

MONTHLY REPORT

MAY 2021

COMPILED BY

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(COUNTRY DIRECTOR)

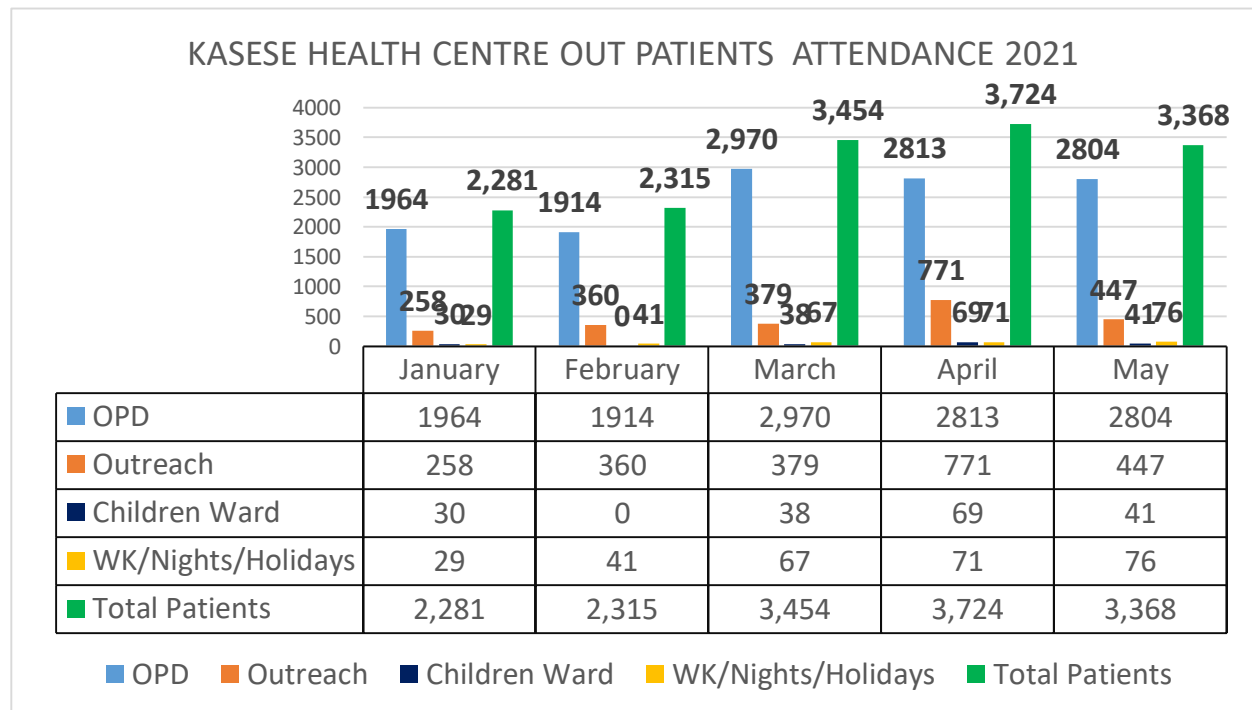
HEALTHCARE PROGRAM

Introduction

Kasese Health Centre continues to provide excellent preventive and curative health care services to all the patients from within its catchment areas and beyond. Many patients opt to flock to the health center because of assurance of quality medicine and good care especially for treatment of children who receive appropriate medicine which are mostly in the form of syrups. Unlike other surrounding government health centres, Kasese health centres has no stock out of essential medicine and medical supplies. In addition, the health center provides reliable free ambulance services and collaborate well with other hospitals and stakeholders in services delivery.

In the month of May 2021, the health centre's outpatient's departments (OPD) and 24 hours' children ward attended to **2921** patients. While mobile outreach clinic saw **447** and **3902** patients in Kasese and Bove Catchment area respectively. Total patients seen in mobile outreach clinics both in Kasese and Bove catchment is therefore **4349**. The total number of patients seen in Kasese Catchment only is therefore **3,368**. The total number of patients seen in the healthcare program is **7270**. Kasese Health Centre laboratory department tested a total of 2,269 suspected cases and confirmed 1,511 positive malaria case representing a 67% Positivity rate. The health centre was blessed to received visitors from USA who are the board members of Orant Charities Africa.

Monthly Patients Attendance data.



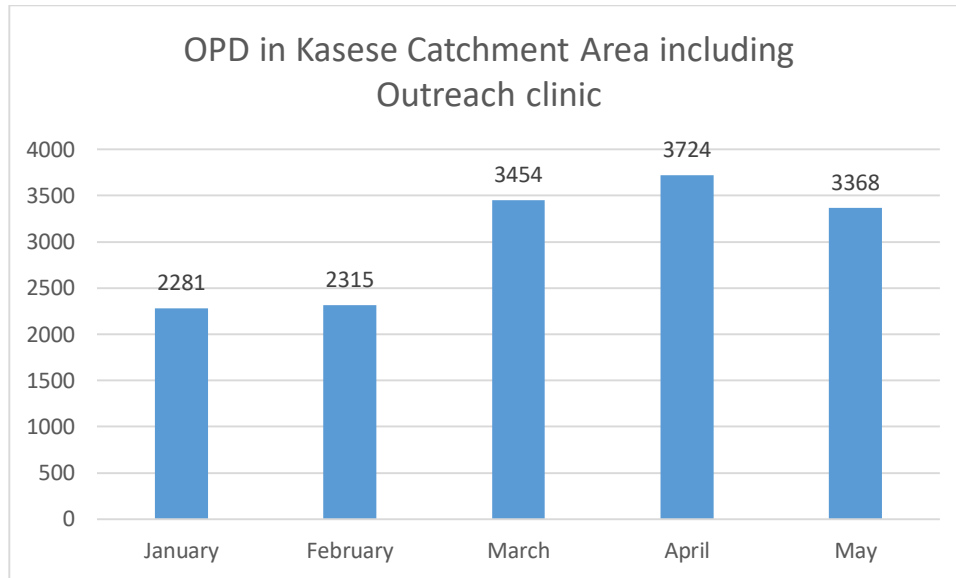
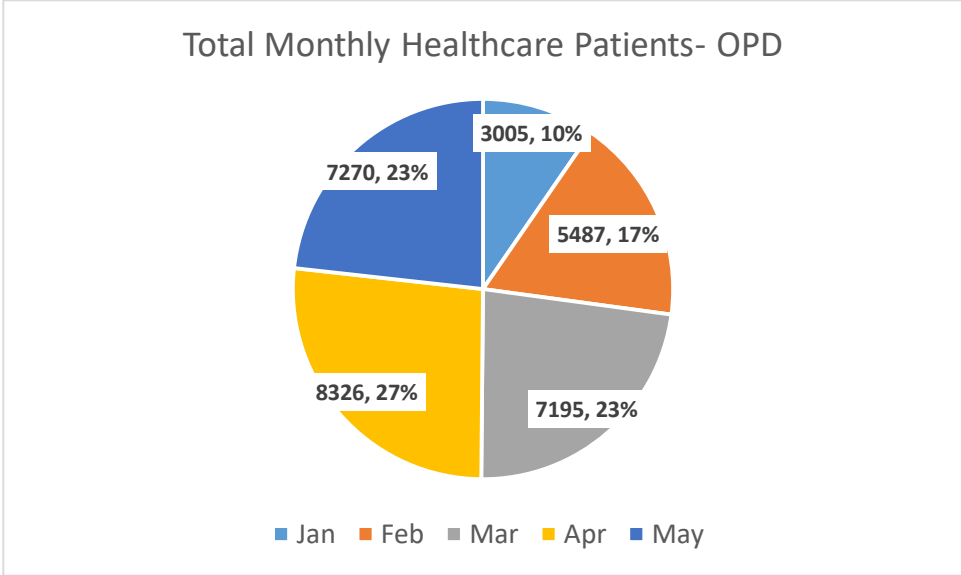


