

ORANT CHARITIES AFRICA MONTHLY REPORT

**HEALTHCARE, WATER, EDUCATION, AGRICULTURE, AND BUSINESS
PROGRAMS**

OCTOBER 2021

COMPILED BY

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(COUNTRY DIRECTOR)

HEALTHCARE PROGRAM



Introduction

Kasese healthcare program is at the core amongst the four programs of Orant Charities Africa (OCA). The program strives to provide comprehensive primary health care which commensurates with the health needs of the population of approximately 36,381 in its catchment areas. The program in this respect provides the highest quality healthcare and accessible services within its limited resources through curative services at Kasese static Clinic, community mobile outreach clinics (Bowe & Kasese), and many public health programs.

At the static clinic the following services are offered; Outpatient's Clinics, 24hrs children's observation ward, monthly Eye Clinic, Maternal and Child Healthcare Services like Antenatal, Maternity, Postnatal, provision of Family Planning Methods and Cervical Cancer Screening. In addition, the health center provides preventive services through the public health department, for example, nutrition supplements, children growth monitoring, and immunizations.

In the month of October 2021, the program both KHC OPD and Kasese Outreach attended to **2,453** patients. The laboratory department tested a total of **1,100** suspected cases of Malaria and confirmed **294** positive malaria cases representing a **27%** positivity rate. This time of the year the malaria cases are lower, because it's not the malaria season which is from December to June.

Table 1 Below shows monthly patients seen in both KHC and Mobile Outreach Clinics (MOC).

Months (2021)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Total
OPD Kasese Clinic	1964	1914	2970	2813	2804	3334	3572	2033	2088	2112	25604
Bowe Outreach	724	3172	3741	4602	3902	4991	4861	4064	3146	3003	36206
Kasese Outreach	258	360	379	771	447	590	346	313	329	341	4134
Children Ward	30	0	38	69	41	39	50	50	41	40	398
WK/Nights/Holidays	29	41	67	71	76	58	33	31	27	19	452
Total	3005	5487	7195	8326	7270	9012	8862	6491	5631	5515	66794

Figure 1 below shows total patient attendance for both KHC and MOC in the year 2021

Monthly Total Patient Attendance - 2021 (KHC & MOC)
Total Attendance:66293 ; Average : 6629; Min : 3005 ; Max : 8861

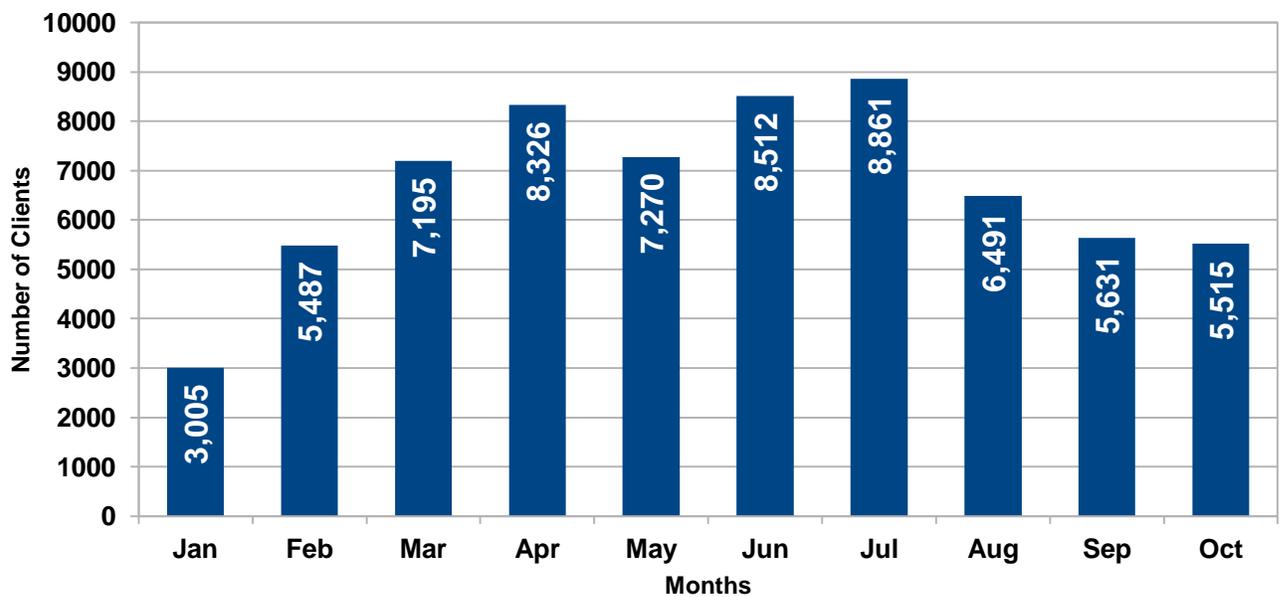


Figure 2 below shows total number of patients seen at KHC (OPD Static) and Kasese Outreach.

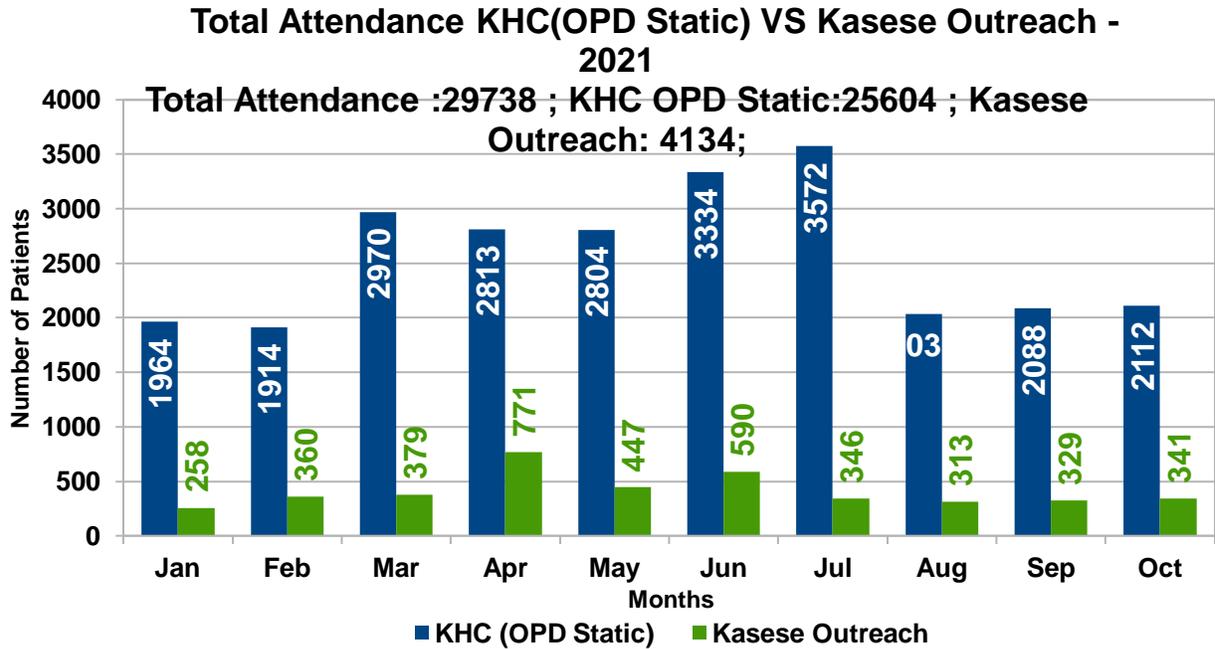


Figure 3 below shows total number of patients seen at KHC (OPD Static and Outreach) and Bowe Outreach.

