



MONTHLY REPORT

MARCH 2019

BY

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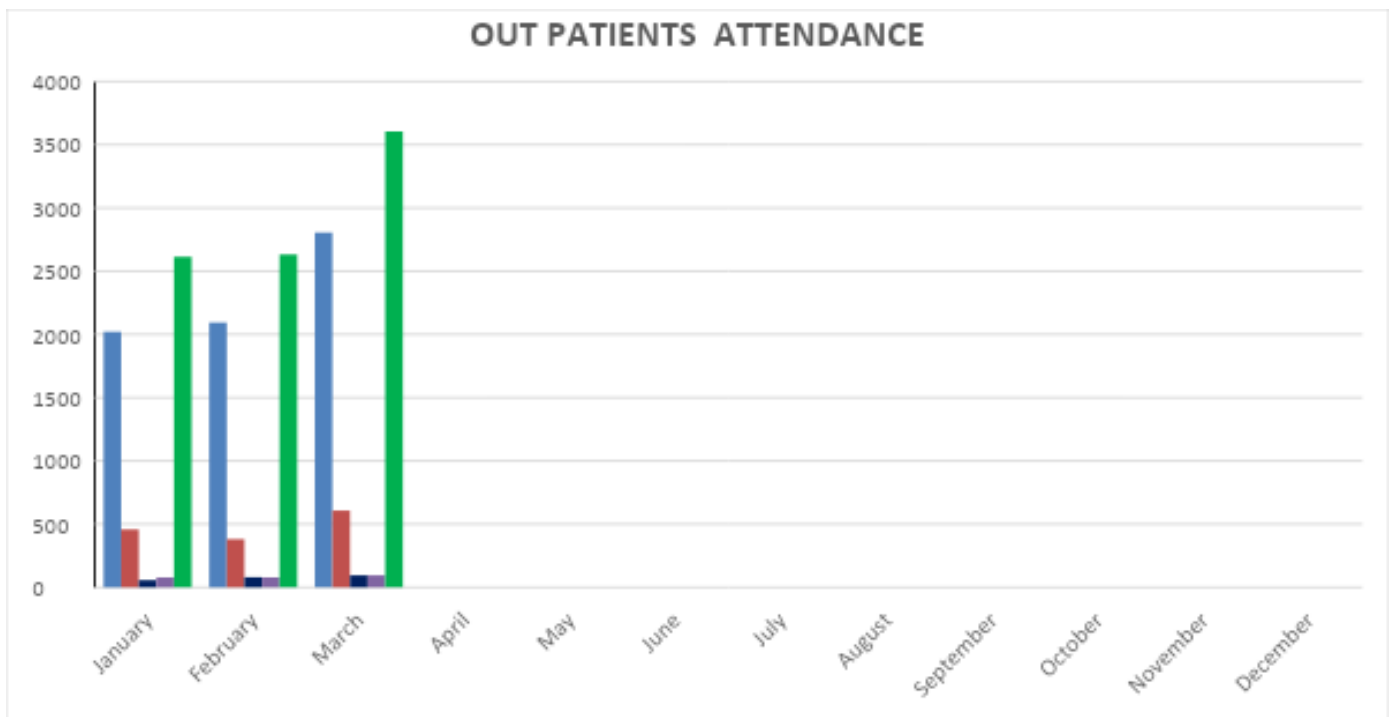
# HEALTHCARE PROGRAM

## Introduction

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. 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 work in collaboration with Ministry of health (MoH) through Dowa district health offices and other stake holders like Banja la Mtsogolo, St Andrews hospital, and other non-governmental organizations such Reach Trust. The Kasese catchment area has a population of around 30,000 people.

## Clinic patient’s attendances

This month, the Health Centre attended to a total of **3,604** patients. Out of this total, **607** were seen at outreach clinic, **95** children were admitted to 24hrs children observation ward and the eye clinic saw **30** patients and none booked for surgery. Figure below outlines patients attendance.



There seems to be signs of achievements in malaria control as compared to last year (2018). Malaria incidence is below this year, especially in under 5 who are vulnerable. The morbidity and mortality related to malaria has declined significantly. The achievements is attributed to effective malaria control strategies implemented last year 2018, which includes, long lasting insects treated nets (LLITN)

distribution by the government, intermitted prophylaxis for expectant mothers ( IPT) and improved early healthcare seeking behavior of people leading to early diagnosis and effective treatment..