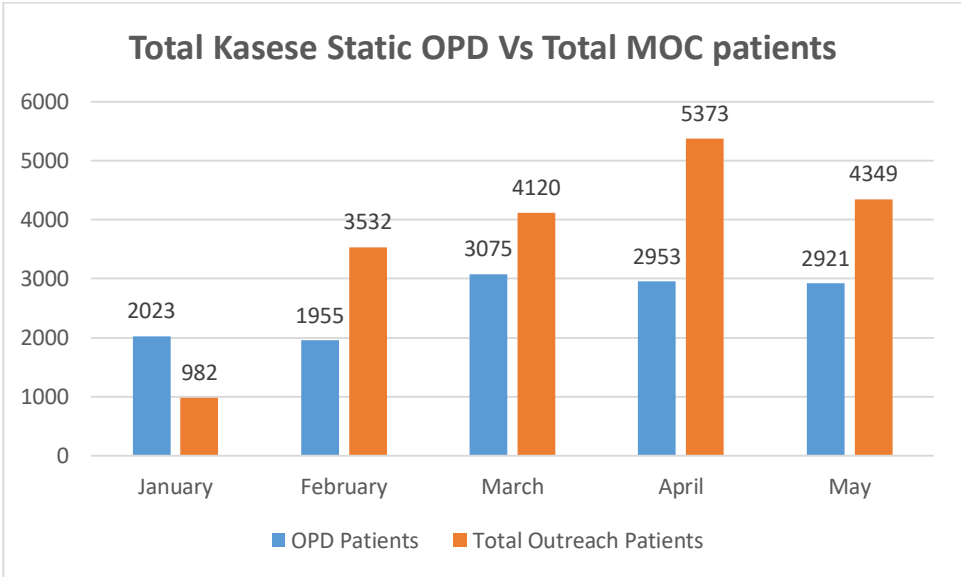
Table below shows total monthly patients attendance from Static (KHC) and Outreach clinics (MOC). So far a total of 31,283 patients have been seen by the healthcare program

Months (2021)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Totals
OPD Kasese Clinic	1,964	1914	2970	2813	2804	12,465
Bowe Outreach	724	3172	3741	4602	3902	16,141
Kasese Outreach	258	360	379	771	447	2,215
Children Ward	30	0	38	69	41	178
Kasese-Weekends/Nights/Holidays	29	41	67	71	76	284
Totals	3,005	5,487	7,195	8326	7270	31283

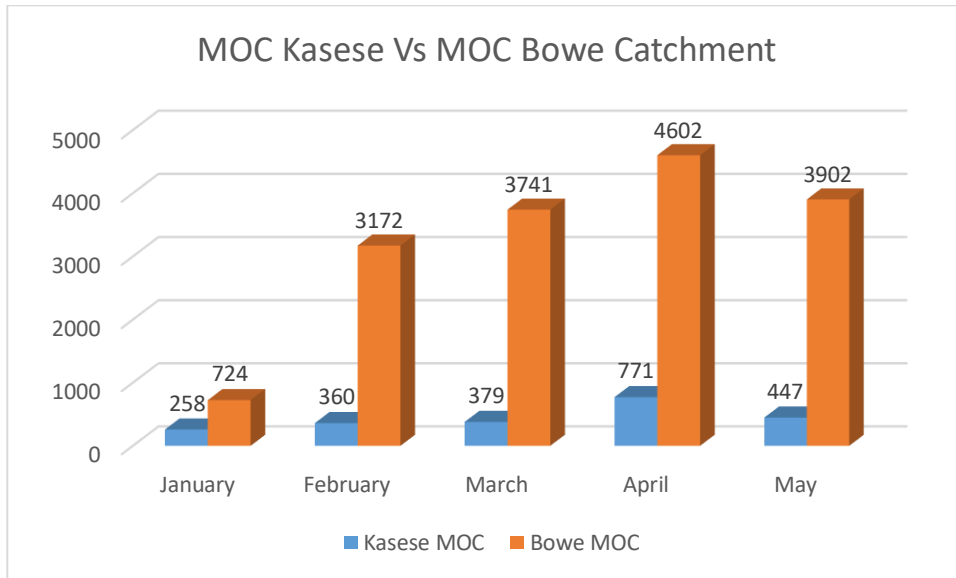
The graph below shows monthly total healthcare program patients (as a percentage) from January to May 2021.



The graph below shows a comparison between patients seen in the static and Mobile Outreach Clinic (MOC). More patients are seen in outreach as services are brought close to the people.



The graph below shows a comparison between Kasese and Bowe MOC patients. More patients are seen in Bowe catchment, Kasungu than Kasese, Dowa. The outreach schedule has more visits in Bowe catchment than Kasese as in Kasese there is a Health centre nearby where people can walk to.



COVID 19 SITUATION UPDATES.

The Covid-19 situation in Malawi is not too bad, currently the daily newly diagnosed cases does not exceed 20 with zero deaths. Almost all the staff at the health centre received the first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine and are about to get the second dose. All the precautionary measures are being followed. However, there is concern that the third wave may hit Malawi as the neighboring countries have reported a sharp increase of confirmed cases. Meanwhile, as a preventive measure all the country entry borders and airport have been closed.

