



MONTHLY REPORT

JANUARY 2020

COMPILED BY

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## HEALTHCARE PROGRAM



Patients queuing for services at mobile clinic

### Executive Summary

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

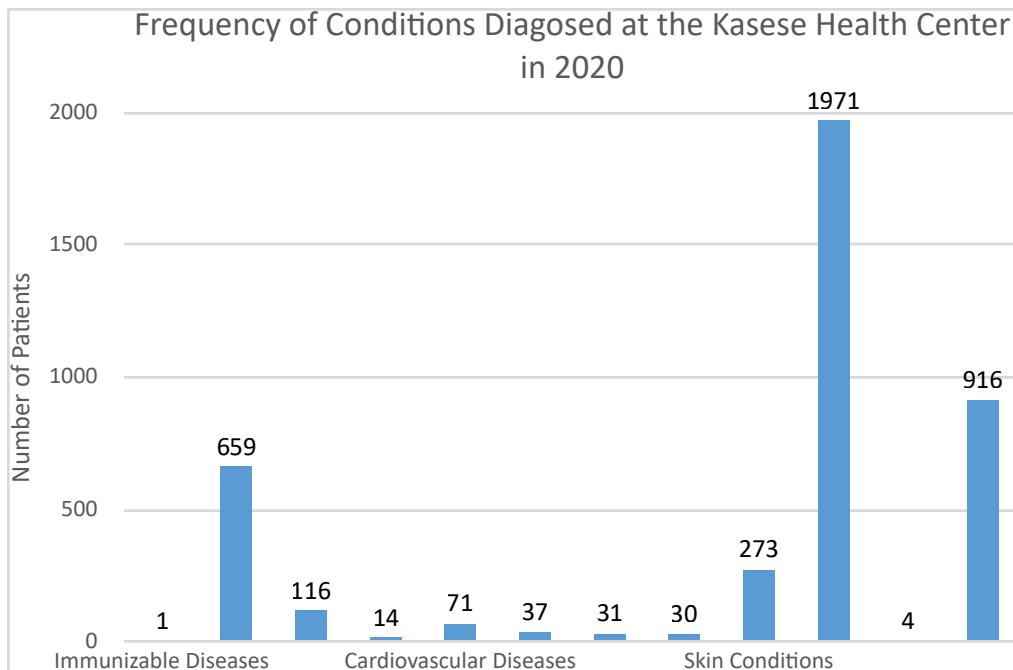
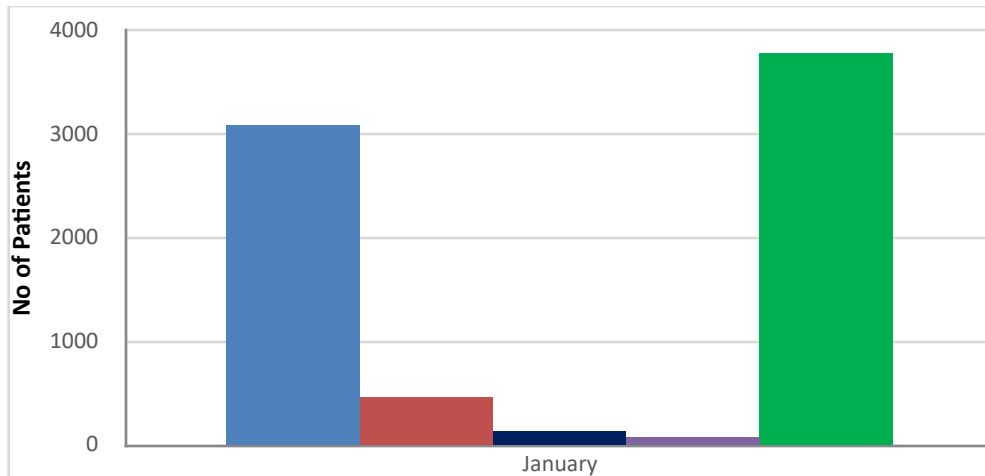


