

ORANT CHARITIES AFRICA MONTHLY REPORT



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Healthcare Program

Introduction

The Healthcare Program for Orant Charities Africa includes operating Kasese Health Centre and Mobile Outreach Clinics. The Health Center in its provision of services, provides curative and preventive health care services to impoverished rural communities of Dowa district (Chakhaza) and Kasungu district (Bowe) through a static clinic and Mobile Outreach Clinics (MOC). At the static clinic, the Health Center operate a busy Outpatients Department (OPD), a **10** bed capacity **24** hours children observation ward, and a **7** bed capacity maternity ward, twice a week Antenatal Program, weekly Cervical Cancer Screening clinic and monthly Eye Clinic, Under-Five Clinics (immunization and child growth monitoring), among others. MOC takes the services in hard-to-reach areas thereby providing accessible treatment. Tropical infectious diseases are common health problem which includes: malaria, respiratory disease like pneumonia and bronchitis. However, non-communicable diseases are at rise for example diabetes, hypertension.

Healthcare Summary

For the month of July 2022, Kasese Health Center (KHC) saw **1295** clients at (OPD). Children Ward admitted **25**. Only **30** patients were seen during weekends and night.

Total patients seen in the month of July is **1350**. MOC in Kasese catchments areas saw **711**. Kasungu (Bowe) Outreach clinic saw **2617** clients. MOC total patients seen is **3328**. Total patients seen in the month of July 2022 by the healthcare program is **4678** (KHC: **1350 (29%)** & MOC **3328 (71%)**).

The Laboratory department tested **681** for Malaria, out of which **47** were positive, representing **6.9%** positivity rate.

The Maternity department admitted **40** mothers and referred **10**. A total of **40** babies were born and **5** had some complication (**1** Still Birth Fresh, **1** Still Birth Macerated and **3** Weight < 2500g).

The Public Health department with the help of Health Surveillance Assistants (HSAs) administered **293** doses of Pfizer. Cumulatively, **1928** vaccines administered (Astra-Zeneca **895**, Pfizer: **718** & J&J: **315**).

The HTS department tested **185** clients out of which **4** were positive, representing **2.1%**. Total patients seen at the eye clinic by an outsourced clinician is **55** and **11** were booked for surgery. **Thirteen** women were screened for Cervical Cancer and No VIA positive was found.

Table 1 Below shows monthly patients seen in both KHC and MOC.

Months (2021)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Total
OPD Static Clinic	2138	2484	3178	1892	1921	1675	1295	14583
Bowe Outreach Kasese	2174	4242	4661	4091	2773	2444	2617	23002
Outreach Children Ward	618	589	686	550	495	492	711	4141
Nights/Holidays	16	85	79	70	35	35	25	345
Total	4976	7444	8650	6652	5265	4667	4678	42332

Table 1 : Total monthly patients seen at KHC and MOC (2022).

Figure 1 below shows total patient attendance for both KHC and MOC in 2022

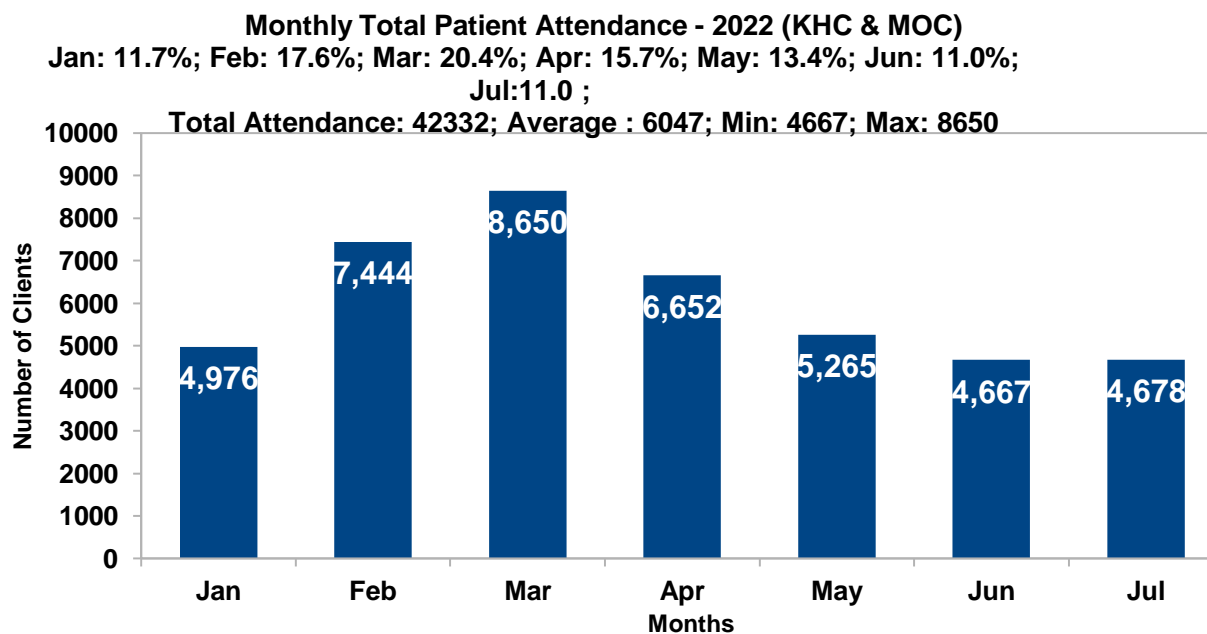


Figure 1 : Total monthly patient attendance – KHC & MOC (2022).