NEW AMBULANCE PURCHASE

With support from our donors in the United States of America. Orant Charities Africa has purchased an ambulance to help it in ferrying patients. As a health centre, we conduct a number of referrals including pregnant women. The ambulance will assist in saving lives and we are very thankful to our donors. The ambulance has been registered and cleared with relevant authorities and is now ferrying patients.



New ambulance for Kasese Health Centre

NEW PORTABLE ULTRA-SOUND SCAN

Kasese Health Centre now has received a donation of a portable ultrasound scan. The Ultrasound came with the Orant Charities US team. This is an approved ultrasound from Butterfly Network Inc and has a very good resolution and will be used for various body scans.



Clinician performing ultrasound scan using the newly donated Butterfly IQ

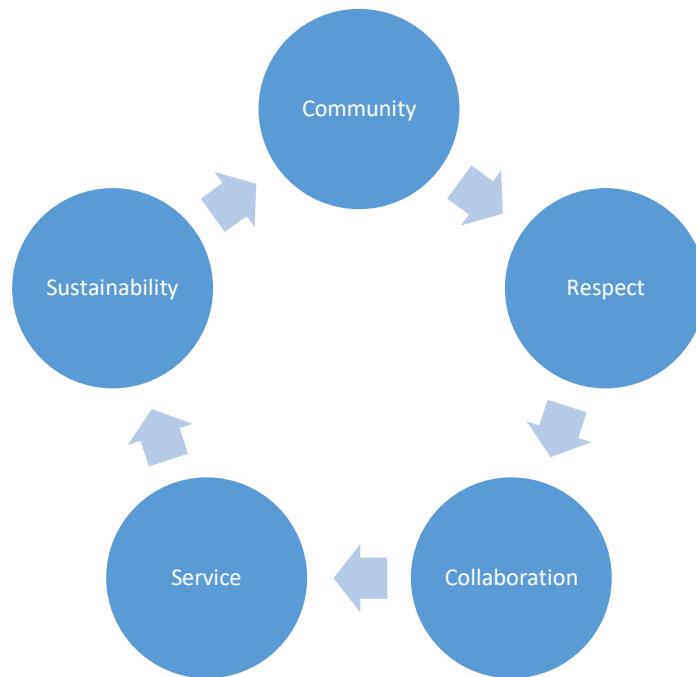
OCA VALUES

Just like any progressive organization, OCA discussed its values with the staff. As time pass by, people may forget what they stand for and it is imperative that they are reminded. The board treasurer of Orant Charities Africa Mr. Thomas Brennan and the Executive Director of Orant Charities Mr. John Tenny clarified OCA values.



Mr. Brennan emphasizing a point (left) and the OCA family (right) during values meeting

The values five of OCA include; **community, respect, sustainability, collaboration, and service** as depicted in the diagram below;



REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Maternal and New-borns healthcare

Maternity department continues to provide excellent Maternal and Neonatal health care. All women access high quality care during pregnancy, delivery and postnatal and likewise young infants. All patients received quality medicine, vaccines and are attended by skilled healthcare workers (nurses and clinicians). Patients who need referrals to hospital are timely taken care off. We are proud to report that the health centre has provides excellent care as evidently seen by good maternal and new-born outcomes (no maternal mortality in the past 6 years)

For the month of May 2021, kasese health centre labour ward (maternity) had **35** attendees, **33** new-born babies. Mode of deliveries were as follows: 31 were spontaneous vertex deliveries (SVD), 1 vacuum extractions, one breech delivery. There were 4 were born as twins, and 29 single tones. This means that the 33 babies were from 31 mothers. Four mothers were referred to Madisi hospital for further management which includes a caesarean section (C/S) .

The graph below shows Total babies born monthly

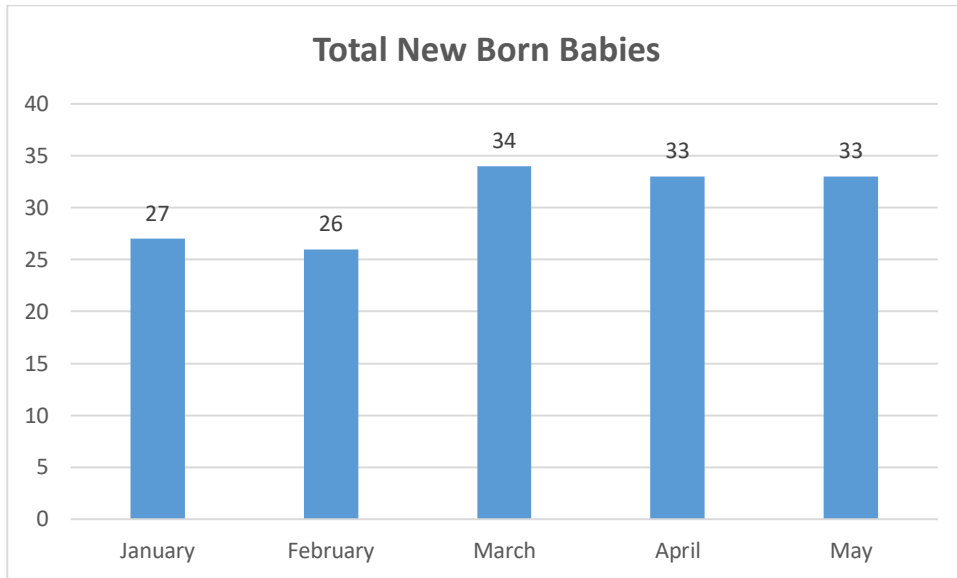


Table below shows a total number of newborns and their outcomes.

MONTH (2021)	Total New Born Babies	Weight <2500grams	Prematurity	Asphyxia	Sepsis	Still Birth Fresh	Still Birth Macerated	Neonatal Death
January	27	2	2	1	0	0	0	0
February	26	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
March	34	2	5	2	0	0	0	0
April	33	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
May	33	4	4	1	0	0	0	0