A child who came for medical assistance at mobile clinic

### Monthly Patients Attendance

As for the month of January 2020 Kasese Health Centre saw **3,790** patients of which **1,854** had malaria. Malaria is endemic and a major public health problem in Malawi with it epidemics in the month of December to April every season. The entire population is at risk, however, pregnant mothers and under five children are at higher risk. OCA, continues to provide high quality health care intervention that is improving the health of Kasese communities and beyond catchment areas. The Health Centre admitted **128 children** age between 2 months and 12 years in 24 hours' children's observation ward. The community mobile outreach clinics team saw **469** patients within Kasese catchment area. The community mobile clinic also saw **2450** patients in Bowe catchment area. This means that the mobile clinic saw a total of **2919** both in Kasese and Bowe. Therefore, the entire healthcare program saw a total of **6709** patients both in Kasese (Dowa) and Bowe (Kasungu) catchment areas. This excludes patients seen in the maternity and antenatal care as they are reported separately in their sections below.

Graph showing Kasese Clinic patient's attendances (OPD, outreach, children's ward and weekends / nights)



### Maternal and child healthcare

During the month of January 2020, the health Centre attended to **34** mothers in labour ward, conducted **32** spontaneous vertex deliveries (SVD), **2** neonates were born in transit to the hospital (BBA), **3** mothers were referred to Madisi for hospital delivery. Total deliveries at Kasese were **32**. Kasese Health Centre is proud to report that since it opened the maternity 5 years ago we have not registered any pregnancy related deaths. However, we still experience challenges of infants born before arrival at the clinic (BBA).

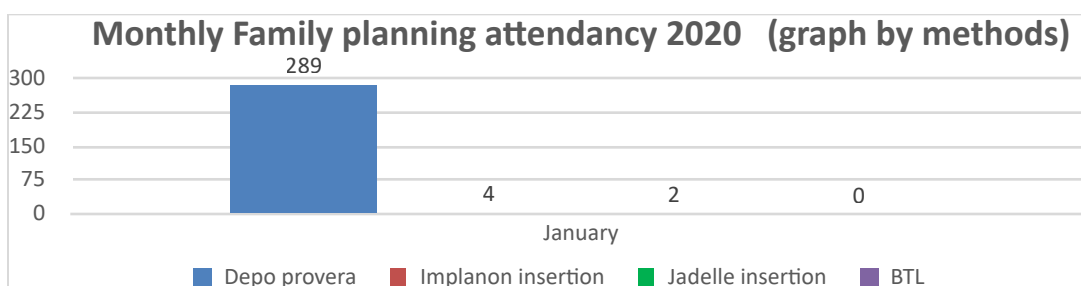
### Cervical cancer screening (VIA)

Cancer of the cervix remains amongst the top three leading cause of death in Malawi. In addressing this problem, the Health Centre conduct routine visual screening of cervix using acetic acid to women of childbearing age between 25 to 49 years and for the month of January 2020 the health Centre screened **37** clients and none was positive test.

### Family planning clinic

In accordance to the ministry of health (MOH) policies and coordination with BLM, the Health Centre provides family planning methods, which includes: oral pills, injectable and Implanons to women of reproductive age as per their choice and medical indications. From the graph above many clients opted for injectable depo Provera family planning method because it is easy to administer and it does not interact with most of the medicine available in Malawi and as observed the month of January, **289** clients who opted for depo Provera. The second most liked method is Norplant (implant family planning methods) which is inserted for 3-5 years in the left medial aspect upper arm however, during the same month no client received it. Less liked method is the permanent sterilization method, referred as bilateral tubal ligations (BTL).

### Antenatal Care (prenatal care)



The health Centre conducts prenatal (antenatal) clinics twice a week, on Tuesday for those enrolling for the first time and Thursdays for subsequence visit. The health centre attended to **54** new pregnant mothers.