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

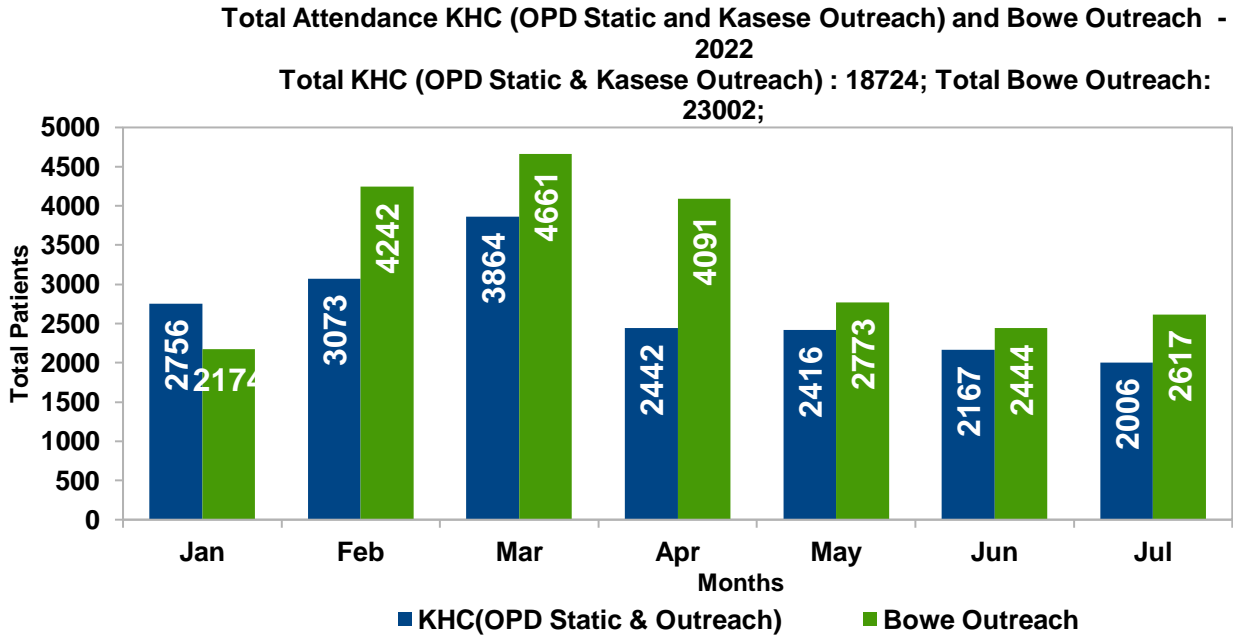
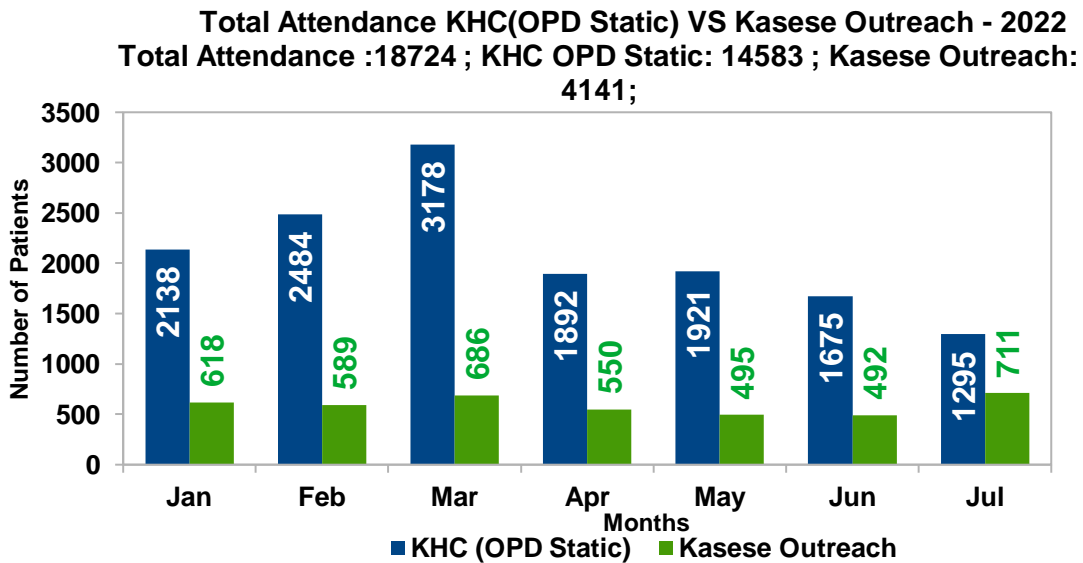


Figure 2: Total patients seen at KHC (OPD Static & Kasese Outreach) and Bowe Outreach – 2022.

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



Outreach.

Figure 3: Total Attendance KHC (OPD Static) and Kasese Outreach – 2022.

Figure 2: shows the total number of patients seen at KHC (OPD Static) and MOC (Bowe & Kasese Outreaches). Despite the decline in patient’s attendance in both clinic, mobile outreach clinic continues to see more patients in comparison with static clinic, partly is due to its accessibility to community.

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

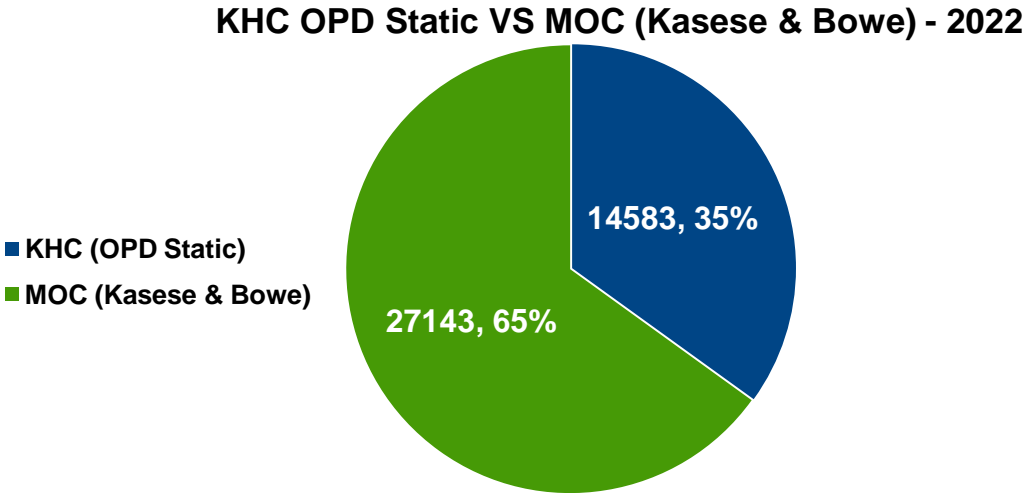


Figure 4: Cumulative patients seen at KHC (OPD Static) and MOC (Kasese & Bowe).