Total maternity attendance May 2021

Total attendance- 35



The above graph shows Maternity number of deliveries and referrals for May 2021

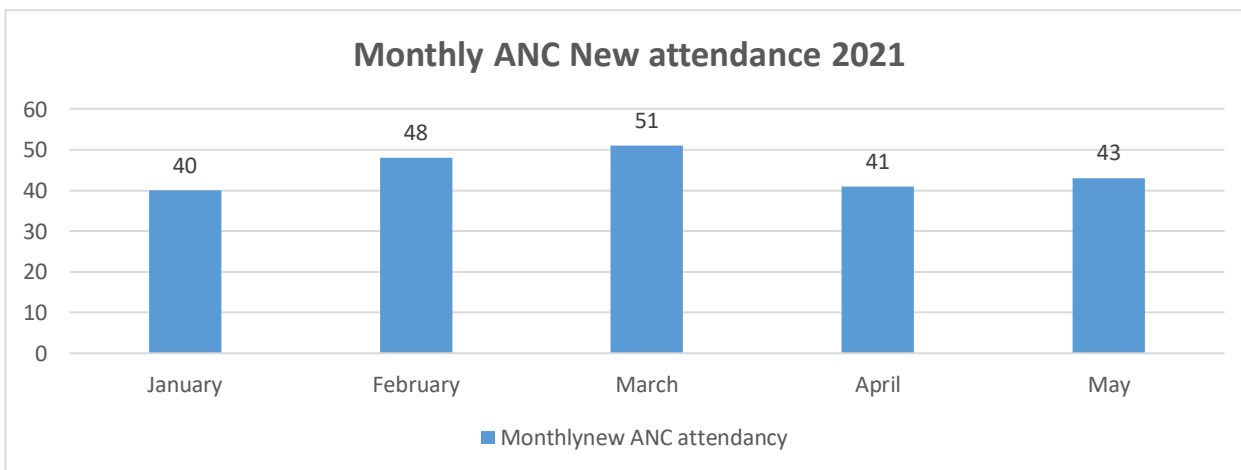
Cervical Cancer Control Clinic Report

Cancer of the cervix remains a public health problem in Malawi and amongst the top leading cause of cancer deaths (MOH, National cervical cancer strategy 2016-2020.) In addressing this problem, Kasese health Centre conducts routine visual screening of cervix using acetic acid (VIA) to women of childbearing age between 25 to 49 years, and as for the Month of May 2021, only **5** Women were screened and 1 had VIA Positive who was later referred to Kamuzu central hospital for biopsy and further management.

Table below shows Monthly number of clients screened for cervical cancer and their outcomes

Figure below shows Monthly antenatal attendance (ANC)

Month	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total	23	14	5	15	5							
Positive	2	1	1	1	1							



EYE CLINIC

The health centre conducts eye clinic once a month. The outsourced eye Clinician from St Andrews hospital managed to attend to **27** patients and booked one for cataract eye surgery.

Table below shows total number of patients treated for eye infections and those booked for surgery.

Month	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST.
Total	18	25	19	24	27			
Booked for eye surgery.	2	2	1	2	1			

Laboratory Services.

The health Centre Laboratory department continues to conduct and provide a reliable tests befitting primary health care level, the most common tests done are rapid tests; malaria tests (MRDTS), HIV tests and now Covid-19 rapid antigen test, basic microscopy test like Tb test and also Full blood count.

Malaria Report.

The Malaria test is conducted both rapid test (MRDTS) and microscopy blood smear slides. The Malaria burden is high during this time of the year as seen from the laboratory positivity rates which is at above 50 %. For the month May 2021, a total of 2,269 Malaria tests was done, and those positive were 1511 represent 67 % positivity rate. For Children under five years, total test done was 1387 and those Positive were 955 representing 69 %. For over five years' total test done were 882 and those positive were 556 representing 63%.

The table below shows the total malaria suspected cases, and the actual confirmed (MRDTS positive) verse LA tablets dispense to treat it (year 2021).

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Suspected Malaria Cases	1595	1647	2593	3053	2269							
Suspected cases Tested	1587	1647	2593	3053	2269							
Confirmed Malaria Cases	911	1070	1823	2025	1511							

New Malaria Cases Registered	919	1070	1823	2025	1511							
LA. Dispensed	919	962	1745	1958	1376							
LA. Issued	2,610	1740	2810	3630	2100							

Figure below Shows under five years and over five years percentage of Malaria tests for the month of May 2021.

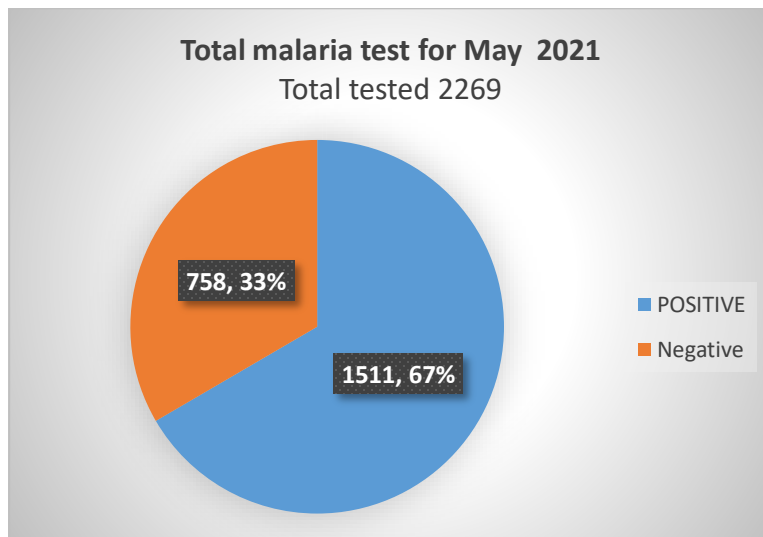
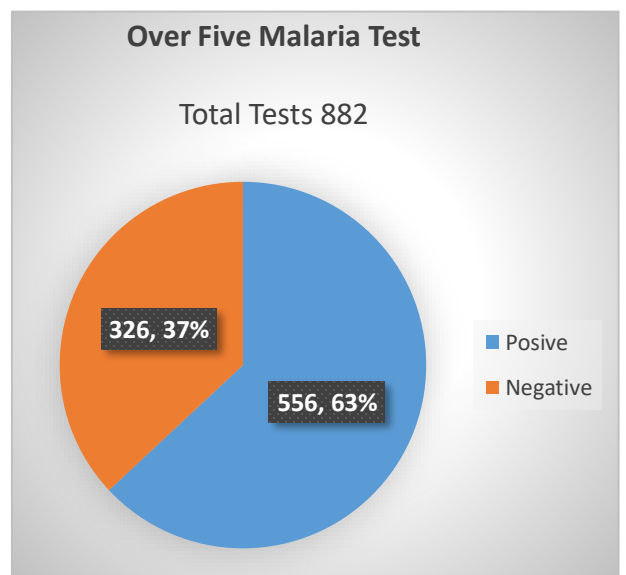
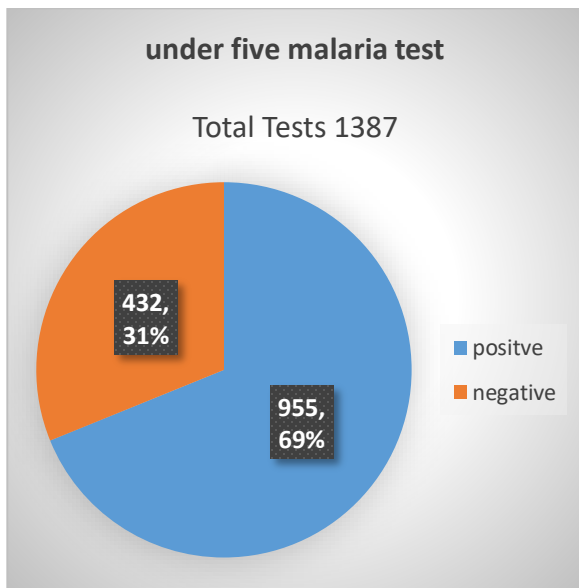