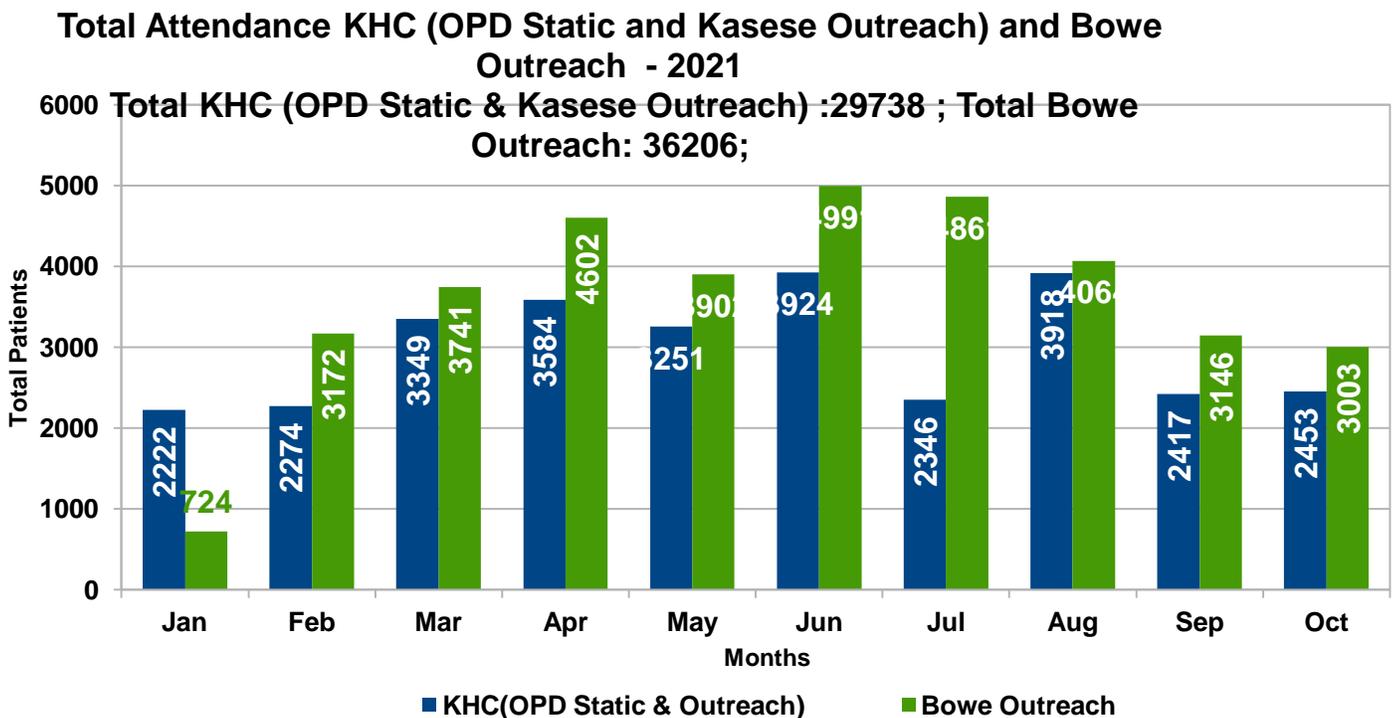
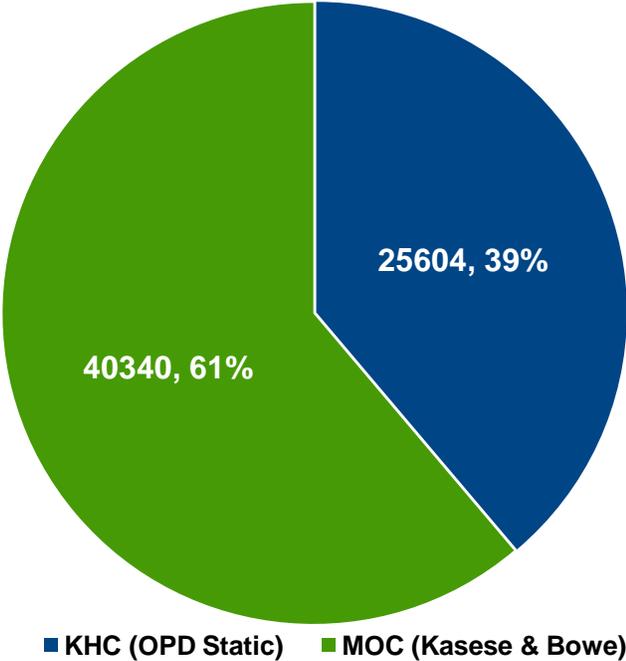


Figure 4 below shows the total number (Cumulative) of patients seen at KHC (OPD Static) and Bowe and Kasese Outreach.

KHC OPD Static VS MOC (Kasese & Bowe) - 2021



2. COVID 19 Situation Updates.

Malawi is experiencing a reduction in the number of COVID-19 new infections and death with the positive rate of 1.3 the lowest since the beginning of the third wave. The steady decline is at least bringing back the normal life. Malawi daily dashboard report as per end October shows cumulative confirmed cases of **61,803** and total deaths of **2,302**. The third wave accounts for more cases and deaths. Kasese Health Center has not been spared of the pandemic, the total confirmed cases is **58** with **3** deaths.

The COVID 19 vaccine availability, accessibility, and uptake has improved, with the help of health surveillance assistance (HSA), community members can get the jab near their respective villages. We received more 500 doses of Astra-Zeneca from the government.

2.1 Cumulative COVID 19 Data – KHC Static.

Table 2 below shows Cumulative COVID 19 Data.

	Staff(OCA/HSA)	Others	Total
Cumulative Tests	29	217	246
Cumulative Positives	10	48	58
Cumulative Deaths	0	3	3
October Tests	1	0	1
October Positives	0	0	0

Table 2: COVID 19 Cumulative Data.

2.2 COVID 19 Vaccine (Astra-Zeneca) – KHC Static.

Table 3 below shows Vaccine Doses Administered in the month of October 2021

Dose	Male	Female	Total
1st Dose	730	1108	1838
2nd Dose	51	19	70
Total	781	1127	1908

Table 3: Astra-Zeneca Administered at KHC Static (October 2021)

2.4 COVID 19 Vaccine Status – KHC Static.

Table 4 below shows Vaccine Status in the month of October 2021

Vaccine Type	Beginning Balance	End Balance	Doses Used
Astra-Zeneca	400	20	380

Table 4: Astra-Zeneca Status at KHC Static (October 2021)

Figure 5 below show cumulative vaccines administered at KHC in the year 2021. Johnson and Johnson (J & J) was only administered in the month of August

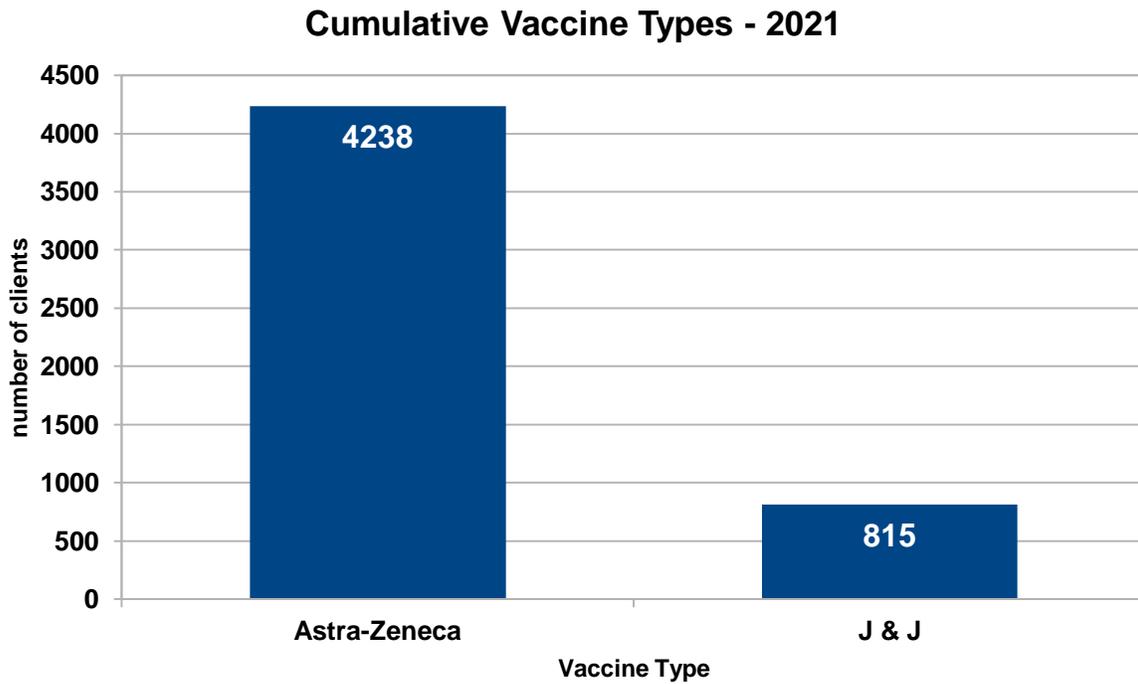


Figure 6 below shows the total number of vaccines administered in the month of October 2021.

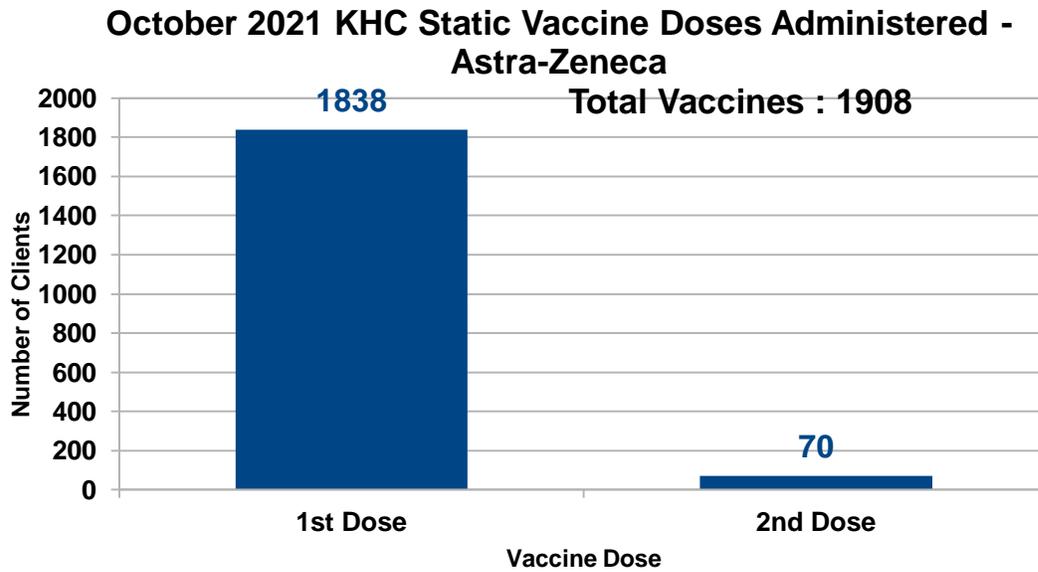
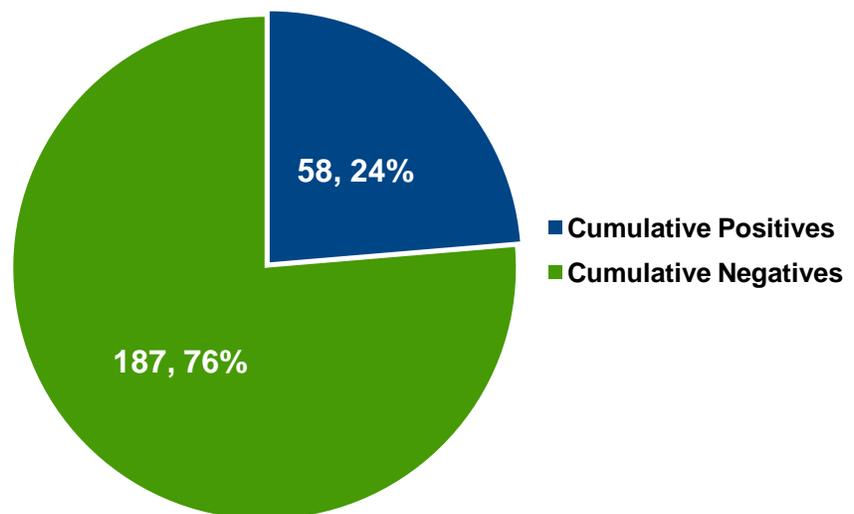


Figure 6: Astra-Zeneca Administered at KHC Static (October,2021)

Figure 7 below shows cumulative COVID 19 tests done in the year 2021.