COVID 19 Situation Updates

The COVID 19 situation in the country remains low and in July 2022 no test was conducted. The Health Center continues to provide vaccines (Pfizer) at the facility and in our communities and also the clinic continues to observe the preventive measures (face masks, social distancing and hand washing/sanitizing). The Health Center did not receive the consignment of Astra-Zeneca and J & J. Only Pfizer and was administered.

Cumulative COVID 19 Data – KHC Static.

Table 2 below shows Cumulative COVID 19 Data.

	Staff (OCA/HSA)	Others	Total
Cumulative Tests	4	35	39

Cumulative Positives	0	12	12
Cumulative Deaths	0	0	0
July Tests	0	0	0
July Positives	0	0	0

Table 2: COVID 19 Cumulative Data.

COVID 19 Vaccine (Pfizer) – KHC Static

Table 3 below shows Vaccine Doses Administered in 2022

Dose	Male	Female	Total
1st Dose	125	112	237
2nd Dose	28	28	56
Balance Brought Forward	226	199	425
Cumulative	379	339	718

Table 3: Pfizer Administered at KHC Static (2022)

COVID 19 Vaccine (Johnson & Johnson – J&J) – KHC Static

Table 4 below shows Vaccine Doses Administered in 2022

Vaccine Type	Male	Female	Total
Johnson & Johnson (J & J)	38	64	102
Balance Brought Forward	116	97	213
Cumulative	154	161	315

Table 4: J & J Administered at KHC Static (2022)

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

Table 5 below shows Vaccine Doses Administered in 2022

Dose	Male	Female	Total
1st Dose	0	0	0
2nd Dose	0	0	0

Balance Brought Forward	364	531	895
Cumulative	364	531	895

Table 5: J & J Administered at KHC Static (2022)

COVID 19 Vaccine Status – KHC Static.

Table 6 below shows Vaccine Status in the month of July 2022

Vaccine Type	Beginning Balance	End Balance
Astra-Zeneca	0	0
J & J	0	0
Pfizer	300	0

Table 6: Astra-Zeneca Status at KHC Static (July 2022)

Figure 5 below show cumulative vaccines administered at KHC in the year 2022.

Cumulative Vaccine Types - 2022

Total Vaccines: 1928; Pfizer: 37.24%; J&J: 16.34% ; Astra-Zeneca: 46.42% ;

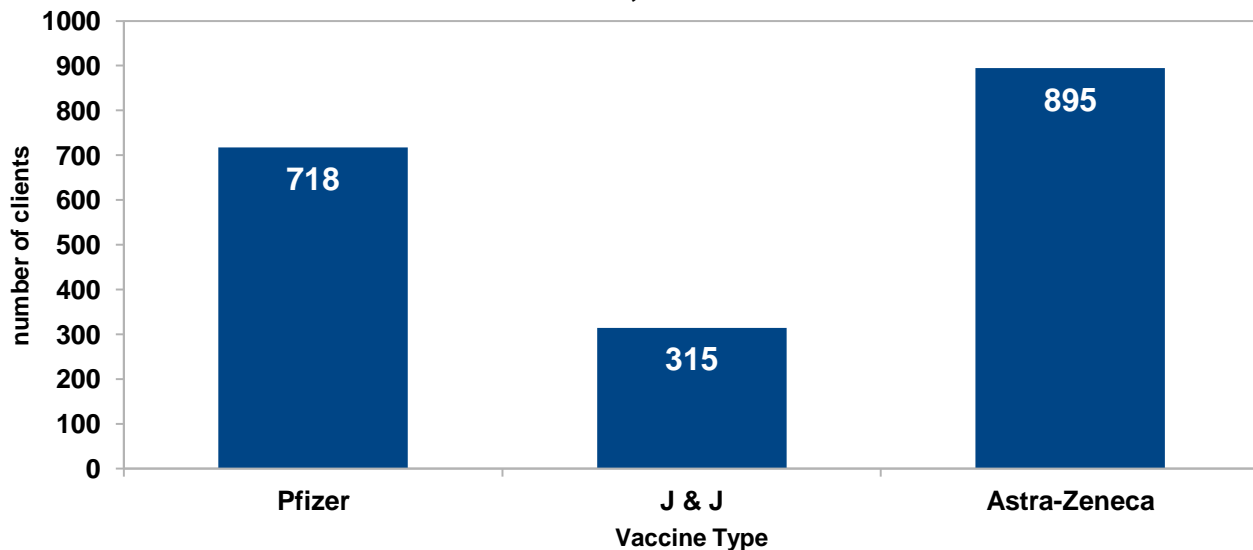


Figure 5: Cumulative Vaccine Doses Administered at KHC (2022)

Figure 6 below shows cumulative COVID 19 tests done in the year 2022.

Cummulative COVID 19 Tests - 2022
Cumulative Tests: 37

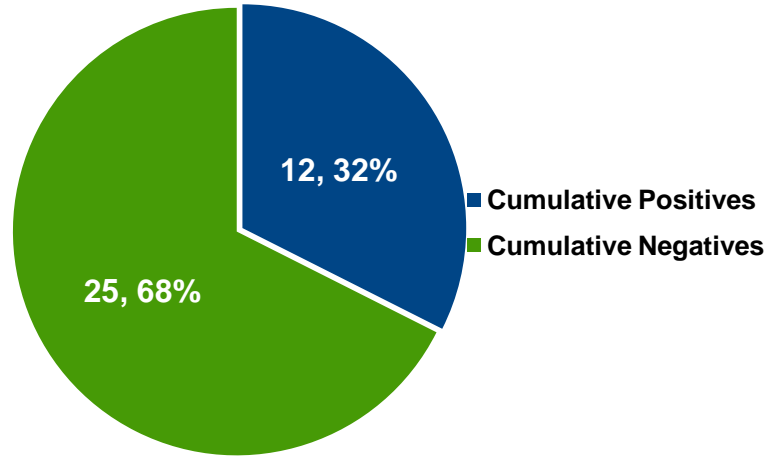


Figure 7: cumulative COVID 19 Tests (2022).