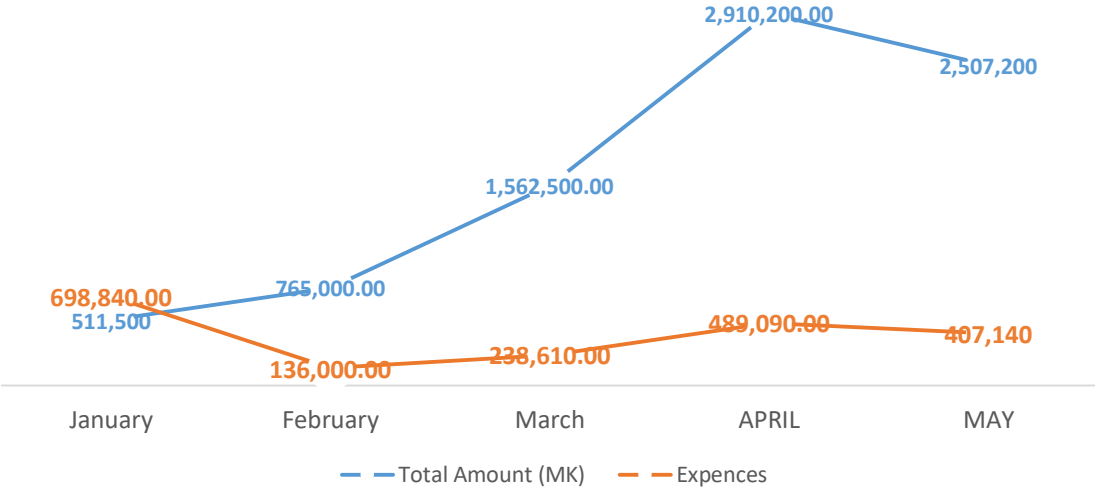
Table Below show other Laboratory tests conducted in the month of May 2021.

Tests	Total tests	Result(positive)
H. PYLORIS	63	13
Salmonella	8	1
Hep B	3	0
VDRL	2	0
HCG	67	23
TB MICROSCOPY	5	0
GLUCOSE	81	-
Heamoglobin	128	-
urinalysis	17	-
FBC	31	-
COVID 19 TEST	19	0

Clinic finance and Administration.

- During the month of May 2021, the health centre collected at static clinic MK1,723,200 and MK784,000 for Outreach Clinic, totaling to **MK 2,507,200** (3,173USD) and spent MK 175,000 (\$221) for bus fare referrals and bill payments of MK **232,000** (293 USD) at Madisi Hospital. Total direct expenses were MK407,000 (\$515).
- Orant Charities Africa has purchased a new ambulance for the static Clinic.
- The health centre received donated medicine and medical supplies which includes; ultra sound scanner(sonogram), Blood pressure monitors, stethoscopes, scrub suits, batteries, among other medicine and medical products.

TOTAL AMOUNT COLLECTED V/S EXPENSES



WATER PROGRAM



Executive Summary

The water program continues to support rural communities in the promotion of access to Water and Sanitation. In May, the water and sanitation program started drilling boreholes for the year 2021. By the end of May, the water and sanitation program managed to achieve the following milestones;

- 3 Waterpoint repairs and rehabilitations
- Drilled 1 borehole at Chiliphiza village
- DCT meeting for Dowa district
- ADC meeting
- Review Meeting with HSAs
- Mapping of proposed villages for Chimamba piped water project

DETAILED NARRATION OF MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

1. Afridev Pump repairs and rehabilitations

To ensure sustainable functionality of water points and access to safe water within the OCA catchment. The water and sanitation program continues to support repairs and rehabilitations of broken Afridev pumps. In May 2021, the water program managed to repair only 3 Afridev pumps. This is the lowest number of repairs registered in a month for the year so far. This lowest output

was due to transportation challenges experienced due to the breakdown of the vehicle used by the water program for most of the month. So far in 2021, the water and sanitation program has supported repairs and rehabilitation of 50 Afridev pumps within the Kasese catchment.

SUMMARY OF PUMP REPAIRS FOR MAY, 2021					
No.	VILLAGE/ WATER POINT	GVH	PROBLEM	MATERIALS	REMARKS
1	Zozo	Zozo	Worn out hanger pin and fulcrum pin	1 hunger pin and fulcrum pin	Now functioning
2	Kachala	Kachala	Worn out hunger pin and fulcrum pin	1 hunger pin and fulcrum pin	Now functioning
3	Chilinkholi	Inje	Wornout cupseal	6 rod centralizers, 1 cup seal, 1 bobbin, 1 O-ring	Now functioning

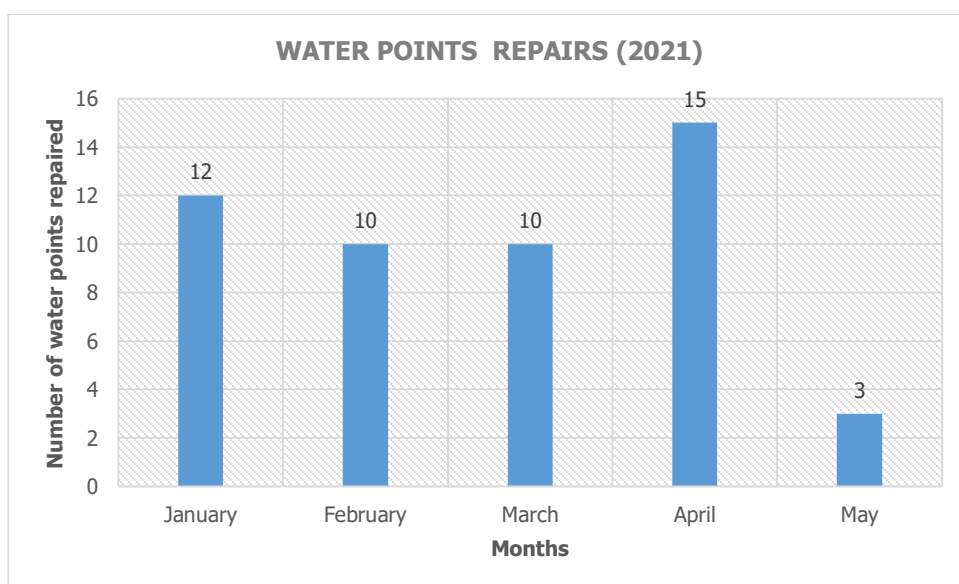


Figure 1: A graphical representation of the number of water points repaired in 2021 (January to May) by the OCA water program