Cummulative COVID 19 Tests - 2021

Cumulative Tests: 245



3. Reproductive and Family Planning Health.

3.1 Maternal and New-born Health Care

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

Despite the COVID 19 pandemic, maternity services were never interrupted and attendance remained as usual. In the month of October 2021, **38** attended the clinic and **30** infants were born. **9** mothers were referred to Madisi hospital for further management which includes a Caesarean Section(C/S). The referred clients were with different reasons as follows: **2** mothers had obstetric high risk with high parity, **1** was young Primgravida less than **17** years, **1** had Antepartum Hemorrhage(APH), **1** had Cepalo-pelvic Disproportion (CPD), **1** had Prolong Labour, and **2** was due to Pre-eclampsia.

Neonatal outcomes out comes were as follows:

One neonate was born death, (still birth) and two had weight less 2500 grams, the rest were born while fully term and with a good APGAR scores.

Table 5 below shows Maternity Data for the year 2021.

Months (2021)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Total
Admissions	26	26	33	32	31	30	32	36	32	29	307
Referrals	3	2	9	4	4	3	4	5	10	9	53
New Babies	27	26	34	33	33	30	33	36	32	30	314
Alive Babies	27	26	34	33	33	29	32	35	32	29	310

Table 5: Maternity Data - 2021

From table 5 above, in October, out of the new babies, **1** didn't make it (Still Birth Macerated) and a single mother delivered twins.

Table 6 below shows Maternity Data of new babies with complications for the year 2021.

Months (2021)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Total
Weight <2500 grams	2	1	2	0	4	1	2	1	3	2	18
Prematurity	2	0	5	1	4	1	2	0	0	0	15
Asphyxia	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	6
Sepsis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Still Birth Fresh	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Still Birth Macerated	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	3
Neonatal Death	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 6: Newborns with complications - 2021

Figure 8 below shows total Cumulative Maternity Complications for the year 2021.

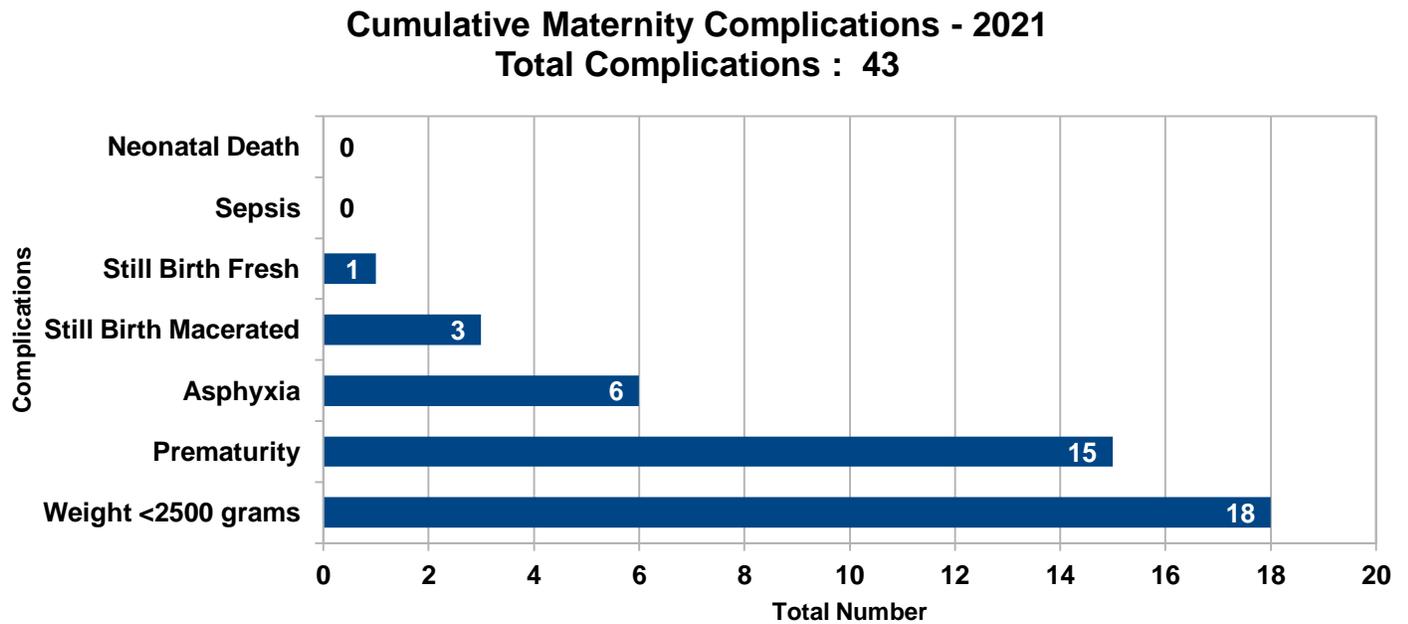


Figure 9 below shows total monthly Maternity attendance.

Maternity Attendance - October 2021
Total Attendance: 38

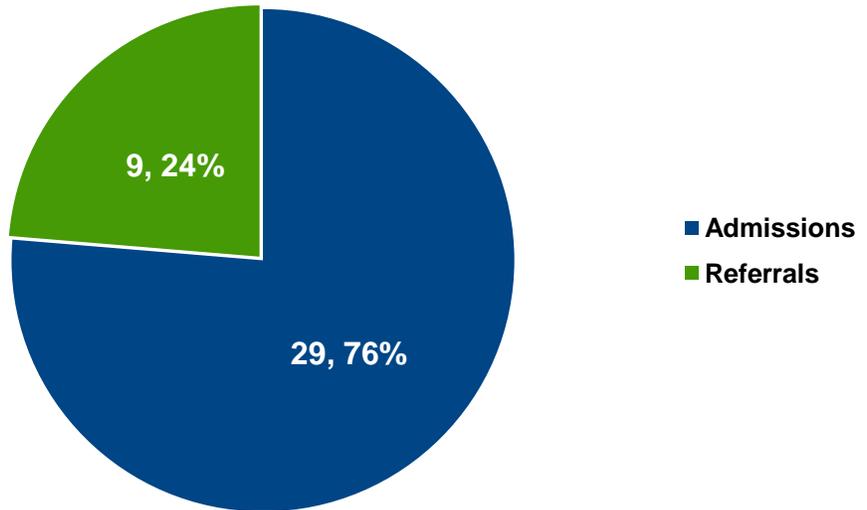
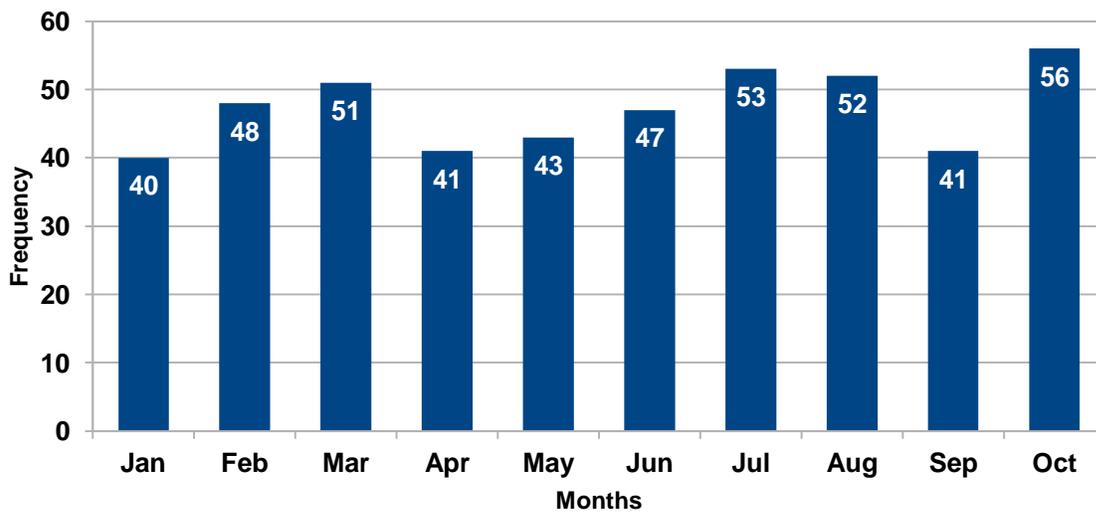


Figure 10 below shows ANC New attendances.

ANC New Attendance - 2021
Total New Attendance: 472; Average: 47 ; Min: 40; Max: 56;



3.2 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, the Kasese Health Center conducts routine visual screening of cervix using 3 – 5 % acetic acid (VIA) to women of childbearing age between 25 to 49 years, and as for the Month of October 2021, **23** women were screened and **2** were cancer suspects and they received thermal therapy (use of high temperature 113F to damage and kill early cancer cells).. According to the monthly data below, it has been noted there is low uptake of women accessing the screening services and therefore there is need for community sensitization.

Table 7 below shows 2021 Monthly Cervical Cancer Screening.

Month (2021)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Total	23	14	5	15	5	24	0	22	15	23
Positive	2	1	1	1	1	3	0	2	2	2

Table 7: Monthly Cervical Cancer Screening 2021 Table.