Reproductive and Family Planning Health

Maternal and New-born Health Care

Months (2022)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Total
Admissions	21	26	29	29	24	27	38	167
Referrals	2	5	2	14	13	9	10	46
New Babies	22	26	29	29	24	27	40	170
Alive Babies	22	26	27	29	24	27	38	166

Table 6: Maternity Data - 2022

Table 7 below shows Maternity Data of new babies with complications for the year 2022.

Months (2022)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Total
Weight <2500 grams	1	1	1	0	1	0	3	7
Prematurity	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	5
Asphyxia	1	0	5	0	0	1	0	7
Sepsis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Still Birth Fresh	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Still Birth Macerated	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Neonatal Death	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	4	2	10	0	1	1	5	23

Table 7: Newborns with complications - 2022

Figure 8 below shows total Cumulative Maternity Complications for the year 2022.

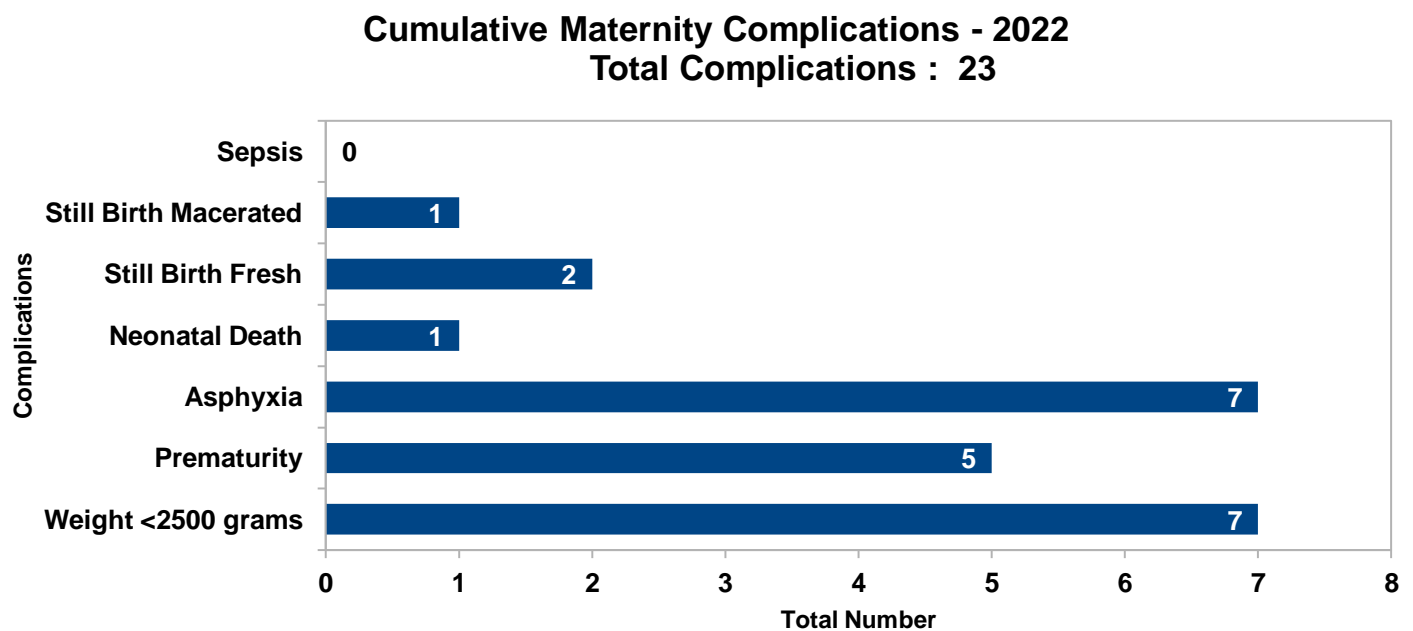


Figure 8: Cumulative Maternity Complications – 2022

Figure 9 below shows total monthly Maternity attendance.

Maternity Attendance - July 2022
Total Attendance: 48

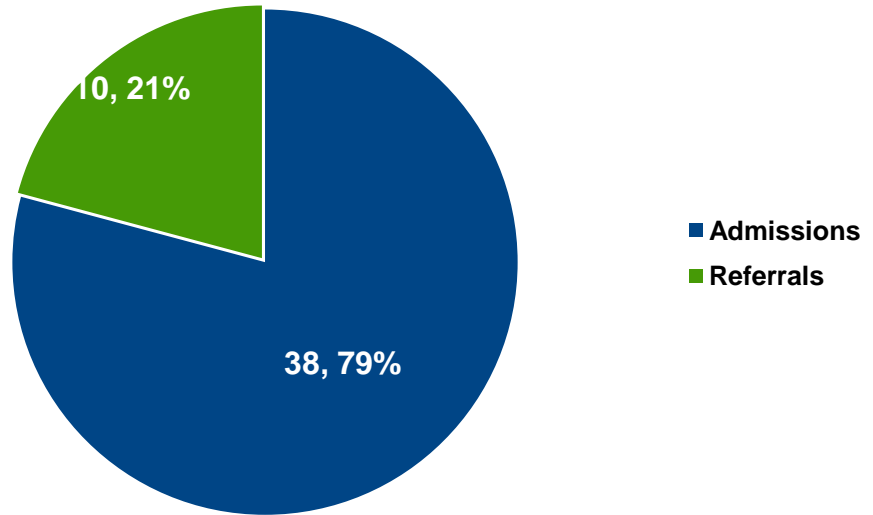


Figure 9: number of Admissions and Referrals (July 2022)

Table 8 below shows the reason for the referrals

Referral Reason	Number of Clients
Fatal Distress (FD)	2
Obstructed / Prolonged Labour	2
Antepartum Hemorrhage (APH)	1
Cephalopelvic Disproportion (CPD)	3
Pregnancy Induced Hypertension (PIH) and High Parity	1
Young Prim	1

Table 8: Referral Reasons - July 2022

Figure 10 below shows ANC New attendances.