2. District Coordination Team (DCT)/Integration Meeting Meeting

On the 20th of May, 2021, the water program was asked to represent OCA during the NGO Integration meeting in Dowa. The meeting was organized by the Local Government and Accountability Performance (LGAP) and the NGO Board. The main agenda for the meeting was to discuss how NGOs can work together and improve on coordination among themselves and the district council. During the meeting, it was agreed that NGOs should be sharing quarterly reports on project activities with the district council. It was further agreed that integration meetings should be conducted quarterly and NGO/district council should volunteer to fund these meetings. All these resolutions were made to promote transparency, accountability, and coordination among development partners.

3. Borehole drilling



Left –Unprotected old water source in Chiliphiza village, Centre – Well drilling in progress in Chiliphiza village, Right - A girl drawing water from a newly constructed well by OCA in Chiliphiza

The month of May was another important month as it marked the start of the new borehole drilling season. During the month, the water program managed to drill 1 borehole in Chiliphiza village, GVH Chiliphiza. The borehole was drilled on the 27th and civil works were completed on the 22nd of May, 2021. This is the first borehole drilled in 2021. The new borehole is now in use and it is supplying clean water to a total of 87 households (approximately 435 people). In 2021 OCA plans to drill 14 boreholes and currently has already secured funding for 11 boreholes.

4. Review and Planning Meeting with HSAs

To ensure coordination with the Environmental Health department for Kasese Health Centre, the water program organized a review meeting with Health Surveillance Assistants (HSAs). HSAs are responsible for the promotion of public health in the communities including water point sanitation. The meeting aimed at reviewing how the water program has implemented its activities in coordination with HSAs in the past year (2020). The meeting further aimed at strategizing on how the water program can improve its collaboration with HSAs. HSAs support the water program in the promotion of sanitation in both communities, water points, and schools. During the meeting, 16 out of 18 expected HSAs were in attendance.

5. Area Development Committee (ADC) Meeting

To promote community participation in decision-making regarding OCA activities, during the month the water program organized an ADC meeting for Traditional Authority (TA) Chakhadza B. The meeting was aimed at presenting an update for the water program activities for 2020 and plans for 2021. During the meeting, the ADC was given a chance to make a list of villages that have limited access to potable water so that the water program can develop borehole drilling sites from it. The ADC is made up of representatives from villages from TA Chakhadza B in which OCA is working. The ADC is responsible for planning and monitoring development work at the Traditional Authority level. In attendance during the meeting were 31 ADC members (10 Female, 21 male).



A section of participants of the ADC during the meeting supported by OCA

6. Mapping of villages for Chimamba piped water project



*Figure 2: **Left** - An alternative source of water in Matchondo village and a potential drilling site for a borehole for a piped Chimamba water project, **Right** - Unabandoned borehole in Samuel Village due to salty water*

In line with a proposal for the piped water project in the area of Group Village Head Chimamba, during the month, the water program visited 5 targeted villages for the project. The targeted villages include; Kanono, Matchondo, Samuel, Chimamba 2, and Nkhungulu. All of these villages have salty water which makes it difficult for NGOs and other development partners to drill boreholes in the villages. OCA plans to find a source of good water nearby these villages and supply the water to all these villages through a pipe network. During the visit, coordinates for these villages were collected for the production of a map to be used in the proposal development for the piped water project.

CONCLUSION

The month of May was another important month as it marked the beginning of borehole drilling season for the OCA water program. Furthermore, during the month, OCA also received visitors from Orant Charities US to appreciate some of OCA activities including the water program. However, in May the water program did not manage to fulfill enough of its obligation towards water point repairs due to transport challenges. The water program is very optimistic for the new month of June, as we continue drilling boreholes and repairing pumps within the Kasese catchment.

AGRICULTURE AND BUSINESS

AGRICULTURE

During the month of May 2021, the agriculture program performed several activities in supporting smallholder farmers in the communities. The activities were aimed at empowering the local farmers to live independent lives by having enough food and improved economic levels in their homes. Below are activities which were carried out during the reporting period.



Land preparation

When a farmer is planning to begin farming for the particular season, certain actions have to be implemented for the good success of the crops to be planted. Some of these actions include, deep ploughing, bed making and making planting stations. The purpose of doing these actions is to provide the necessary soil conditions for the plants to be planted. During the reporting month, Kasangadzi irrigation club was involved in the land preparation process whereby land was selected with good soil quality. The area also has a sustainable water source which is close to the selected field which will simplify the work of watering. Club members are ploughing and making beds using hand hoes in readiness for transplanting the sown seeds. Ploughing the field helps most in improving soil texture which influences water retention capacity.



Club members Ploughing the land using hand hoes

Sowing

Seed sowing is the key for good crop uptake and high quality and quantity of the crop to be produced because poor seedlings will result in poor performance on the main field. Kasangadzi irrigation club was trained in sowing of tomato seeds where manure was applied and mixed with soil. The system of sowing which was put in practice was line sowing whereby lines were spaced at the distance of 10cm apart and seeds were placed in the lines. Sowing seeds in the lines helps in reducing the problems of high density of the seeds which mostly results in poor seedlings.

Transplanting

Tomato seeds can be planted directly and sown to be transplanted whereby it can be ready for transplanting after 3 to 6 weeks from the day of sowing depending on the variety. In tomato production, better results are gained when seedlings have been raised in a nursery. The good seedling for transplanting has to undergo the process of hardening off which is done by reducing the volume of water application. The advantages of transplanting the seedlings include good and healthy plant seedlings that can be selected to be planted in the main field before transplanting and the planting distance is more even than sowing directly in the field. Chigona and Matchedza club members were involved in the process of transplanting the tomato seeds whereby club members were taught proper spacing for tomato production. Chigona and Matchedza Club members were also taught about the best time for transplanting the seedlings whereby they were encouraged to do transplanting activity during afternoon hours or cloudy days to reduce the transplanting shock.