### **Maternal and Neonatal health**

In maternity the health Centre had 37 deliveries, most of them spontaneous vertex delivery (SVD), except one who was born in breech mode. One baby was delivered in transit to the hospital, one mother had antepartum hemorrhage, one of the fatal obstetric complications and later referred to Madisi hospital for advance care. Five neonates had complications; two weighed less than 2500 grams, one was a premature infant, one had asphyxia, and one was born in breech delivery mode.

Again, just like the month of February, there was no neonatal death and the Health Centre has a lifesaving success story of a child born with a condition called gastroschisis, condition similar to Exomphalos. The child was born with congenital condition on 29/04/2019 and after resuscitation, was referred to KCH, where successful surgery was and now the child is recovering well.

### **Ministry of Health supervision**

The Health Centre received supervisor from Malaria control program, who come and assessed the healthcare program, their focus was on antimalarials, commodity accountability and performance tracking (CARPET). Overall, the Health Centre is doing very well both in reporting, documentations in outreach clinics and village clinics conducted by HSA especially on antimalarial drugs and lab diagnostic test kits (MRDTS). However, there was slight mismatch in data entry at the district level ( DHIS), compared to Health Centre records, but the problem was more to data entry at district level electronic data system( EDS).

### **Clinic administration**

- The newly employed clinician Herbert Chunga successfully completed his 3 months' probation period
- The OCA procured new mosquito nets to be used in guardian's shelters, maternity ward and 24hrs children ward.
- OCA procured also procured a drug cabinet for safe storage of drugs in the injection room
- Fumigation of the Health Centre building with insecticides to control pest and insect was done. During the period the clinic admissions service, (maternity and children ward was temporally, suspended to pave way for the excises.

## WATER PROGRAM



### Introduction

This write up presents an account of progress made by the water program in pursuit of the 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. An outline of the activities that were conducted has been listed in this section below followed by a detailed narration of the same. The said activities are;

- Monitoring of Water point performance and updating of Water point database.
- Repair of 06 boreholes.
- Revamping of 04 Water Management structures.
- Capacity building for 44 Community members (4 WPCs) in borehole repair.
- Preparatory meetings for community water self-supply initiative.