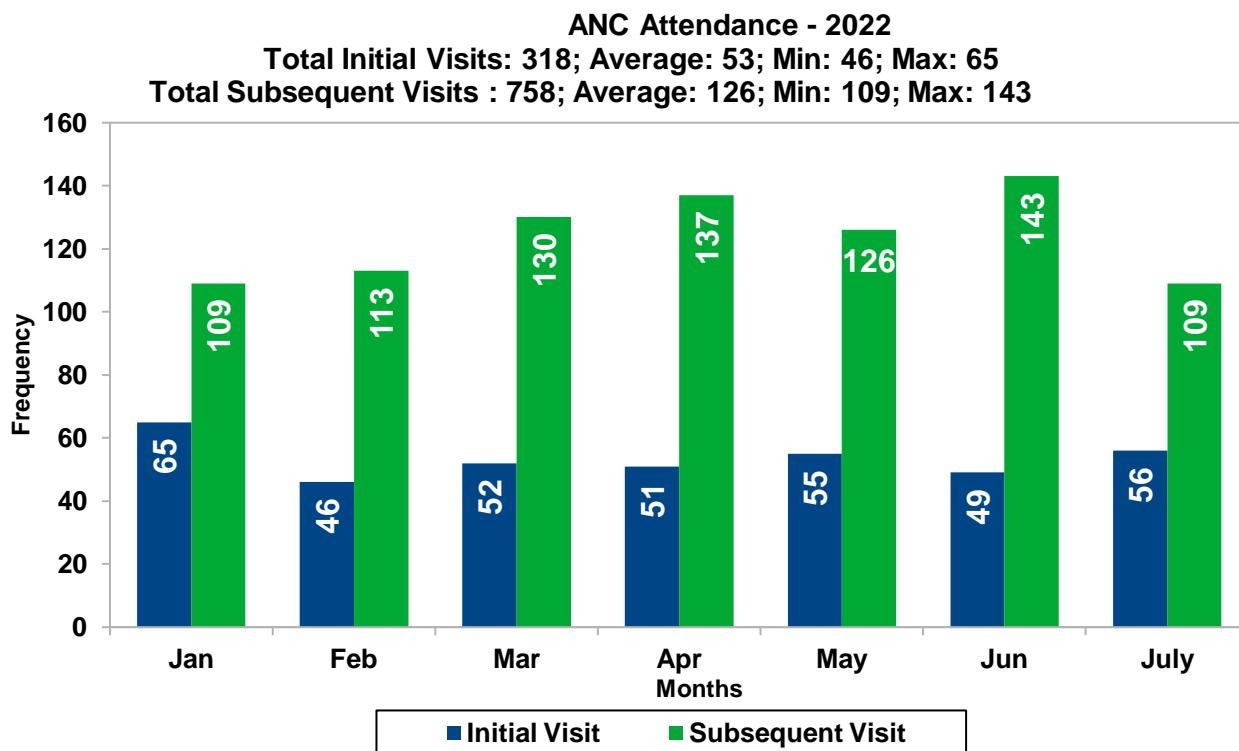


Figure 10: ANC New Attendances (2022).

Cervical Cancer Control Clinic Report

Table 9 below shows 2022 Monthly Cervical Cancer Screening.

Month (2022)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Total	15	22	22	15	5	10	13
VIA Positive	1	2	1	0	0	1	0

Table 9: Monthly Cervical Cancer Screening 2022 Table.

The monthly Cervical Cancer screening remains to be low, there is a need for more community sensitization.

Eye Clinic

The outsourced eye specialist continues to provide service in Kasese Health Center and operation is done at Kasungu District Hospital. For the month of July 2022, 55 patients

were seen, 36 female, 19 Male and 3 were Under five children. Furthermore, **eleven** were booked for cataract surgery.

Table 10 below shows total number of clients treated for eye infections and those booked for surgery.

Month (2022)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Eye Infections (Treated)	12	22	18	31	31	41	44
Eye Surgery (Booked)	0	6	11	8	6	7	11
Total Seen	12	28	29	39	37	48	55

Table 10: Monthly Eye Clinic Table - 2022.

Figure 11 below shows Monthly Eye Clinic in the year 2022.

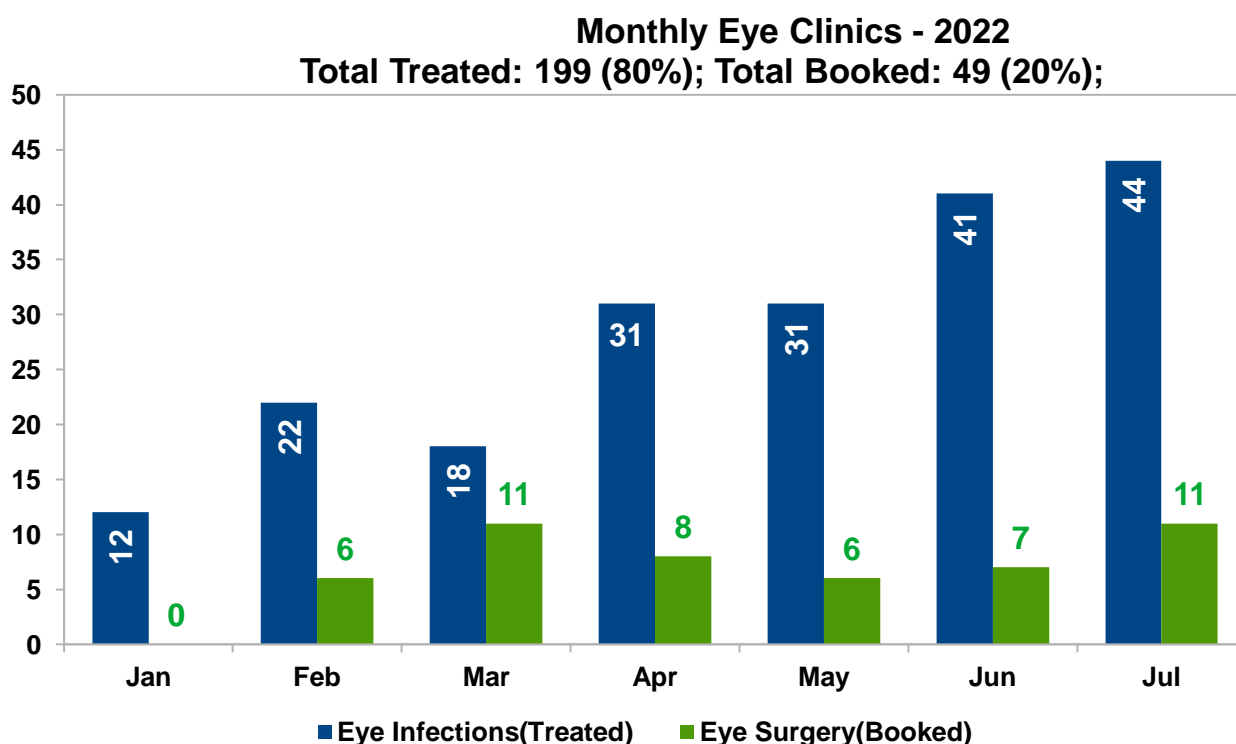


Figure 11 : Monthly Eye Clinic – 2022.