### HIV Care Clinic

The health centre continues to provide excellent ART/ TB care as depicted by quarterly award of certificate of excellence by the Malawi ministry of health through HIVAIDS unit. The clinic has **285** patients alive on ART medicine. Good percentage of patients were done viral load and received their results. The month of January, clinics had congestions due to long holiday for last year December 2019; one clinic could attend to 70 clients per day. There is also been many transfers of clients while others patients came for emergency supply of ART medicine from Bowe health centre due to closure of their clinic.

### Volunteer Male Medical Circumcision services (VMMCS)

As a primary prevention of HIV in order to reduce its acquisition and onward transmission, the health centre for the first time has introduced male circumcision and for the month of January 2020, two clients were circumcised.

## Laboratory services

### Malaria test (MRDTS& microscopy)

The malaria test is conducted by both rapid test (MRDTS) and microscopy blood smear slides. The malaria epidemic is high at this time of the year. A total of **2,734** malaria test were done and those positive were **1,854** and negative test were **880**, this represent **67.8%** positivity rates. For children above five years; total test done were **1,210**, and positive were **86**

**9** (71%) and **341** tested negative. Those who are under five years, total tested for malaria were **1,524** those with positive malaria **985**, and negatives were **539**, showing 64% positivity rate. Other tests conducted are summarized below;

Name of the test	Total tests conducted	positives	negatives
Syphilis	8	1	7
Pregnancy test	47	25	22
Helicobacter pylori	70	24	46
Hepatitis B	5	0	5
Typhoid fever test (Salmonella)	4	2	2
TB microscopy	1	0	1

**Note:** apart from the above laboratory tests, the laboratory also conducted 196 Hemoglobin, 84 blood glucose and 21 urine dipstick tests.

### Clinic administration

- Mr. George Matapandeu, Clinician, for the past two months spent his time with the mobile/outreach clinics team, while Douglas worked at static clinic. This helps George to monitor the program effectively and Douglas also to get more acquainted with the static clinic.
- Mr. Douglas (clinician) took 12 days' annual leave in order to attend to personal pressing issues.

### Health Finance

The Health Centre charge a small user/filling fee from patients. User fee collection is the little money the patients pay at the clinic entry and are not charged on consultation, medication or laboratory tests. The cost is within the means and resources of our average community member. However, those who cannot afford are not barred from accessing the service, while others are exempted in accordance to the user fee policy such as pregnant women. For the month of January 2020, the clinics (static and outreach clinics) collected **MK 1,310,998.99** and at the same time, the healthcare program also assisted good number destitute patients with bus fare and payment of hospital bills, which amounted to **MK 439,675.00**.

## **WATER PROGRAM**



### **Executive Summary**

An account of progress made by the water program during the month of January, 2020 is presented in this write-up. The following major milestones were realized:

- Repaired 06 Water wells (Boreholes).
- Conducted a full CBM training.
- Distribution of Water treatment chemicals and community health education.

### **Detailed Narration of Activities**

#### **Water Well Repairs.**

OCA is advocating Community Based Management of water supply facilities in which the community takes charge of its water supply facilities using communities' own human, material and financial resources. There some major repairs that require external support, OCA support communities in handling such repairs. During the reporting period, OCA managed to repair 06 wells as outlined in the table below;

<b>SN</b>	<b>GVH</b>	<b>VH</b>	<b>Repair(s) Done</b>	<b>Number of Users on the Repaired Borehole</b>