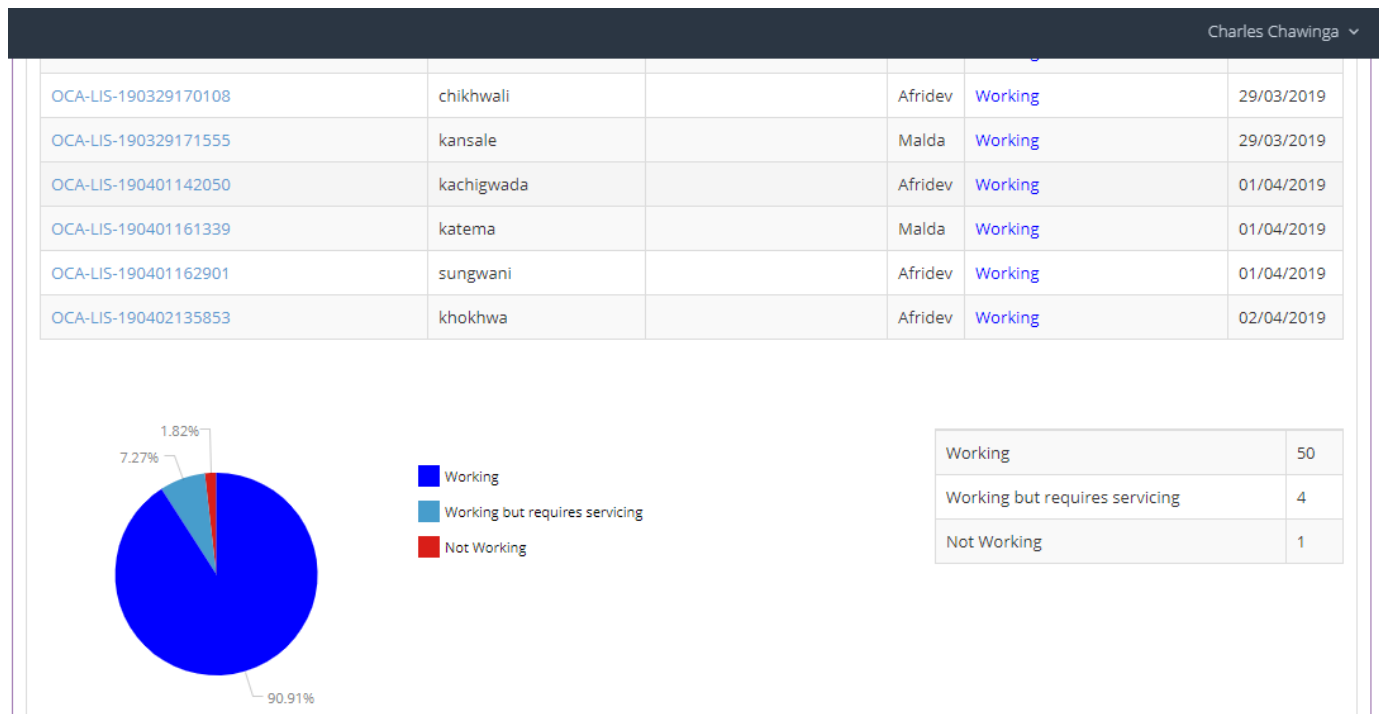
### Narration of Activities

#### *i. Monitoring of Water point performance and updating of Water point database.*

Following the commissioning of an asset management application and database in Kasese called madzi Alipo app, the water program continued to update the database by manually collecting up to date information and tracing the functionality status of water points. This exercise also helped the water program to monitor the effectiveness of water user trainings that OCA provides to communities with an aim of building communities ability to conduct preventive maintenance. A total of 55 water points were visited and had their updated information was entered into the database. An edit committee was established within the water point committee of the water points, the duty of the edit committee will be to inform OCA through a phone call of any change in functionality, if there has been no call nor visit within 90 days OCA will be making follow up calls or visits. This will help ensure that water points are adequately and evenly serviced across the catchment.

At the end of the reporting month, functionality rate of boreholes in the catchment was at 90%, this high functionality rate was attributed to the quick responses to breakdowns and increased number of

communities conducting preventive maintenance on their water points. Image below are screenshots from OCA's madzi Alipo database providing information on basic indicators of water point functionality.



## ii. Borehole Repairs

The Water Program Team in collaboration with WPCs and Area Mechanics managed to complete 06 wells repairs. OCAs puts much effort in this area considering that access to water in the post MDG era is said to also be greatly impinged by the non-functionality of water points. The table below provides an outline of the repairs that were done.

SN	GVH	VH	Repair(s) Done	Number of Users on the Repaired Borehole
1	Bweya	Bweya school	Rod centralizers, pipe sockets, 6 pipes and cylinder	1069
2	Nankumba	kaleso vg	4 sockets, 1fulcrum pin, 4 bearings, 4 bolt and nuts, 10 Rod centralizers	461

3	Singo	Lungu vg	12 pipes 2 sockets 12 Rod centralizers foot valve 4bearings 1 fulcrum pin	419
4	Chapuwala	Chapuwala	9 pipes, 11 Rod centralizers, 4 bearings, 1rubber flapper, 1 cup seal	623
5	Chimamba	Mantchondo	1 Plastic Foot Valve,4 Bush Bearing ,2 Stainless Steel Rods 4 , Bolt and Nuts 17mm, 41 Rod Centralizer ,1Flapper ,7 Double End Socket	354
6	Chikamphula	Chinguwi primary School	1 Plunger Rod Assembly, 1 Plastic Foot Valve, 1 Brass Plunger, 6 Stainless Steel Rods, 1 Rubber Cone, 4 Bolt and Nuts 17mm 13 × Rod Centralizers 2 Bobbin . 1 Pump Handle 7,Pipe Centralizers 1 Cap Seal	228

These 6 repairs bring the total number of repairs to 20 in 2019. The graph below shows the trends in repairs during the first quarter of 2019;