Malaria Report

Table 11 below shows Malaria tests for July 2022

	Total Tested	Positives	Negatives	Positivity Rate
Under 5	310	13	297	4.2%
5 Years and Over	371	34	337	9.1%

Total	681	47	634	6.9%
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Table 11: Total Malaria Tests (July 2022).

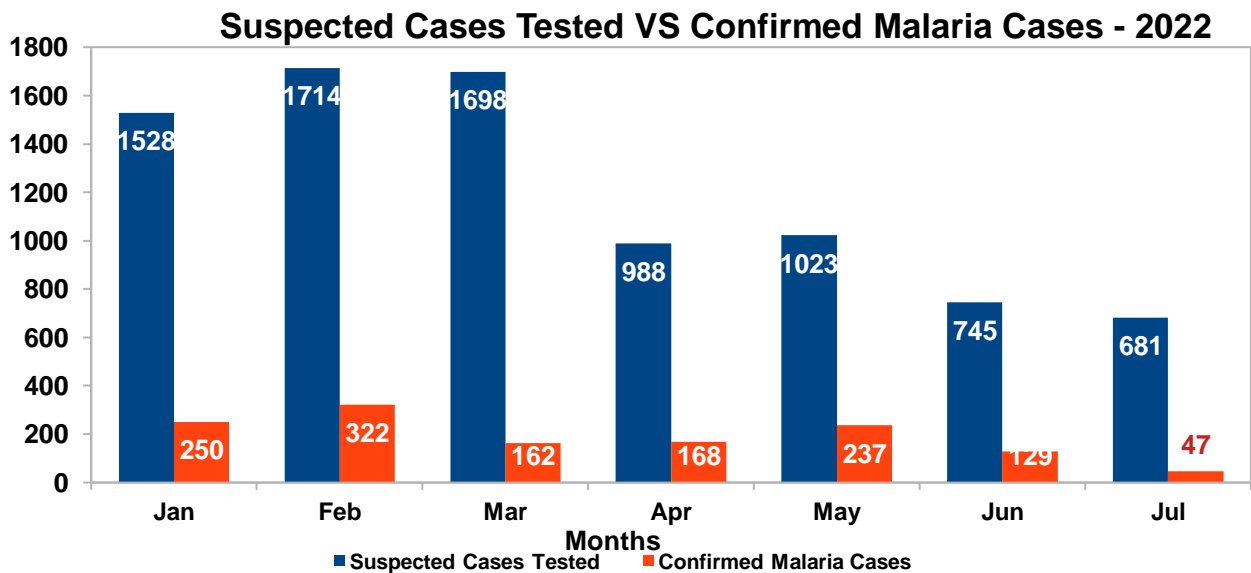
Table 12 below shows total Malaria Cases (MRDT's Positive), LA Issued and Dispensed (Kasese Outreach Included)

2022	January	February	March	April	May	June	July
Suspected Malaria Cases	1535	1722	1707	988	1023	754	684
Suspected Cases Tested MRDT	1528	1714	1698	988	1023	745	681
Confirmed Malaria Cases	250	322	162	168	237	129	47
New Malaria Cases Registered	257	330	171	168	237	138	50
LA Dispensed	257	330	171	168	237	138	50
LA Issued	690	300	600	270	2470	645	0

Table 12: Total Malaria Cases, LA Issued and Dispensed Table.

Figure 12 shows Suspected Malaria Cases Tested against Confirmed Malaria Cases in the year 2022

Figure 12: Malaria Suspected Cases Against Confirmed Cases - 2022



The Health Center continues to observe a drastic decline in malaria cases this year following timely interventions which include distribution of insect treated nets and its usage education in the community.

Figure 13 shows total KHC (Static and Kasese Outreach) Malaria tests (July 2022)

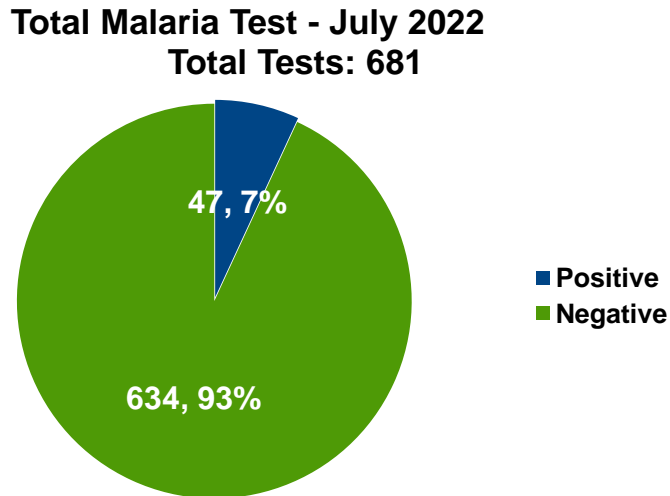


Figure 13: Total KHC (Static and Kasese Outreach) Malaria tests (July, 2022).

Figure 14 shows total KHC (Static and Kasese Outreach) Under 5 Years Malaria tests

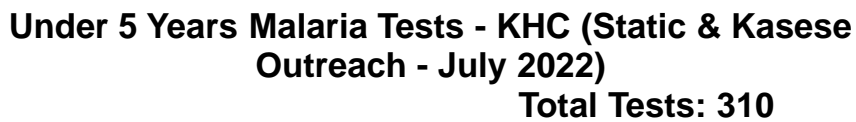


Figure 14: Static and Kasese Outreach, Under 5 Years Malaria tests (July, 2022).