Transplanting of tomato seedlings in progress

Pruning

Timvane Irrigation club is producing tomatoes and pruning activity took place during the reporting month. Pruning is more important activity in the process of tomato production as it improves the light penetration and air circulation. Pruned tomato plants produce good size and quality tomato fruits. Pruning is done by removal of any yellow or decaying foliage as soon as possible to avoid spread of disease. Pruning is also done by removing some side branches of the

plant. Side branches, if they are allowed to grow, will produce masses of foliage but few tomato fruits hence any shoots that have been overlooked and allowed to grow are removed. Pruning is done with proper care to avoid spread of disease via hands or any tools used for pruning. Proper care is done by cleaning tools used for pruning regularly and burning or burying all pruned leaves to avoid disease infections. Farmers are also advised to do pruning activity during morning hours on a sunny day so that the wounds can dry quickly.



A member of a club is pruning the tomato plants

Stalking

Tomato Stalking is about keeping the produced tomato fruits away from the ground. A tomato fruit has to be controlled from going off the ground or soil and has to be hoarded up the ground to avoid pests and disease from penetrating into tomato fruits. Ndalusa irrigation club was involved in the activity of stalking to ensure cleaner and healthier tomato fruits are harvested. The materials used for stalking include steaks which are readily available to the community and it is cheaper. Strings were used for tying up tomato trees 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 tomatoes are also easier to be harvested than those sprawling in the ground.

Manure and Fertilizer application

Manure application to the crops is more important as it improves soil structure and nutrient levels in the soil. During the time of transplanting tomato seedlings with Matchedza irrigation club, the club members were encouraged to apply manure into their field before transplanting. The activity was followed by little application of fertilizer after 5 days from the day of transplanting. The activity of fertilizer application is being done to boost up the nutrient content in the soil. The club members were also taught about the recommended rate of fertilizer application whereby 5g of fertilizer was applied per planting station. Members of the club are also advised to use the dollop method for D-compound fertilizer application for high yield.



Application of fertilizer in progress

OCA Farm

During the reporting month, the OCA tenant was able to do shelling of the produce where by shelling has been done and the produce is ready for fumigation. The demonstration crops have been harvested as well where by different varieties of the crops have been placed separately depending on the type of the crop and the variety. The crops being harvested from OCA demonstrations include Soya and Maize.

FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT MICROLOANS PROGRAM



Introduction

Financial empowerment microloan (FEM) is a program which was initially introduced by OCA in 2018. This program provides women entrepreneurs with interest free microloans with the aim of empowering women entrepreneurs to become financially self-reliant and help bridge the gap of limited access to microloan services in Malawi thereby contributing to poverty alleviation as per sustainable development goal (SDG) 1. The program is being implemented in Kasese, T/A Chakhaza in Dowa district. As at this date, there are fifteen women entrepreneurs who are the

prime beneficiaries of the program. These women are involved in various trades as summarized below:

Types of Business		
	Primary	Secondary
Food trade	4	4
Product trade	3	0
Shop/restaurant	5	1
Bulk trade	1	0
Product fabrication	0	0
Food production	1	1
Total	15	5

Table 1. Summary of Trades

Activities planned and implemented in May

Feedback sessions with the women entrepreneurs

This month we had a series of feedback meetings with the FEM members to:

- i. Determine the loan repayment period with the women

The FEM members were given a choice to decide a convenient repayment period. The members had settled for the idea that if the loans are to be disbursed in two circles, then the repayment period should be four months with a grace period of 30 days before they start repaying the loan. On the other hand, if the loans are to be disbursed once per year, then the repayment period should be extended to more than four months.

- ii. Fill and Complete the loan application forms

As part of the process, the women entrepreneurs are supposed to fill loan application forms. so the women were invited to OCA offices to complete the forms and have their individual photos for the loan forms taken. Again, we used this platform for women entrepreneurs to verify the amounts they will be given for this loan period.

Account opening for FEM members

This time around we wanted to move from the traditional way of disbursing cash loans to electronic transfers. In order to do so, it required the FEM members to have bank accounts. Out of the fifteen members, only one had a bank account. It was deemed necessary to involve the women in deciding which bank they would be comfortable to open account with since they will

be the sole owners of the accounts. When the women were asked which banks they would prefer from the list of banks we have such as Standard Bank, My Bucks, National bank e.t.c. they opted for MyBucks bank mainly because they have a branch at Madisi hence cheaper to commute to unlike other banks which are in Mponela. MyBucks has cheaper savings accounts which costs Mk 1000 only and does not have any service fees. Additionally, this account can be linked to mobile money.

OCA facilitated that MyBucks bank officials come to OCA and open bank accounts for the FEM members. They had managed to open thirteen accounts for the women entrepreneurs. The following are the MyBucks bank account numbers for the FEM members:

Cust Acc No	Ac Desc	Account Class
9082781925029	ALINET MACHISAWO	SAVING
9082783035022	RABECA MALETA	SAVING
9082783045026	MARY MNDOLO	SAVING
9082783555022	MALIGELITA NKHOMA TOBIAS	SAVING
9082783575028	PATRICIA SIMBI	SAVING
9082783585023	EDILINA JONATHAN	SAVING
9082783595027	GLORIA CHIDZANJA	SAVING
9082783605029	DOROTHY JELAO	SAVING
9082783625026	EZINET LEWO	SAVING
9082785245026	MAUAGULE KAINGOLO	SAVING
9082785265023	OLIPA CHAGOMERANA	SAVING
9082787745028	MARY MPHONDE	SAVING

Table 2 My Bucks individual Account numbers

Challenge

Of the fourteen members who did not have accounts, One, Lonily Lameck had failed to open an account because she did not have a national Identity card and we are still helping her with the processes so that she too can open a bank account.

Redesigning and compilation of individual loan application forms

The loan application forms have been redesigned to capture other information such as fixed asset declaration, bank details and other additional contact details which were not their initially. This section has been added with the aim of helping the women increase the chances of obtaining

huge loans not just from OCA but other financial institutions who would require such information. There are times that the working capital may fail to qualify them for certain amounts, in this case if they have fixed assets with a higher value, they may be able to qualify for higher amounts. Again, this will help us advise them on better businesses to invest in depending on the resources that they have.

Disbursement of Loans

This Loan period, we have managed to disburse a total amount of MK 2,820,000.00. the following is the breakdown of loan amounts disbursed to individual bank accounts as shown in table below.