4. Eye Clinic.

Malawi has an estimated blindness prevalence of **1.2%**. The major of blindness are: Cataract, Trachoma, Glaucoma, Refractive Error and Childhood blindness (WHO, 2012). Kasese Health Center in a bid to assist the Government efforts to address the challenges related to the eye, conducts monthly Eye Clinic. The outsourced Eye Specialist from St Andrews hospital managed to attend to **81** patients and, **9** were booked for eye surgery which includes Conjunctiva Growths and Cataract. Attendance has increased in the months of September and October due to good publicity in our communities and many now could travel with less fear as COVID 19 subsided.

Table 8 below shows total number of clients treated for eye infections and those booked for surgery.

Month (2021)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Eye Infections (Treated)	18	25	19	24	27	22	15	25	65	81
Eye Surgery (Booked)	2	2	1	2	1	5	0	4	8	9

5. Malaria Report.

A large proportion of Malawi's population suffers from Malaria and it is among the Under 5 killer diseases. It is diagnosed through clinical signs and symptoms and laboratory tests which are conducted both Rapid test (MRDT's) and Microscopy blood smear slides. As observed from table 8 below, The Malaria disease trend continues to decrease as its summer season since the breeding ground for Mosquitoes is not favorable. Total of **1,100** Malaria tests were done in the month of October, positive **294** representing **27%** positivity rate. Children under five years, total test done was **720** and **213** were positives representing **30%**. For those five years and over, the total test was **380** and **81** were positives representing **21%**.

Table 9 below shows total Malaria Cases (MRDT's Positive), LA Issued and Dispensed

Months (2021)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Suspected Malaria Cases	1,595	1,647	2,593	3,053	2,269	2,256	2,107	1,008	1,001	1,100
Suspected Cases Tested	1,587	1,647	2,593	3,053	2,269	2,256	2,096	1,008	979	1,100
Confirmed Malaria Cases	911	1,070	1,823	2,025	1,511	1,005	459	148	253	294
New Malaria Cases Reg	911	1,070	1,823	2,025	1,511	1,005	470	148	275	294
LA Dispensed	919	1,070	1,823	2,025	1,511	1,005	470	170	275	290
LA Issued	2,610	1,740	2,810	3,630	2,100	1,620	1,170	390	380	660

Figure 11 shows total KHC (Static and Kasese Outreach) Malaria tests (October 2021)

Total Malaria Test - October 2021
Total Tests: 1100

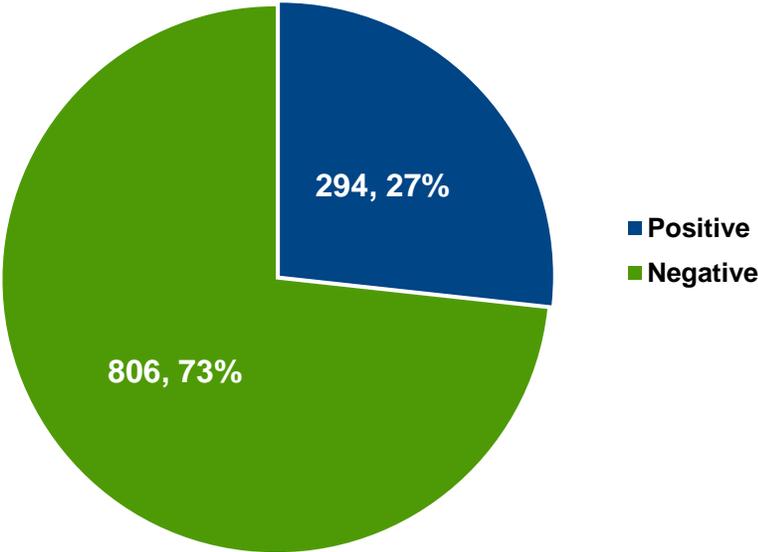


Figure 12 shows total KHC (Static and Kasese Outreach) 5 Years and Over Malaria tests

5 Years and Over Malaria Tests - KHC (Static & Kasese Outreach - Oct 2021)
Total Tests: 380

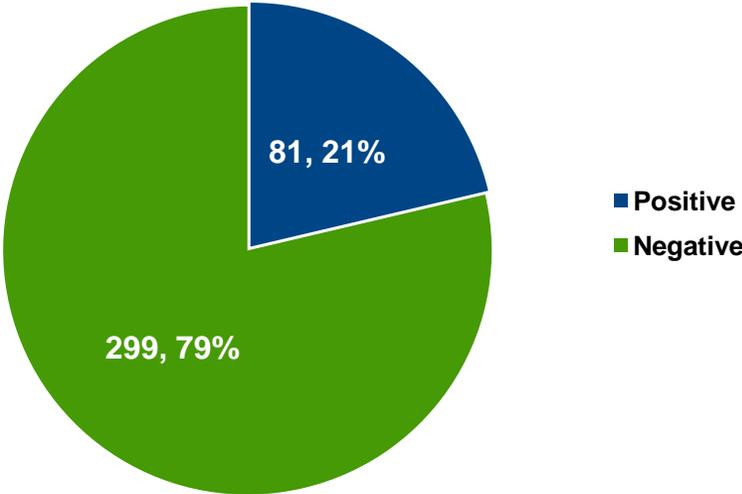
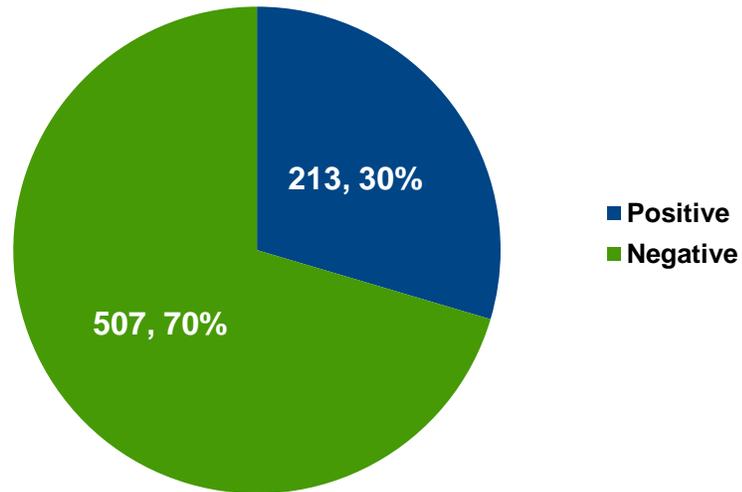


Figure 13 shows total KHC (Static and Kasese Outreach) Under 5 Malaria tests

Under 5 Years Malaria Tests - KHC (Static & Kasese Outreach - Oct 2021)

Total Tests: 720

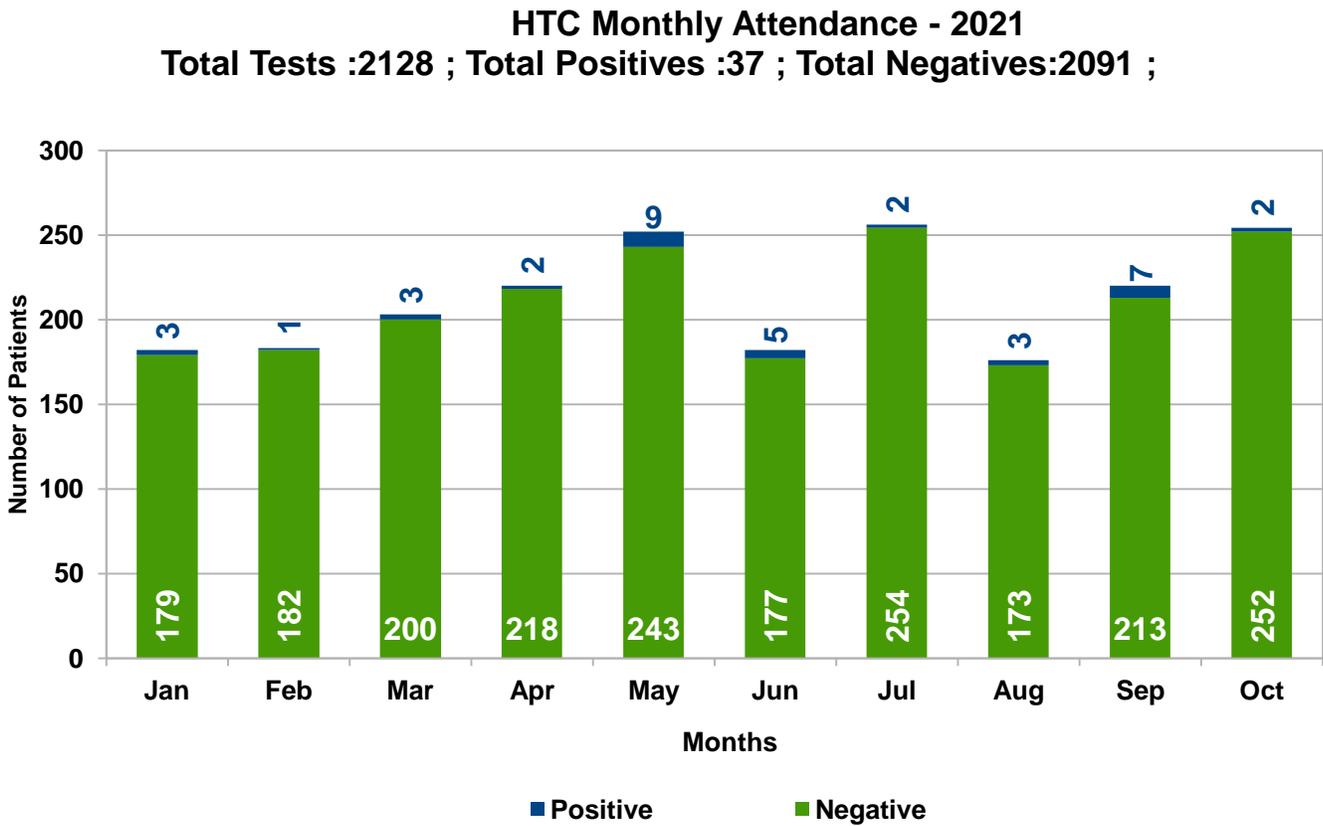


With reference to the figures, 12 and 13 above, more Malaria tests were conducted in Under 5 (**65%**) than 5 Years and over (**35%**) because Under 5 children are prone to Malaria since their immunity is not fully developed.