5 Years and Over Malaria Tests - KHC (Static & Kasese Outreach - July 2022)

Total Tests: 371

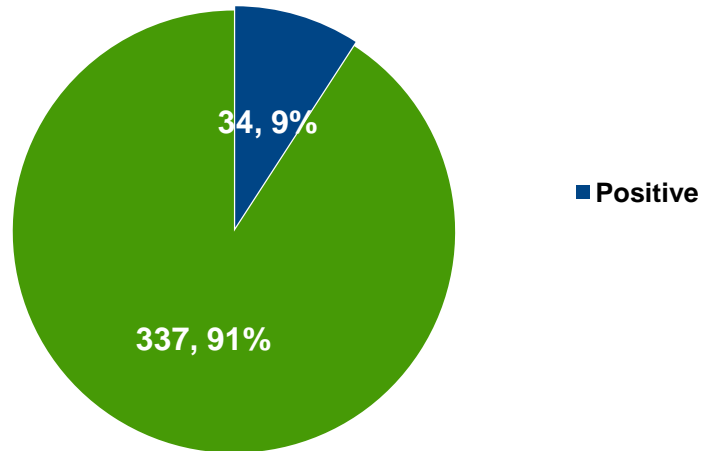


Figure 15 shows total KHC (Static and Kasese Outreach) 5 Years and Over Malaria tests

Figure 15 : Static and Kasese Outreach, 5 Years and Over Malaria tests (July, 2022).

HIV Testing Services (HTS)

Figure 16 below shows HTC Monthly Data (2022).

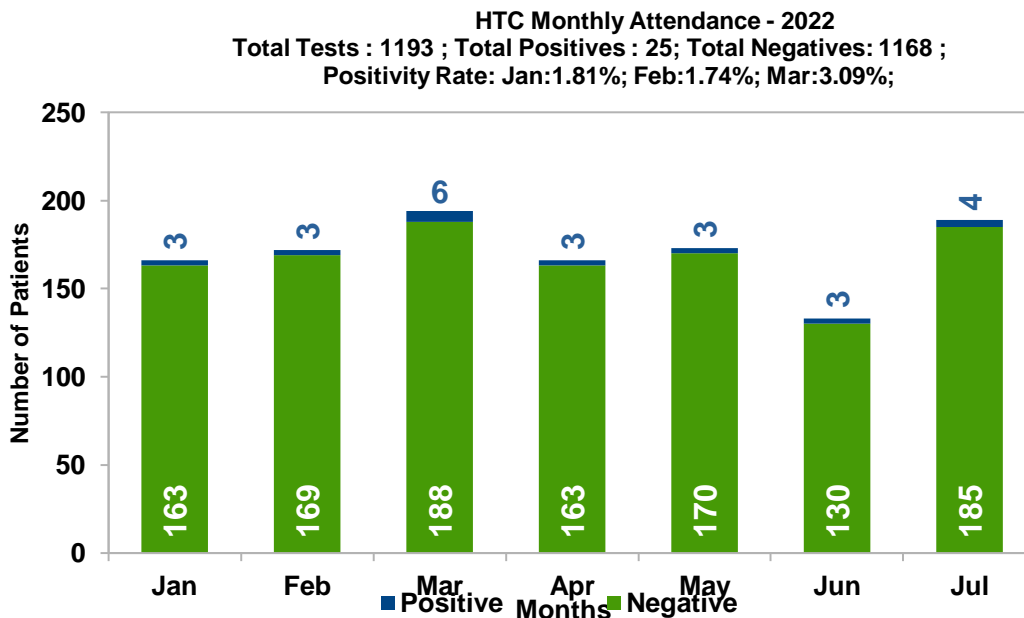


Figure 16: HTC Monthly Data 2022

Kasese catchment area positivity rate remains to be low, this could indicate that, people adhere to HIV/AIDS preventive measures.

Laboratory Services

Table 13 Below shows qualitative Laboratory tests conducted in the year 2022 (KHC Static and Kasese Outreach).

	H. Pyloris		Salmonella		Hep B		HCG		COVID 19	
	Total	Pos	Total	Pos	Total	Pos	Total	Pos	Total	Pos
Jan	69	26	6	2	2	2	30	8	30	12
Feb	88	24	16	0	1	0	41	17	3	0
Mar	79	21	17	0	2	0	43	15	2	0
Apr	80	25	7	0	4	1	19	0	1	0
May	85	25	5	0	1	0	41	17	1	0
Jun	82	34	1	0	4	0	42	18	2	0
Jul	92	25	8	0	2	1	43	16	0	0
Total	575	180	60	2	16	4	217	91	39	12

Table 13: Qualitative Lab Tests Data Table for KHC Static - 2022.