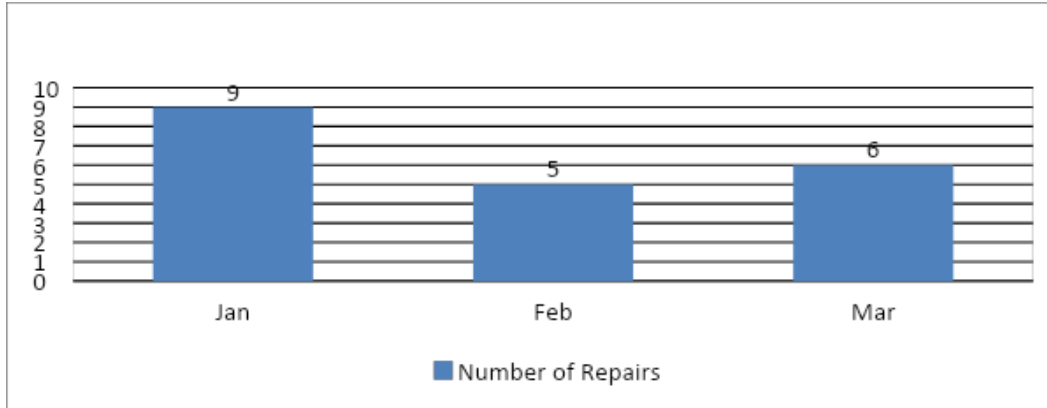


Image showing Communities participating in repair with OA staff

**iii. Revamping of Water Point Committees (WPCs)**

Malawi government standard operating procedures for sustainable rural water supply management provide for the establishment of WPCs community water management structures. WPCs help in conducting preventative maintenance activities which in turn help in avoiding frequent break downs. Absence of these structures in most water points in Malawi are said to be the cause for the increased down time and un-functionality of most wells in Malawi, During the reporting period, a total of 4 such structures were established in areas where other partners’ drilled boreholes without establishing such structures, these structures are called Water Point Committees (WPC) and are responsible for overseeing day to day operations. Each of the established WPC comprised of 10 members, at least 6 of whom were female.

**iv. Capacity Building for 44 Community Members In Borehole Repair.**

In order to enhance communities’ capacity in Water point management and minor borehole preventive maintenance, OCA facilitated a 3-day Community based management training sessions to a total of 4

committees. The trainings were meant to equip participants with skills and knowledge necessary to undertake their responsibilities in championing operation and maintenance of water supply facilities (boreholes). Specifically, the objectives of the trainings were to;

- 1) Equip the WPCs with knowledge and skills necessary to carry out preventive maintenance activities on their borehole.
- 2) Equip the WPCs with knowledge and skills necessary to maintain sustainable sanitary and hygienic conditions around the water point.
- 3) Enable WPC members to manage group dynamics and equip them with general managerial skills.

A total of 44 community members (31 females and 13 males) were trained during the reporting period. The trainings were facilitated by the Water Monitoring Assistant, Health Surveillance Assistant (HSA) – both from Government departments as well as OCA water program personnel. Participants came from Chinkhwali, Kankhanda, Msosa and Chadzerakuti. The trainings were successfully done and it is envisaged that the community will be able to sustainably operate and maintain the water facility



*Trainings in session*

**v. Preparatory meetings for community water self-supply initiative.**

Preparatory activities for the self-supply community water supply models commenced in March. The activities included; a visit to pump aid catchment areas where the self-supply project is being implemented, the aim of the visit was to learn and appreciate how the model is implemented on the ground and also to check the possibility of implementation partnership with PumpAid. After the visit a follow up meeting was scheduled to take place on 10/04/2019 at PumpAid head office in Lilongwe, this meeting will allow for a formal working relationship that will see OCA using PumpAid-managed entrepreneurs working in OCA's catchment and mentoring mansons in Kasese. The meeting will also formulate a joint work plan for rolling out the approach in Kasese by the two organizations.



## **AGRICULTURE PROGRAM**

During the reporting month of March 2019, Agriculture department carried out several activities with an aim of supporting people to be in better position with farming. The agriculture program thrives to see that smallholder farmers realize that farming is a business and that they follow good agriculture practices for them to maximize harvest. The activities in this month included; Irrigation project activities, Lead farmer initiative, school garden and OCA farm demonstration.