6. HIV Testing and Counseling (HTC).

The Health Center continues to conduct opt-in HIV Counselling and Testing services to general public and antenatal mothers as Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT). The HIV prevalence rate is at **1.2%** against national prevalence rate of **8.2%**. As for the month October 2021—**252** clients were tested only **2** tested positive for HIV, representing **0.7%** Positivity rate.

Figure 14 below shows HTC Monthly Data (Jan to Oct 2021).



7. Laboratory Services.

The Health Center Laboratory Department continues to conduct and provide a reliable tests befitting primary health care level, the most common tests done are rapid test trips, malaria tests (MRDT's) ,HIV tests and COVID 19 Rapid Antigen Test , basic microscopy test like TB test and Full Blood Count.

Table 10 Below shows qualitative Laboratory tests conducted in the year 2021 (KHC Static and Kasese Outreach).

	H. Pyloris		Salmonella		Hep B		VDRL		HCG		TB MP		COVID 19	
	Tot	Pos	Tot	Pos	Tot	Pos	Tot	Pos	Tot	Pos	Tot	Pos	Tot	Pos
Jan	26	6	16	2	2	0	1	0	36	17	4	0	43	18
Feb	38	7	8	1	4	1	-	-	57	21	6	0	25	5
Mar	75	14	12	2	4	1	3	0	57	0	6	0	25	5
Apr	58	12	19	2	5	1	2	1	67	23	5	0	19	0
May	63	13	8	1	3	0	2	0	67	23	5	0	19	0
Jun	49	9	8	0	4	0	-	-	49	18	3	1	6	0
Jul	76	15	11	3	3	0	-	-	43	18	2	0	57	17
Aug	37	7	6	0	0	0	-	-	31	18	1	0	48	12
Sep	63	16	4	0	1	0	-	-	28	14	3	0	3	1
Oct	77	13	5	1	3	0	-	-	41	24	3	0	1	0
Total	562	112	97	12	29	3	8	1	466	176	38	1	246	58

Table 10: Qualitative Lab Tests Data Table for KHC Static and Kasese Outreach - 2021.

Figure 15 below shows qualitative lab tests 2021

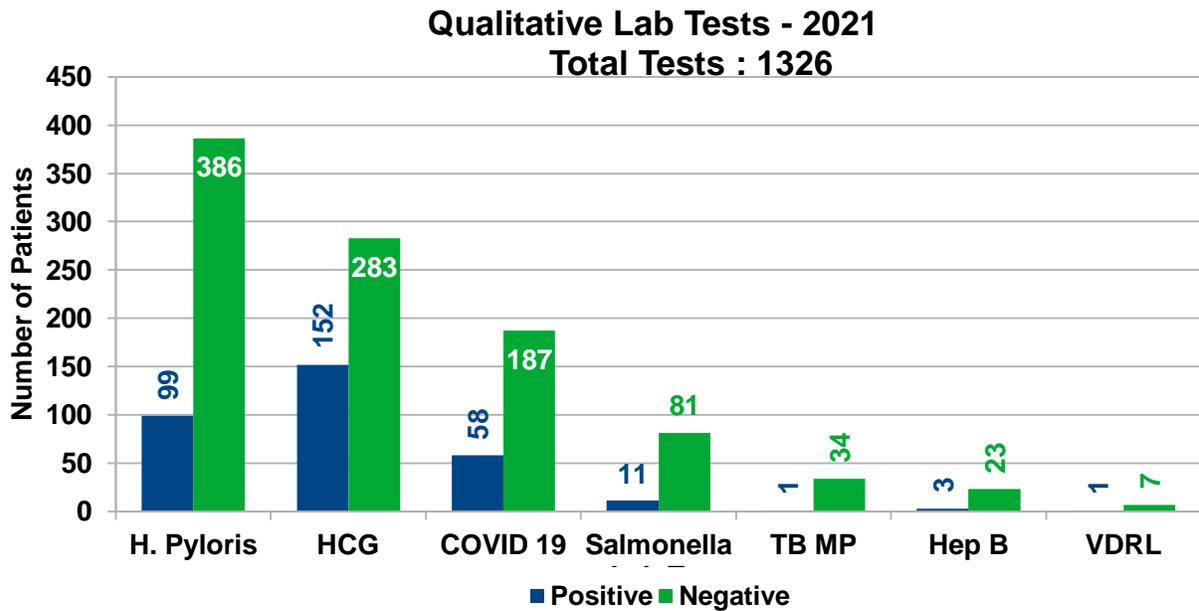
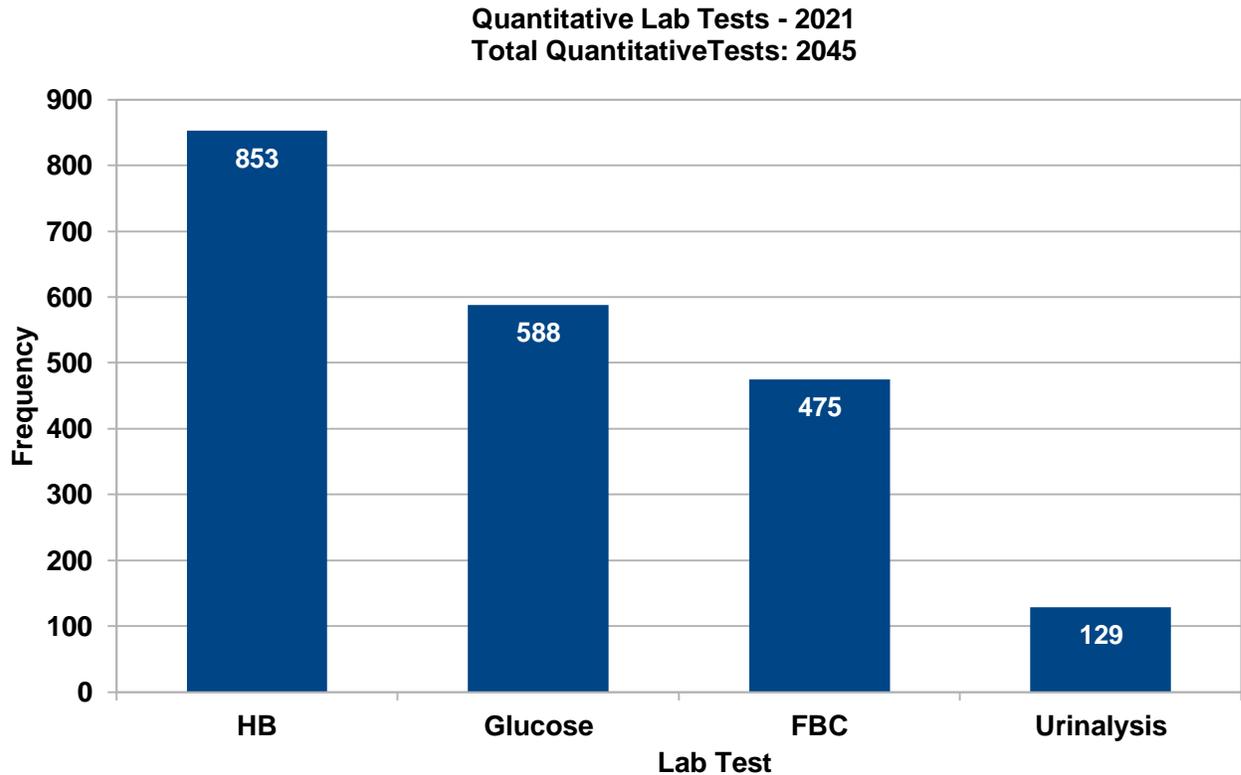


Table 11 Below shows quantitative Laboratory tests conducted in the year 2021 (KHC Static and Kasese Outreach).

	Glucose	HB	Urinalysis	FBC
Jan	46	47	21	89
Feb	97	109	21	71
Mar	68	116	10	71
Apr	77	167	23	22
May	81	128	17	31
Jun	46	90	12	52
Jul	52	79	12	78
Aug	18	68	11	65
Sep	103	49	2	45
Oct	52	69	8	80
Total	640	922	137	555

Table 11: Quantitative Lab Tests Data Table for KHC Static and Kasese Outreach.