01	Joseni	Buza	11 rod centralizers, 4 Bush bearings, 6 Double end Sockets, 1 Fulcrum pin, 1 Rubber flapper, 1 Hunger pin, 3 pump	416
02	Bweya	Bweya primary school	1 Cylinder, 4 pipes, 5 pump rods, 11 rod centralizers, 1fulcrum pin, 8 double ends Sockets, 4 bush bearings.	1067
03	Bweya	Chiipanthenga	Head pump, 12 rod centralizers, Rubber corn, 5 sockets, 2 Bobbin, 4 Bush bearings 4	
04	Bweya	Bweya	Cup seal, 2 Bobbin, 10 double end Sockets, 4 Bush bearings, 1 Foot valve, 1 Plunger, Hunger pin, Fulcrum pin.	628
05	Nkhungulu	Mandevu	4 pipes, 8 double end sockets, 1cup seal, 1 O-ring, 1 Plunger, 12 rod centralizers, 4 bush bearings.	613
06	Gobede	Kauma	10 rod centralizers, 4 Bush bearings, 1cup seal, 6 double end sockets, 1 nylon rope	319



### **Community Based Management Training**

In order to enhance communities' capacity in Water point management and minor borehole preventive maintenance, OCA facilitated 4-day Community based management training sessions to a total of 11 community members sitting as a Water point management committee from sapeya village. 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 11 community members (6 female and 5 males) were trained during the period under review. The trainings were facilitated by the Water Monitoring Assistant, Health Surveillance Assistant (HSA) – both from Government departments as well as the OCA water program team. The trainings were successfully done and it is envisaged that the community will be able to sustainably operate and maintain the water facility.



*Image showing Part of the participants to the training*

**Distribution of Water treatment chemicals and community health education.**



Rainy season is characterized by a surge in the prevalence of water borne diseases including cholera. In an effort to prevent disease outbreaks, OCA distributed water treatment chemical; HTH chlorine to households and schools across the Kasese catchment. A total of 50 KGs of chlorine of which 34 KGs was distributed to households through HSAs and the 16 KGs through school sanitation clubs. The HTH chlorine distributed in households is expected to help households treat (disinfect) their drinking water while in schools the chlorine is expected to be used for disinfecting public facilities i.e. latrines.

### **Conclusion**

The month of January, 2020, was another great month as the water program managed to serve communities as per its plan. Repairs and distribution of water treatment chemicals served the communities who were in great need.

## **AGRICULTURE PROGRAM**



*Pest & Disease control for demonstration plots*

### **Executive Summary**

Agriculture department conducted various activities to supporting people in the rural community to be in better position with farming, their health being improved through nutritious foods, and primary school learners having access to better practical fields for agriculture activities. The activities carried out during reporting period for the month focused much on Irrigation projects, school garden as well as OCA farm.

### **Irrigation Microloan program**

Irrigation clubs were supported with farm inputs, expertise in sowing process of tomato and marketing of produce. Irrigation clubs also continue with payment of microloans where were given last year.

### **Harvesting & Marketing**

Kasangadzi irrigation club planted tomatoes and the club members finalized harvesting of their produce within the month of January and they finished selling the tomatoes at local markets. The production process faced some challenges such as pests and diseases attack, theft and heavy rains but the club members have managed to get something from their production process. The harvest from irrigation farming has been used to pay back the microloan and buying food for their families since hunger problems are prevalent in this time of the year within our catchment area. Prior to selling the produce, marketing was done. The marketing process focused in areas where was being seen with potential of possessing better prices. After selling the produce it shows that farmers have made profits which is giving smallholder famers capacity to cultivate bigger land for the next irrigation cycle. Kasangadzi irrigation club has also finished paying back the microloan to took from OCA. The loan was in form of farm inputs and these inputs include Seed, Fertilizer and pesticides and they have managed to pay back in form of cash.

## **Sowing**

Timvane irrigation club has started the year 2020 with tomato farming. Sowing was done and the club members were reminded on Tomato production process. The training started with activities of land clearing, ploughing the field at the depth of 30 cm, bed making and sowing. The sowing process was carried out and Tengeru 97 variety was sown using line method. The aim of the training was to transform club members from the use of old methods of production which was giving out low yields into modern systems of production which will help farmers have better harvest.