### **Irrigation**

In irrigation farming, much of the activities focused on sowing, transplanting and application of manure, fertilizer and pesticides. These activities were conducted in irrigation clubs of Ndalusa and Tinvane.

Ndalusa irrigation has been in irrigation farming for five years and its members have been able to help their families financially. Ndalusa irrigation club is practicing its irrigation farming along Bua river and last growing session they planted Maize and the whole field was affected with floods which resulted into loses among club members. Despite the big loss in last irrigation growing period, club members have already started another cycle of irrigation farming and this time it is tomato production. Tomato has been already sown at Ndalusa irrigation club and villages of Kampalo and Nkhandwe are going to benefit from this tomato production. A total of 35 households (irrigation club members) are going to directly benefit from this Tomato farming. Transplanting is expected to begin in early April.



### *Sowing of tomato seeds by Ndalusa club members*

Timvane irrigation is doing its irrigation farming on a land of 4 acres and 55 households are benefiting from this farming. Timvane irrigation is in Mantchondo and currently the club members are transplanting tomato seedlings. Before transplanting, the club members were trained in the proper beds during dry season which is sunken beds and they were trained again in proper spacing for tomato production which is 45m by 75m by 45m. Club members were also trained in manure application where by every member was encouraged to apply manure before transplanting with an aim of improving soil structure. After transplanting, club members were further trained in proper fertilizer application in which 5 grams of fertilizer was applied at each planting station after 7 days from transplanting date. Pesticides were applied after 4 days from day of transplanting to deal with pests which can destroy the transplanted seedlings.



### *Transplanting of tomato seeds*

#### **School Garden program**

There is high demand on vegetables in Kasese around Katsuka primary school where the vegetables are ready for harvesting. Katsuka is one of the schools which is practicing vegetable production under OCA school garden project and for the first time they are selling their vegetables to the villages around the school. The school is making some money which will be used for some small school development projects. Despite making money for the school, the learners are also benefiting a lot since they are able to use the garden for practical purposes.



*Watering of vegetable plants*

### **Lead farmers**

Lead farmer program is one of the programs which helps smallholder farmers to get proper directions for farming. Local farmers learn from trained from lead farmers which are trained by OCA. This helps to minimize harvest loses hence dealing with hunger and poverty. Lead farmers have started being sensitized to harvest produce such as Soya to prevent the produce from being damaged while in the field. Harvesting has begun for soya in most villages where by the pods have turned brown, the leaves of the Soya have fallen off as well and pods rattle when shaken. All these are signs that the crop is ready for harvesting and late harvest will increase shattering as well as splitting of the over dried soya beans which can increase loses.

### **OCA Farm**

Harvesting at OCA farm demonstration has started and two crops thus; Soya and Groundnuts are ready for harvesting. OCA planted Groundnuts of Sinjiro variety which is one of groundnuts varieties which get manured faster than other varieties. It is better to harvest groundnuts timely to avoid discoloration and germination of nuts. The OCA demonstration field is also faced with problems of livestock damage and theft. The Farmer on OCA farm has started harvesting the crops.

### **Field day**

Field day was conducted at OCA demonstration farm in coordination with Monsanto Seed Company and Farmers word. The field day invited all people living around Kasese catchment area and about 389 people were present on that day. The field day was conducted with an aim of showing smallholder farmer's different varieties of Maize, Soya and Groundnuts currently available in Malawi so that farmers can have choice on the varieties to produce bumper harvest. The field day also aimed at making smallholder farmers realize that farming is business hence good agriculture practices have to be followed and new farming technologies has to be adopted.



*Farmers viewing demonstration plots of different varieties and treatment*

OCA agriculture office was invited to attend field day in Madisi EPA which was under Tiyei Malawi where they were showing smallholder farmers Dip bed farming. Dip bed farming is one of the best methods of farming and can be used in all cereal and legume crops. Dip bed farming involves ploughing the land 30cm dip and planting the crops in beds. During the field day we also learn much on manure making using chicken excreta. This manure is also called liquid fertilizer because of its strength. The manure is easy and faster to make and it becomes ready for use within a week. The manure has been preferred by many farmers hence if adopted properly, there will be little use of inorganic fertilizer in farming which is also our goal in farming.