Figure 16 shows quantitative lab tests for the year 2021

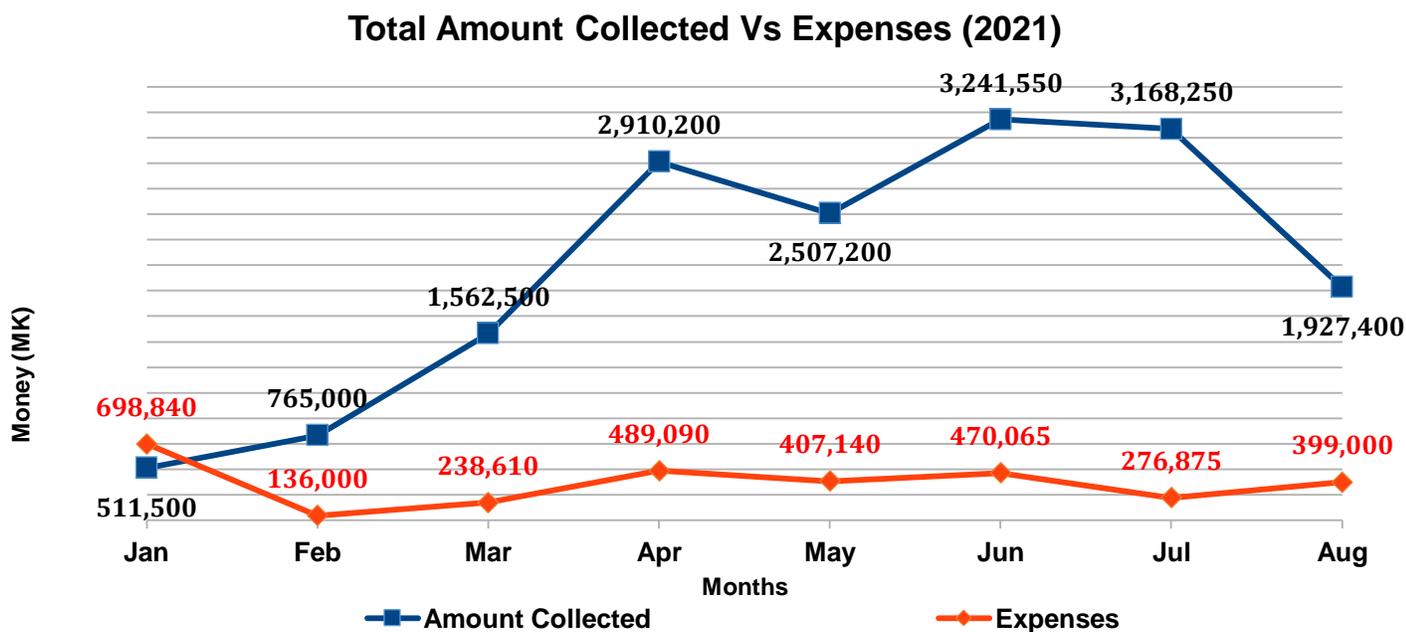


B. Healthcare Finance and administration

The healthcare major funding is from donors (Orant Charities USA), which the health center receives every month. In addition, the health center locally resource funds from patients which is referred as user fee. User fee is the money patients pay at the clinic entry point (Cashier desk); Children pay **MK 200** and adults are charged **MK 1000** only within the catchment area, otherwise **MK 3000**. The fee is within the means and resources of our average community member. However, those who cannot afford to pay are not barred from accessing the services, while others are exempted in accordance with the user fee policy, for example those with chronic illness like Epilepsy, Asthma, and Hypertension.

NB: Financial report for October is not ready as an accountant is on Maternity leave and she is yet to compile

Figure 17 below shows Expenses and Amount Collected (Jan to Aug 2021).



C. General Clinic Report

1. Achievements

- i The health center attended to **2,453** patients at KHC OPD and Kasese Outreach , while maternity department delivered **30** newborn babies.
- ii HTC Clinic tested **252** clients for HIV and only **2** were positive representing **0.7%**.
- iii The health center procured medicine and medical supplies on time and according to the current needs, in the month of October 2021 the health center purchased medicine amounting to MK **3,271,165**. Overspending by **21,165** from the monthly budget of MK **3,250,000**.
- iv The Health Center received a certificate of excellence from the Ministry of health (HIV/AIDS & hepatitis unit) for the outstanding management of HIV/AIDS in adults and children.
- v Orant Charities Africa (OCA) staff had annual day retreat at Lake Malawi, where they had a chance to learn about professional workplace conduct (customer care), team building while relaxing, refreshing at the lake-shore.
- vi The clinic has managed to operate within the budget in fuel and electricity.

- vii Clinic Surgical Instruments were procured which includes Forceps, Scissors and Speculums.
- viii COVID 19 Cases has abated and we had zero case in October.
- ix The Health Center recruited a nurse expected to report on 22nd of November 2021.
- x The Electronic Data System is working well.

2. Challenges

- i. There is a need for the third clinician to assist in static clinic work.
- ii. In the context of COVID 19, there are changes in infection prevention guidelines, so, there is need for infection prevention new guideline brief to entire clinic staff.
- iii. Theft and Pilferage remains a challenge.

WATER PROGRAM



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The water program continues to support rural communities in the promotion of access to Water and Sanitation. In October 2021, the water and sanitation program continued the drilling of boreholes in its effort to promote access to potable water in the Kasese catchment. By the end of October, the water and sanitation program managed to achieve the following milestones;

- Repaired **6** water-points out of which 1 required a full rehabilitation
- Drilled **2** boreholes in Kameza and Mphaluka villages
- Trained **2** Water Point Committees (WPCs) training for Kapapa and Mtengo borehole
- Attended **2** community sensitization meetings organized by Chiefs
- Begun Pit latrines construction at Madzo school

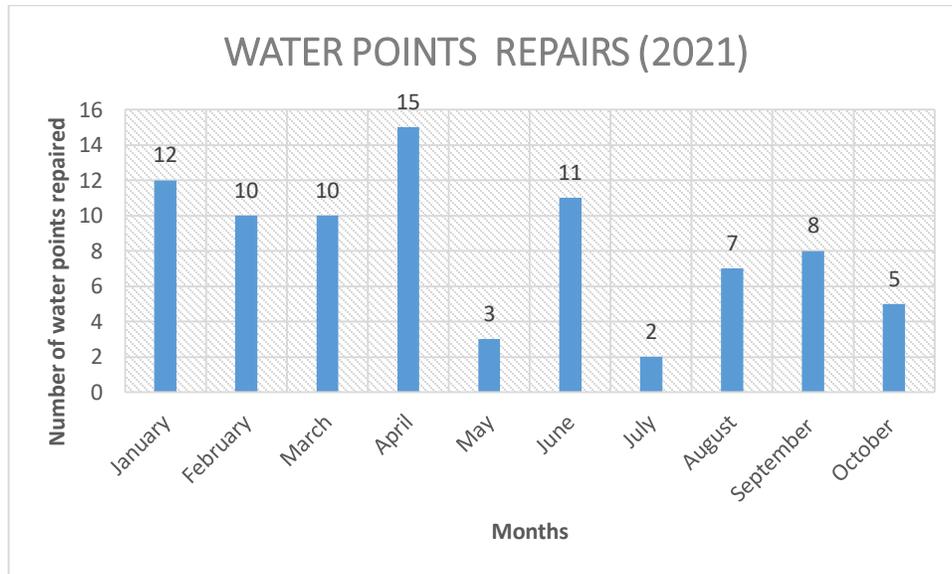
DETAILED NARRATION OF MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

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 supports repairs and rehabilitations of broken Afridev pumps. In October 2021, the water program managed to repair a total of **6** Afridev pumps. One of the six boreholes repaired in the month required a full rehabilitation of its civil works. This was done at Ngala Secondary School where the borehole Apron/ civil works were broken. OCA managed to rehabilitate the civil works and the borehole is working properly. So far in 2021, the water and sanitation program

has supported repairs and rehabilitation of **83** Afridev pumps within the Kasese catchment. In addition to pump repairs, the water program is also promoting preventive maintenance of boreholes which is implemented hand in hand with government Pump area mechanics. Preventive maintenance entails servicing a borehole before it breaks down and it is done every 3 months for each borehole and service agreement. Below is a list of repairs supported by OCA in Kasese catchment during the month;

No.	VILLAGE	GVH	PROBLEM	MATERIALS	REMARKS
1	Ngala CDSS	Nkhandwe	Rehabilitation	1 Pump head, 1 Handle, 4 Bush bearings, 10 Rod Centralizers, 1 O-ring, 1 Cup	Successfully done
2	Kachala	Kachala	Worn out plunger	Plunger complete set	Successfully done
3	Chigoma	Chigoma	Worn out pipes	1 pump rod, 2 Double-end sockets, Rod centralizer, Solvent cement	Successfully done
4	Inje 1	Inje	Broken cylinder	2 PVC pipes, 6 Double socket	Successfully done
5	Mtambalika TC	Mphaluka	Broken pipe	1 PVC Pipe, 1 Rod centralizer,	Successfully done
6	Kasangadzi	Kawelawela	Broken pipes	5 PVC pipes, 1 Fulcrum pin, 4 Double-end sockets, 1 solvent	Successfully done



A graphical representation of the number of water points repaired in 2021 (January to October) by the OCA water program



***Left** - Ngala Secondary school before civil works rehabilitation, **Right** - Ngala borehole after civil works rehabilitation before pump installation*

2. Borehole Drilling and Construction

In October OCA drilled two boreholes in Kameza and Mphaluka villages. The three boreholes have been installed with Afridev pumps and are working properly. Currently, the total number of boreholes drilled in 2021 is **12** out of the initial target of **15**. The water program expects to reach the borehole drilling target by the end of November 2021. Details for each borehole drilled in the month are recorded in the following table;



Left – Old water source in Kameza village; A hand-dug well lined with a car tire, Right- A newly drilled borehole in Kameza village, a gift of water from OCA

2021 OCA BOREHOLE DRILLING PROGRESS								
N O.	VILLAGE	GVH	DRILLING MONTH	COORDINATES	DONOR	POPULATION	PROGRESS	COMMENT
1	Chiliphiza	Chiliphiza	May	33.529175,- 13.410592	Bob/Janine	435	Done	Working properly
2	Kapale	Chikwangula	June	33.574104,- 13.400601	N/A	313	Done	Working properly
3	Soko	Joseni	June	33.589523,- 13.276888	N/A	200	Done	Working properly
4	Chinkha	Chibisa	July	33.562687,- 13.4176	Susan Brennan	650	Done	Working properly
5	Solokoto	Makombwa 2	July	33.48238,- 13.384628	Bob/Janine	380	Done	Working properly
6	Chikumba	Kalonga	August	33.46764,- 13.360085	Steve Selinger	280	Done	Working properly
7	Kaunjika	Joseni	August	33.59561,- 13.252439	Susan Brennan	310	Done	Working properly

8	Basikolo	Chikwangula	September	33.5765,- 13.40692	N/A	250	Done	Working properly
9	Mtengo	Chazinga	September	33.464947,- 13.447797	N/A	350	Done	Working properly
10	Kapapa	Makombwa 1	September	33.499004,- 13.375022	N/A	200	Done	Working properly
11	Kameza	Makombwa	October	33.498417,- 13.387602	N/A	300	Done	Working properly
12	Mphaluka	Mphaluka	October	33.600216,- 13.276069	N/A	280	Done	Working properly

3. Water Point Committees (WPCs) Training



Left – A practical session during water point committee training at Kapapa borehole, Right - A group discussion during Water Point committee training for Mtengo borehole.

