to be harvested than those sprawling in the ground.

OCA FARM

Field day was conducted at OCA Farm which was attended with more than 300 farmers and were taught different systems of production from different organizations working in Agriculture sector. The field day was attended by OCA partners from Bayer, AFAP, SPRODETA and Farmers World. Other extension workers from government also attended the field day which include Agriculture Extension Development Officer (AEDO), and AEDC. The main focus on the field day is to teach smallholder farmers on performance of different high breed seeds and fertilizer. Smallholder farmers mostly use the re-cycled seeds in farming hence through field days, smallholder famers are able to differentiate and see the importance of using high breeds seeds. Field day is advantageous as it gathers a lot of people at one place. This is the fastest and effective way of communicating with local farmers.



Famers viewing demonstration sites on OCA farm



EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM Executive Summary

The month of march 2020 was the month in which students were to close for second term holiday. In this reporting period, students started writing end of term exams but did not finish because the Malawi government declared a nation state of disaster as a result of the Pandemic of Corona Virus disease (Covid-19) which has affected the whole world. Therefore, the Malawi government announced that all schools must be closed with immediate effect for the safety of the students so as to avoid this epidemic. Since then students are now at home.

However, the following activities were conducted by the education department in the reporting period before the lock down of schools;

School visits

OCA education department managed to visit students from Likuni girls, Lilongwe girls and Madisi secondary schools. The aim of the visit was to check the performance of the students and encourage them to work hard. Results from the school reports showed that most of the students passed with good grades. This shows that a lot of the students are working hard and improving in their performances. OCA will continue to encourage and mentor the students in order to instill them with the hard working spirit and enable them to stay in school.

☐ Below are the pictures from the three schools which OCA visited in March;



*OCA Education personnel visiting Lilongwe Girls students
Likuni Girls students carrying their buckets from OCA*



Madisi secondary school students showing off their materials given by OCA

Apart from encouraging the students and checking their progress, the students were also given some basic needs which are essential at school. OCA provides these materials in order to help them sustain their lives and concentrate in school since these students come from poor families and cannot afford such basic necessities. The supplies include; sugar, washing and bathing soap, bucket for washing/bathing, girls sanitary pads (shown in the pictures above) e.t.c

Way forward

The Education program will continue to follow up on the sponsored students during the school lock down so that they study at home and do not kill their dreams. In addition to that, OCA education program is looking forward to the end of this epidemic so that schools are reopened and students get back to school to continue their studies.