*Beds constructed for nursery sowing*

## **School Garden pilot project**

Mndinga school has started harvesting vegetables from the school garden. The garden has been operating even in last December despite being a holiday period for the learners. The teachers at Mndinga primary school made a program where learners were able to come from their homes during holiday to take care of the garden. The standard eight class was having

classes during holiday and they were also visiting the garden for learning purpose and also taking care of the garden.

## **OCA Farm**

### **Demonstration plots**

Several activities were done on demonstration plots include pesticides application, banking and top dressing fertilizer application. The crops at demonstration site were affected with termites and fall army worms and proper measures were taken to control the problems. The harvesting field day is expected to be conducted within the month of March on these demonstration plots.



*fall army worms attack*

### **3.2 Lased land**

The leased land for OCA has been cultivated with maize only and the tenant has already managed to apply fertilizer two times which is basal and top dressing fertilizer. The tenant has also managed to weed the land two times. The field was also affected with some pests such as termites and fall army worms but the tenant has managed to apply the pesticides to control these problems hence high expectations of the crops to be shared at the end of the season.

## **EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM**

### **Executive Summary**

The reporting period was the beginning of another term (term 2) where by students reported for classes. All students in primary, secondary and college reported for this term. This indicates a total of 97 students of which two are in college, three are in primary and 92 are in secondary schools. From January 2020, as students are in school, the education program is always visiting them for mentorship, encouragement and to provide them with support.

### **School visits**

The education department visited students in several schools in January 2020. Natola CDSS, Madisi secondary school, Dowa Secondary school, Likuni girls secondary school, Lilongwe girls secondary school and Dzenza secondary school were the schools which were visited. Listed are among other things OCA education program personnel did in visiting the schools;

1. Monitoring the academic performance of students and collecting their progress reports
2. Payment of school fees/tuition
3. Facilitating communication between donors and students. Letters to be collected from students during the next visit.
4. Providing support to students e.g. notebooks, pens, pencils, Rulers e.t.c
5. Raising awareness of the OCA education program
6. Mentoring and encouraging students to make use of this opportunity

Below are some the students which OCA visited and managed to meet with in the reporting period.



*Education program manager (2nd left) with students*

*at Dzenza Sec. school*



*Students from Likuni girls secondary school*



*Lilongwe girls secondary school students*

**End of first term results**

OCA education program received students' results for term one (September- December) from the schools which OCA is supporting its students. The results were finalized early January 2020 and have been collected. OCA supports students from over 20 schools in Malawi, these schools include primary, secondary and also University. The results which OCA received from 15 schools so far show that there is a great improvement in a lot of the students because many students (75%) have passed their end of term one exams. This has a very big impact in the education program since its major goal is to have all students excel in life and leave no one behind. However, there are some few students who needs encouragement because their performance was not satisfactory. The education program will continue to encourage the students so that they stay in school and produce good results.

### **Challenges**

In the same reporting period, OCA discovered that one student from Likuni Girls secondary school has been withdrawn on academic grounds. Likuni girls secondary school is one of the best secondary schools in Malawi that it only accommodates good performing students in order to have excellent results. It is very unfortunate that one of the students being supported by OCA did not do well as a result she was withdrawn. This is a sad development to OCA because the goal is to instill a hard working spirit in students and failure is not expected. In moving forward, OCA education department will replace the withdrawn student with another hard working but needy student from the same school and same class.

Sellina Yesaya has been withdrawn on academic grounds at Likuni girls secondary school. This is because she did not manage to score the schools desired grades. She finished form 1 but was not enrolled into form 2 at the school. She comes from Lilongwe and has three siblings. Her parents are subsistence farmers.



OCA will still follow up on sellina and encourage her to continue with school by enrolling in another school so that she do not kill her dreams. She can do better.

### **Conclusion**

OCA mainly provides scholarship to girls who would otherwise never be able to go to school or would have dropout to be married. The scholarship is continuous until each student has completed their level (especially secondary school) and have acquired the relevant knowledge and skills. The program also includes monitoring performance, counselling and mentoring.