To ensure sustainable management of water points by communities, OCA trains WPCs in Community Based Management (CBM) of Afridev pumps. In October, the water program managed to train 2 WPCs for the Mtengo and Kapapa boreholes which were drilled in September 2021. The training was facilitated through a collaborative effort among OCA Water program staff, Water Monitoring Assistant from Dowa District Water Department, Afridev Pump Area Mechanics, and Health Surveillance Assistants (HSAs) from Kasese Health Centre/ Dowa District Health Office. A total of 11 participants (Female: 6 and Male: 5) attended the training from each village, this includes a Chief and 10 water point committee members respectively. During the training, the water point committees were trained in minor borehole repairs and sanitation for their water point among other

lessons. So far in 2021, the water program has trained a total of 12 WPCs (Out of which 6 WPCs are for boreholes drilled in 2021 and 6 for 2020).

4. Pit Latrine Construction at Madzo Primary School



Left - Construction of a sub-structure for the first block of pit latrines at Madzo Primary School, Right - Construction of the super-structure for the first latrine block at Madzo Primary School (Current status)

In 2021 OCA intends to construct 2 latrines for both boys and girls at Madzo Primary School. These facilities are expected to reduce the likelihood of disease outbreaks as a result of a lack of sanitary facilities. Currently, Madzo Primary school has latrines that have damaged structures and are in poor sanitary conduction hence being a health risk to the learners. Construction of latrines at Madzo began in October and will continue up to the end of November 2021.

5. Community Sensitization Meetings



A cross-section of community members at Mkhobola School

During the month the water program was invited to attend community meetings organized by Chiefs at Kabuluzi and Mkhobola Primary School. OCA was represented by

the Water Field Assistant during the meetings. During the meetings messages about OCA activities especially the water program were delivered. This was done to promote understanding of OCA water programs activities thereby ensuring active community participation in those activities.

CONCLUSION

The water program schedule for the month was very tight due to the beginning of the latrine construction exercise at Madzo school as well as the continuation of the borehole drilling season. Despite this, the water program made significant progress towards achieving the set objectives for the year and articulated in this report. The water program is very optimistic for the new month of November 2021 as we continue driving towards Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6, thus promoting access to clean water and sanitation for all.

AGRICULTURE AND BUSINESS

AGRICULTURE



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As one way of reducing hunger and economic problems in Malawi, OCA support smallholder farmers in irrigation farming and rain feed farming. By achieving this, health condition of the farmers is also improved through reduction in cases of malnutrition cases. During report month, the following milestones were achieved.

- Drip kit installation
- Dip ploughing the farm
- Formation of association or cooperative
- Finding 3 partners for working with OCA on demonstration farming
- Harvesting and marketing the irrigation clubs produce
- Planting and transplanting seeds and seedlings
- Manure and fertilizer application

Drip kit system installation

Drip kit is the system used for irrigation which is designed to conserve soil nutrients and to minimize wastage of water during watering of the crops. Drip system of watering the crops, are designed in a way that it takes water directly to the plant growing roots. The activity of installing drip system was done at Ndalusa irrigation club where quarter acre

drip kit was installed and club members have welcomed the development as it has a lot of benefits which including:

- ✓ Giving them enough time to do other activities.
- ✓ It saves water as the system minimizes water waste and prevent evaporation
- ✓ It directs water into the depth of the ground and direct to plant roots hence extending time that plant get water.
- ✓ Prevents weeds from taking water and soil nutrients from plants as water goes direct on crop growing roots hence weeds find hard time to survive.



Installation of drip kit system

Dip ploughing the farm

The main intention of ploughing the field deep before planting the crops is to promote good tillage for crop production which improves root penetration and rain water infiltration. OCA farm was ploughed after being cultivated for almost four years without deep ploughing. The goal of ploughing the field includes;

- ❖ Reducing weeds problems as the farm mostly get affected with witch weed which brought low yields in past years.
- ❖ As the area is affected with prolonged dry spells and drought problems, deep ploughing will help in increases infiltration of rain water into the soil hence the crop will survive better during drought period.
- ❖ As the soils in OCA farm are in short supply of enough nutrients for plant establishment and growth, deep ploughing improves soil aeration which helps in multiplication of micro-organisms hence organic matter decomposition is hastened resulting in higher nutrient availability to the plant.



Ploughing of OCA farm using tractor

Formation of association or cooperative

During rainy season of 2021 to 2022, part of OCA farm will be cultivated by several households coming from surrounding villages of Kasese clinic. The goal of working with these households is to train them in commercial farming which will result into helping them to understand farming as business and in creating wealth through farming. The beneficiaries will be encouraged to establish an association or cooperative before crop harvest to enable them to find competitive markets and sell their produce at once. OCA will support them with microloans for farm inputs such as seed, chemicals, inoculant and fertilizers and the beneficiaries will provide their own labour and security to the crops all the time. The selection of beneficiaries is in progress and they are expected to start the work within the month of November 2021.

OCA demonstration

OCA demonstration site is designed to train farmers especially from Dowa district and specifically from OCA catchment area. On this site, farmers are trained in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) which include good choice of varieties for food and commercial farming, pest and disease control and, manure and fertilizer application. This activity to be successfully done, OCA has partnered with seed and chemical producer companies which includes Bayer, Seed-co and Farmers World. These companies will provide seed, chemicals and pesticides for these demonstration plots.



Measuring of demonstration sites

Harvesting and marketing

Madzimayela and Kasangadzi irrigation clubs were involved in harvesting and marketing of tomato. The crop has produced good fruits and good markets were found despite some challenges of resistant pest's attack and reduction in the quality of the produce. As tomato is perishable crop, farmers were trained in grading and encouraged to sell the produce as soon as possible after harvesting to reduce damages. Marketing exercise of the produce was done and better prices have been discovered and club members are expected to get better profits which will bring a lot of smiles on farmers faces.



Harvesting of tomatoes at Kasangadzi irrigation club

Planting

Irrigation clubs of Chigona, Timvane and Mantchedza were involved in planting of maize crops. For good quality and healthy crop stand in maize production, it requires the correct choice of maize variety. Proper spacing and all other crop management practices have to be practiced as well for bumper harvest. Club members were trained in practices involved in maize crop production in irrigation farming. All irrigation club members were encouraged to use sasakawa system of maize crop production where one seed is planted per planting station at spacing of 25cm from planting station to the other and the lines were spaced at 75cm from one another.

Manure and fertilizer application

Addition of manure and fertilizer in crop production is of more benefits for bumper harvest. Club members were encouraged to apply manure before transplanting followed by little application of fertilizer. Manure works better by mixing with soils than sprinkling on the ground. Manure application helps in improving soil fertility and structure. Application of the manure in the field also reduces the rate of fertilizer application. Irrigation clubs of Chigona, Mantchedza and Madzimayela were involved in manure and fertilizer application for better harvest.



Application of manure in already grown crops

FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT MICROLOANS PROGRAM

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Financial Empowering Microloan programs is one of the programs being implemented by OCA which mainly deals with women entrepreneurs. The main objective of the program is to empower women entrepreneurs with Microloans thereby contributing to economic empowerment and poverty reduction both at district and national levels. These objectives are inline Sustainable Development Goals 1¹ and 8²). In the month of October, FEM carried out a number of activities as narrated below.

Introductory meeting with New FEM group

OCA has finalized the establishment of the new FEM group. The group comprises 14 women entrepreneur who own and run businesses either at Kasese trading Centre or in surrounding villages within our catchment area. The group had its first meeting to discuss/highlight some of the loan procedures and what is expected of the members. We also used this forum for the women to interact and get to know each other. During the meeting proceedings, the women also had the chance of coming up with the name of the group. There were a few suggestions for the name and they all finally agreed and settled on the name "Tijanane" FEM group). Below, is a table showing the demographic and socio economic data of the new members.