## **EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM**

Orant Charities Africa (OCA) operates an education sponsorship program that pays the school fees for students attending primary and secondary schools and university in Malawi. OCA education program currently has 3 funding streams; GeoShack, Rotary and Orant Charities US donors. Previously, OCA had a small program that sponsored students directly by Orant Charities or by individual sponsors in the United States. These students are in primary schools, secondary and university. In 2017, OCA found support from Rotary International donors who started sponsoring education of girls in boarding secondary schools. In 2018, GeoShack came through with a sponsorship of girl's education also in secondary schools. These programs focus on secondary school girls and is continuous for four years (form 1-4). In Malawi, students graduate from secondary school after four years with a Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE).

In the month of March, the Education program finalized the collection of school reports for first term in all schools and visited some of its students.

### **OCA STUDENTS**

There are a total of 19 students sponsored directly by OCA. Out 19 students, 15 are secondary students, 2 are university students and 2 primary students). These students also receive additional support for books, uniforms, and pocket money. One of the University students who is studying Nursing is finishing in August this year (2019) whereas the other one at Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST) studying Metallurgy engineering is in his third year. All these students are hardworking and are doing better in class. OCA education program is also pleased to announce that all the 2 primary students

passed their end of first term exams and only a few secondary students did not do well in their end of first term exams, 9 students passed and 6 failed, representing 60% pass-rate for the secondary school students. All 15 secondary students are day scholars (they commute to and fro to school), this might be one of the reasons that some did not pass the first term exams since students also face some challenges in their homes. The OCA Education program representative visited the students for encouragement and was assured of better results this term (second term).

### ROTARY STUDENTS

OCA in conjunction with Rotary international donors is sponsoring 30 secondary students. These students are in different classes and schools. We have 8 schools where Rotary students are learning. However, amongst the 30 students, 25 students passed their end of term one exams and only 5 students failed, representing 83% pass rate in the first term.

### GEOSHACK STUDENTS

With funding from GeoShack donors, OCA is sponsoring 42 secondary students in 3 districts; Kasungu, Dowa, and Lilongwe. The students are in 8 different schools and are all in form 1. The program has just started in September 2018 with the aim of helping poor girls to stay in school. Out of the 42 students which Geoshack is sponsoring, 30 students passed end of term 1 exams and 12 students failed. This represent 60% pass rate. It has been observed that most students do have challenges to adjust in the first year especially first term of secondary school. Transition from primary education to secondary school education is not very smooth for most students. We expect improvements in performance as the students get acquainted to the new subjects.

**Table 2. End of term 1 Results Summary**

	OCA	ROTARY	GEO-SHACK
<b>Passed</b>			
● Primary	2	0	0
● Secondary	9	25	30
● University	2	0	0
<b>Total passed</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Failed</b>			
● Primary	0	0	0
● Secondary	6	5	12
● University	0	0	0
<b>Total failed</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>

### SCHOOL VISITS

In March, the Education program manager visited some of the students to check on their progress, encourage them and provide them with some basic support. The students which were visited were from

St. Peters primary school (sponsored directly by OCA) and Dzenza secondary school (sponsored by Geoshack). At St. Peters primary school, we have a standard 4 girl Omega McDonald and a standard 6 boy, Christopher Madzi. OCA managed to meet with Omega only because Christopher was busy writing his English weekly test. The students were given Groceries like Soap, sugar, pens, exercise books, etc. it is important to provide these materials to the students because it helps them to stay motivated and equipped with what they need in order to have a better learning experience.



*A standard 4 Student, Omega during break time at school*

Students sponsored by Geoshack at Dzenza girls secondary school were also visited. There are 5 students at Dzenza secondary school. The education program had time to chat with the students and encouraged them to work extra hard in class. The students at Dzenza also received school material from OCA. The materials include; school bags, exercise books, pens, pencils, instruments, calculators. It was a great visit and the students were very happy with the support OC is providing to them.



*Education program personnel posing with Dzenza Student materials*



*The happy girls after receiving the materials*

## **CONCLUSION**

OCA education program in working together with the school authorities; parents and the students, it has managed to produce more than 50% pass rate for its students. OCA is happy that there is greater improvement and a lot of students are performing better than before although there is still need of encouragement in a few students.