S/N	Name	Amount
P-12	Alineti Machisawo	170,000.00
P-7	Deborah Mauagule	120,000.00
P-11	Dorothy Jelalo	200,000.00
P-09	Edilina Joshua	290,000.00
P-15	Gloria chidzanja	250,000.00
P-28	Lizineti Thokozani	210,000.00
P-06	Lonely Lameck	130,000.00
P-17	Maligelita Yosafati	170,000.00
P-14	Mary Levi	170,000.00
P-13	Mary Mndolo	150,000.00
P-16	Miguel Bright	260,000.00
P-25	Olipa Malizani	170,000.00
P-19	Patricia Simbi	170,000.00
P-29	Rabecca Yohane	210,000.00
P-18	Rachel Phiri	150,000.00
	Total	2,820,000.00

Loan amounts disbursed to individual

Zoe empower

We had a visit to Zoe to understand and learn how they implement their programs since their programs are quite similar and explore opportunities of how we their work can add value to our work hence developing a good working relationship.



Visit to ZOE empowers In Mponera,

EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM

Executive Summary

Orant charities Africa (OCA) is currently providing support to 94 students to pursue their education. This includes support at primary school, secondary school and for students attending college and University. Each beneficiary we support is an individual case with who, we work closely, providing mentoring and counselling, monitoring educational progress, providing support and involving the family, community and other local contacts to ensure that each beneficiary feels fully supported and is able to achieve their full potential.

The support we provide through the program includes payment of fees (primary, secondary, college and University) and funding of uniforms, stationery and other costs for beneficiary students. Most importantly of all, the program provides ongoing support and advice from our dedicated staff.

School Visits

OCA students closed for the first term holiday on 7th May 2020 and opened for second term in the same month on 24th. It was a busy month for the education program because it had to make sure that all students have returned home safely and that they are back to school in time. It is with gratitude to report that all students are back to school and have started well their second term. In

this month, OCA met sponsored students in primary school and they were ferried to school since their homes are far from school and they cannot travel on their own.

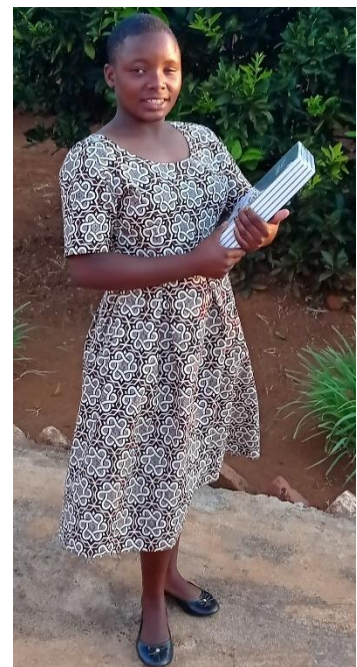
One of the primary students which OCA is sponsoring is Modester Patrick. Modester comes from Kasese Catchment area in Chapuwala Village, Dowa. She was born deaf and dumb and is learning at Embangweni school for the deaf in Mzimba district. OCA started supporting Modester in 2017 when she was young. Her school year covers up to 12th grade (12 years) since it deals with students with special needs. It is different from other primary schools in Malawi which covers 8 years. Modester is in the 7th grade and is doing good in class. She is now a happy girl.

➤ Below is the before and after pictures of Modester



2017 before OCA

OCA



Now (2021) sponsored by

Attending a graduation ceremony

In the same reporting period, OCA attended a graduation ceremony of one of the sponsored students. The student is Princess Phiri studying Community development at Salima Technical College and the graduation was held at Kabumba hotel in Salima district. Princess has acquired a certificate, diploma in community development and is finishing her advanced diploma in June 2021. It was a great ceremony and OCA was honored to be part of her achievement. Princess's mother also attended her Daughter's graduation ceremony.



Princess receiving her Certificate



From left; OCA personnel, princess and her Mother



Showing off her Certificate

Conclusion

OCA will continue to support disadvantaged students through their education in Malawi, providing support to children and their families, and working with the schools and the wider community to ensure each beneficiary receive full support to pursue their education and flourish.

Orant Charities Africa (OCA) operates an education sponsorship program that support the school for students attending primary and secondary schools and university in Malawi. Since 2017 OCA has had an education program that has paid tuition for students sponsored directly by Orant or by individual sponsors in the United States. In addition to that OCA receive sponsorship through Rotary and Geoshack organisations. The students currently being sponsored by Orant on a continuing basis are **94**. Some of these students also receive additional support for books, uniforms, and other supplies.

School Visits

OCA education program had a great month. In this month, students in different schools were visited for encouragement, support and progress. Few schools were visited since the students were writing exams and they were not to be disturbed. The schools which were visited in this month include; Lilongwe girls secondary school and Nkhamenya girls secondary school. During the visit, OCA provided students with notebooks, pens, rulers, mathematical instruments among

others. This is important because it helps the students to excel in class because the government of Malawi does not provide such materials for the students. Since these students come from very poor families and their families cannot afford to provide for them all the necessary materials, OCA thought it wise to provide support of school materials to them in order to keep them in school and also that they are able to do better in class because their basic needs are met. Below are the pictures of the students during OCA visits;



OCA education personnel interacting with students at Nkhamenya girls sec. school



A visit at Lilongwe girls secondary school

Replacement of Drop out students

In March, 2021, OCA reported the dropout of two students. therefore, in the month of April the two students have been replaced. These new students have been identified from the same schools and class which the former students were studying.

➤ Below are the pictures of the new students;



Name: Mphatso Chiotha

Age: 20

Class: form 4

School: Chigodi CDSS

Village/District: Mlangali (Kasungu)



Name: Jessy Nkhoma

Age: 18

Class: Form 4

School: Chamkango CDSS

Village /District : Chipapi (Dowa)

Mask distribution

A total of **2351** masks were distributed to 4 primary schools in Kasese Catchment area as a Covid-19 preventative measure. Kasese Catchment area has 12 primary school but OCA managed to distribute the masks to only four school and the other schools to be considered in the near future. These primary schools work together with OCA education program to identify needy students deserving sponsorship. Since primary school is free, the schools together with OCA look for potential students to be sponsored in secondary school.

Name of school	Number of Masks distributed
Katalima primary school	1096
Chiwira primary school	491

Chinguwi primary school	426
M'ndinga primary school	338
Total	2351

Masks distribution in primary schools

The mask distribution was accompanied by the Primary Education Advisor (PEA) and the Area Development Committee(ADC) Chairman. Below are the pictures;



Katalima primary school



Chiwira primary school



M'ndinga primary school



Chinguwi primary school