Loan No	Name	GVH	T/A	Age	Phone Number	Primary Activity
P-05	Tamale kachingwe	Kasese	Chakhaza	31	+265991085316	Restaurant and Chips
P-10	Malita Banda	Kasese	Chakhaza	38	+265991085327	Groceries shop
P-11	Patricia Banda	Kalungulu	Chakhaza	22	+265993771054	Plastic utensils
P-12	Ireen Hendelesoni	Kalungulu	Chakhaza	41	+265997000637	Green maize
P-13	Stella Kalimbakatha	Kasese	Chakhaza	32	+265991944144	Hair dressing salon
P-16	Ndazona Teshar Mchonjo	Kachara	Chakhaza	34	+265994284368	Gloceries' Shop
PP-20	Mary Theulo	Kalungulu	Chakhaza	33	+265980905485	Second hand clothes
P-21	Loveness Yakobe	Zozo	Chakhaza	22		Fish
P-22	Editta Mtsitsa	Chidothi	Chakhaza	31	+265991203942	Tearoom
P-23	Maness Nkhoma	Kalungulu	Chakhaza	39	+265995766831	Maize Drink (Thobwa)
P-24	Gladys Chidzalo	Mankhaka	Chakhaza	40	+265999874623	Zitumbuwa (Banana Flitters)
P-25	Sofeleti Manjawira	Loti	Chakhaza		+265999923804	Tearoom
P-26	Dorothy Makuta	Kasese	Chakhaza		+265991995524	Flitters
P-27	Emily Dambuleni	Kasese	Chakhaza	46	+265990633381	Restaurant and tearoom

Table 1 Demographic and socioeconomic data for Tijanjane FEM group

¹ SDG 8: promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for

² SDG 1: Ending poverty in all its forms,

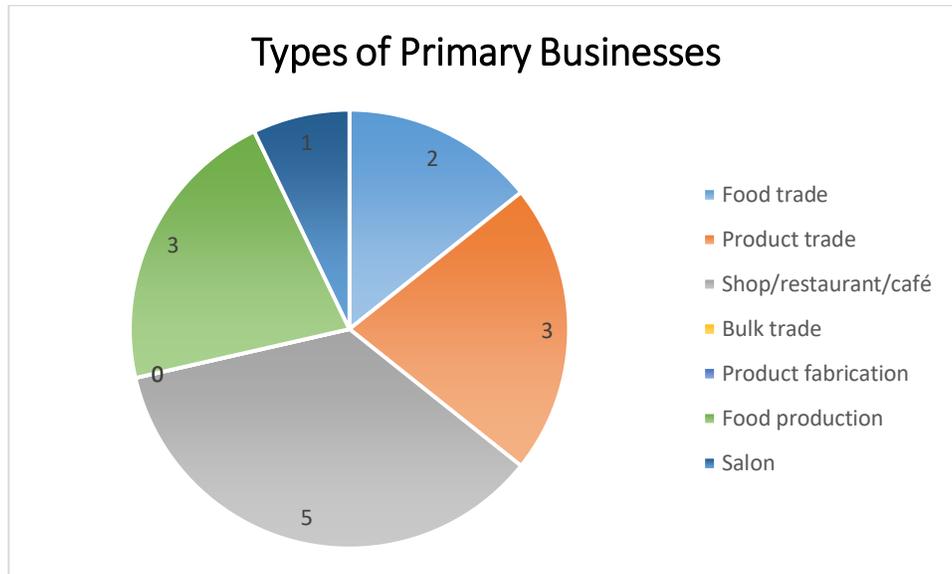


Figure 1 Percentages of different types of primary trades

Bank orientation with Tiyanjane FEM group

With the new system of disbursing loans electronically, the new group is expected to open bank accounts with MyBucks bank. Officials from the bank were invited to:

- i. Orient the women on the banking services that the bank offers and they can access such services
- ii. Advise them on the most convenient bank account they may open
- iii. Collect customer information to be used during account opening/ conduct customer information survey



Figure 2 My bucks bank officials with Emily Dambuleni group



Figure 3 Bank briefing with Tiyanjane FEM

Hey Sister Campaign

As we are continuing with the Digital Financial Literacy (DFL) campaign, in the month of October, OCA with the assistance from Hey sister campaign champions managed to activate about 88 new listening clubs. These listening clubs represent 819 men and women out of which 72 percent are women. About 22 of the activated listening clubs have succeeded in finishing the whole phase two curriculum and we hope to replicate this to other Hey sister listening groups by the end of the year 2021.

Loan repayment

October marks the end of the first loan period in 2021. In June this year, OCA disbursed a total of Mwk 2,820,000 loans to its 15 women entrepreneurs to help them boost up their working capital. The women entrepreneurs were given a month's grace period before starting repayment. This was done with the aim of allowing the women entrepreneurs to fully invest the loan into the businesses. Though we had some minor hiccups along the way, OCA has managed to fully recover the funds which were disbursed as loans to women entrepreneurs. Below is a summary of the loan repayment schedule.

Table 2 Repayment Schedule for July to October 2021 loan period

Loan Period	June to October 2021	Total Loan (Mk)	2,820,000	Total Amnt received (Mk)	2,820,000.00	Balance (Mk)	-		
Start date	7/30/2021	Total Loan (\$)	3461	Total Amnt received (\$)	3461	Balance (\$)	0		
End Date	10/31/2021								
# of instalments	4								
Loan number	NAME	Loan Amount	1st Instalment	2nd Instalment	3rd Instalment	4th Instalment	Total loan repaid	Loan Balance	Default
			7/30/2021	8/30/2021	9/30/2021	10/31/2021			
P-02	ALINET MACHISAWO	170,000	42,500	42,500	42,500	42,500	170,000	-	No
P-03	RABECA YOHANE	210,000	52,500	52,500	52,000	53,000	210,000	-	No
P-04	MARY MNDOLO	150,000	37,500	37,500	37,500	37,500	150,000	-	No
P-17	MALIGELITA JOSOFATI	170,000	42,500	42,500	42,500	42,500	170,000	-	No
P-19	PATRICIA SIMBI	170,000	42,500	42,500	42,500	42,500	170,000	-	No
P-09	EDILINA JONATHAN	290,000	72,500	72,500	72,500	72,500	290,000	-	No
P-15	GLORIA CHIDZANJA	250,000	62,500	62,500	62,500	62,500	250,000	-	No
P-07	DOROTHY JELAO	200,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	200,000	-	No
P-28	LIZINETI THOKOZANI	210,000	52,500	-	90,000	67,500	210,000	-	No
P-08	DEBORAH MAUAGULE	120,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	120,000	-	No
P-01	OLIPA MALIZANI	170,000	42,500	42,500	42,500	42,500	170,000	-	No
P-14	MARY LEVISON	170,000	42,500	42,500	42,500	42,500	170,000	-	No
P-18	RACHEAL PHIRI	150,000	37,500	37,500	37,500	37,500	150,000	-	No
P-16	MIGUEL BRIGHT	260,000	65,000	65,000	65,000	65,000	260,000	-	No
P-06	LONILY LAMECK	130,000	32,500	32,500	32,500	32,500	130,000	-	No
		2,820,000	705,000	652,500	742,000	720,500	2,820,000		-
	Next Loan Disbursement	11/30/2021							

EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Orant Charities Africa (OCA) strategic and development priority is to ensure that all girls receive a quality education. Education is something we truly emphasize upon. Over the years, the number of girls being educated is highly commendable. As an Organization, we stress upon the importance of educating poor children as they too should lead a progressive life. Realizing the importance of girls' education is what keeps us motivated towards ensuring they live a life full of dreams and ambitions. Each day, we work towards sharpening potential these bright minds that we think can truly make a difference in the world. With every donation and help, we get closer towards attaining our goal of educating every poor child.

OCA supports girls in 18 government partner schools across 8 districts in Malawi to access school, succeed, and become leaders of change in their communities and the following were the activities the education program conducted in the month of October, 2021;

Distribution of school supplies and mentorship

OCA distributed various supplies such as notebooks, writing pens, sugar, soap and menstrual pads to the girls we support in secondary schools. Circling back to the confidence that students feel when they have the right school supplies, being prepared also allows them to find themselves among their peers and feel a sense of belonging and comfort. Having everything that they need allows them to grow not only in knowledge

but with the classroom itself as an organic experience. By having the necessary tools and supplies, the student feels they are equal with their peers, allowing them to form relationships with classmates.

Having a creative classroom experience also promotes greater confidence and the development of essential social skills in students, allowing the students to pass through barriers that may have once hindered their learning. Now they can learn together and help one another brainstorm and develop their thought as part of a team.



Students from Ngala CDSS (left) and Dowa sec school (right) carrying their supplies given by Orant



Students from Dzenza sec. school (right) and Byanzi sec. school (right) carrying their supplies given by Orant

Students lacking the adequate supplies may lose their learning potential and turn into mischievous children that have lost interest in school. It truly does all start from the beginning. So, ensuring that students have what they need, chances are, they will do what they need to do in order to stay ahead and continue learning. No wonder OCA provides necessary resources to students.



OCA Education personnel having a mentoring session with Chayamba students

In addition to the provision of school supplies, OCA education program also visited students at Chayamba Secondary school (picture above) for guidance and counselling. Through these sessions, the students are able to develop certain problem-solving skills which to an extent help them deal with particular issues surrounding their lives. The students are advised to cope with different situations they tend to face in their school life. for example, how should they talk politely or relate with their peers. This advice will give them perspective on how they should behave in certain scenarios.

Mentorship helps to shape a student's behaviour and also instil enough discipline in them. Proper guidance helps them achieve their goals and how to do things in the best possible way.

Mask distribution

Wearing a face mask in schools has been mandatory since September 2020. In this regard, OCA education program has distributed **600** cloth face masks to Dowa Secondary School. OCA is supporting the education of 7 form 3 girls at Dowa secondary school. Despite supporting 7 students at Dowa, OCA has distributed face masks to the whole school in order to help in the fight against Covid-19. This is the second time OCA distributing face masks to Dowa Secondary school since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic . OCA started sponsoring students at Dowa since 2018 when they were in form 1.



Dowa Sec. school students showing off their cloth face masks donated by OCA

Junior Certificate of Education (JCE) Exams

In the month of October 2021, OCA had students who sat for the Junior Certificate of Education exams (JCE). JCE is written when students are in form two and a certificate is obtained. out of the **113** students which OCA is sponsoring this year, **13** have written JCE. The 13 students are from five different schools; one each from Chaminade sec. school, Natola CDSS, Madisi sec. school, Ludzi sec. school and nine from Nkhamenya girls sec. school. OCA is expecting good results from these students because they were all hard working and were performing very well.

Conclusion

OCA's Girls' education goes beyond getting girls into school. it is also about ensuring that girls learn and feel safe while in school; have the opportunity to complete all levels of education, acquiring the knowledge and skills to compete in the labour market; get social-emotional and life skills necessary to navigate and adapt to a changing world; make decisions about their own lives; and contribute to their communities and the world.