Figure 17 below shows qualitative lab tests 2022

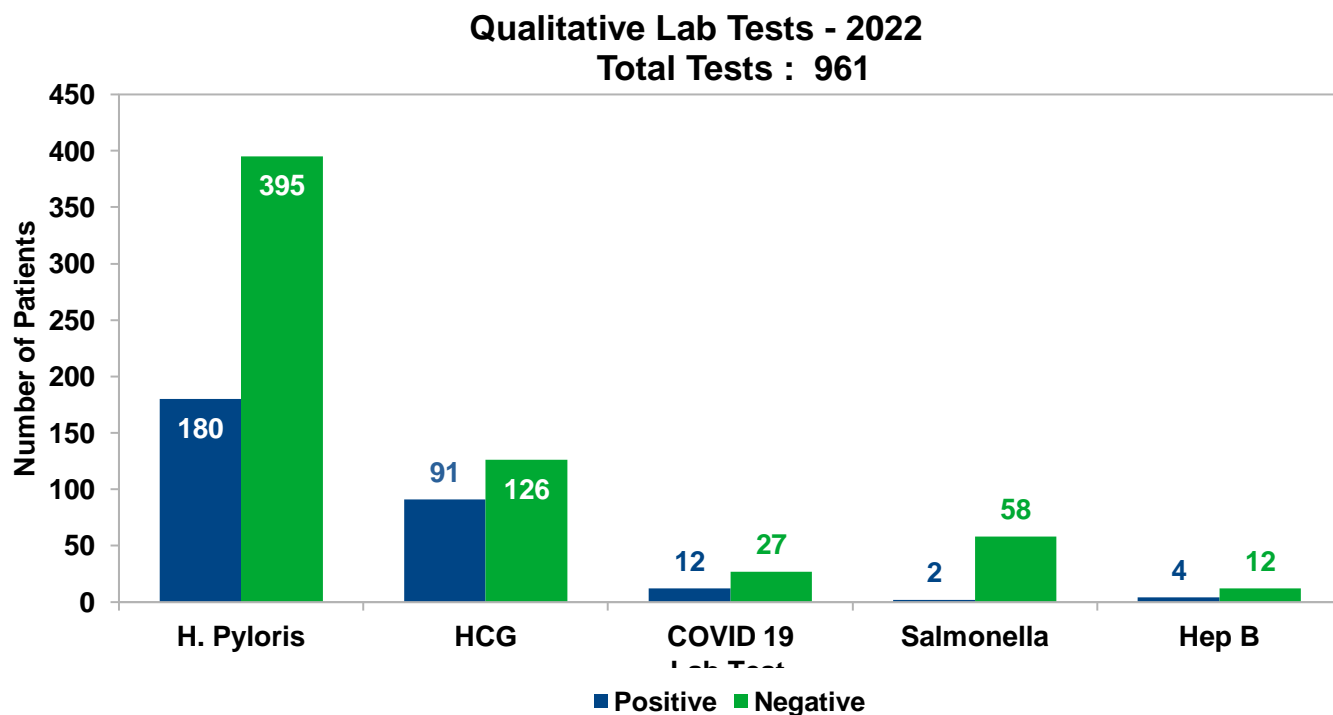


Figure 17: Qualitative Lab Tests – 2022.

Table 14 Below shows quantitative Laboratory tests conducted in the year 2022 (KHC Static and Kasese Outreach).

	Glucose	HB	Urinalysis	FBC
Jan	47	93	4	102
Feb	30	84	2	98
Mar	36	82	4	109
Apr	33	81	1	84
May	30	48	11	113
Jun	107	74	8	130
Jul	82	76	21	130
Total	365	538	51	766

Table 14: Quantitative Lab Tests Data Table for KHC Static.

Figure 18 shows quantitative lab tests for the year 2022

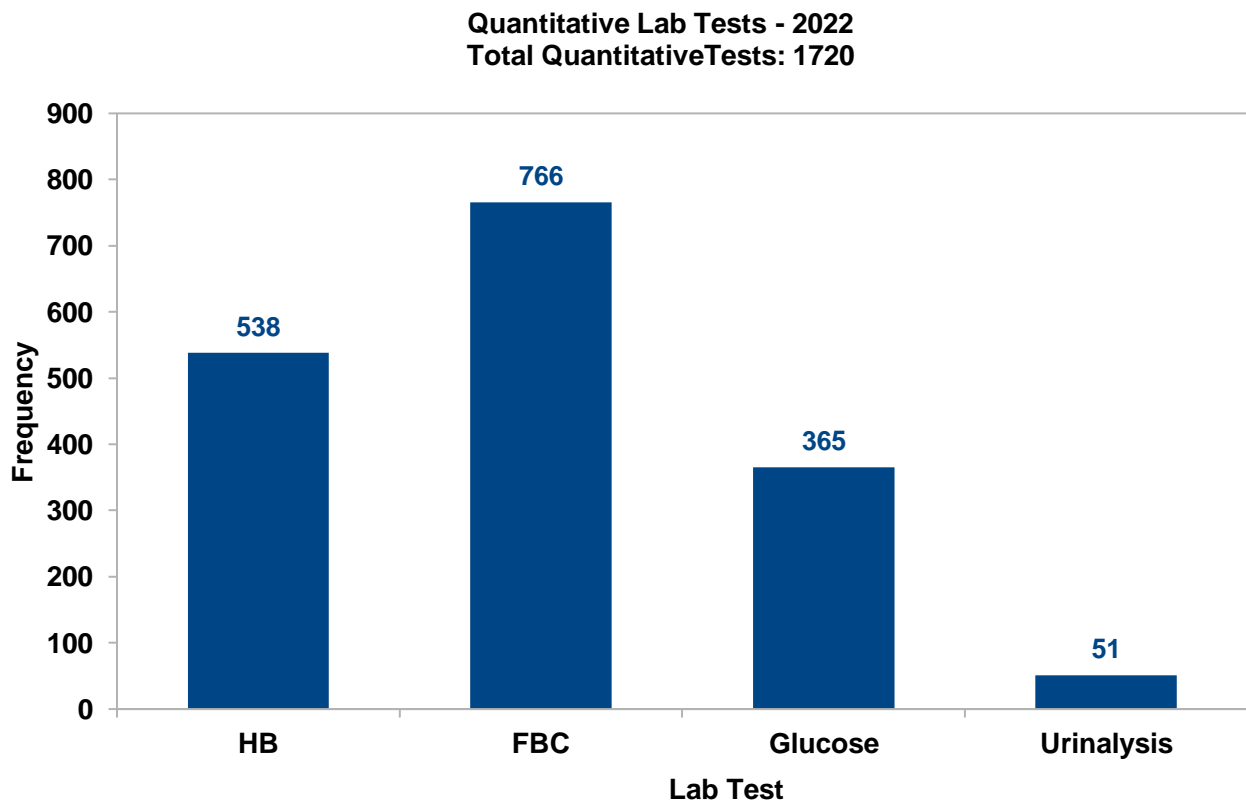


Figure 18: Quantitative Lab Tests – 2022.

Healthcare Finance and Administration

Table 15 shows clinic finance table for 2022.

2022	Amount Collected	Amount Spent on referral
January	MK 2,008,000	MK 388,170
February	MK 2,509,100	MK 506,506
March	MK 2,821,910	MK 503,235
April	MK 2,141,250	MK 467,235
May	MK 2,600,250	MK 554,705
June	MK 2,415,300	MK 613,115
July	MK 2,681,250	MK 419,800

Table 15: Clinic Finances – 2022.

Figure 19 below shows Expenses and Amount Collected (2022).

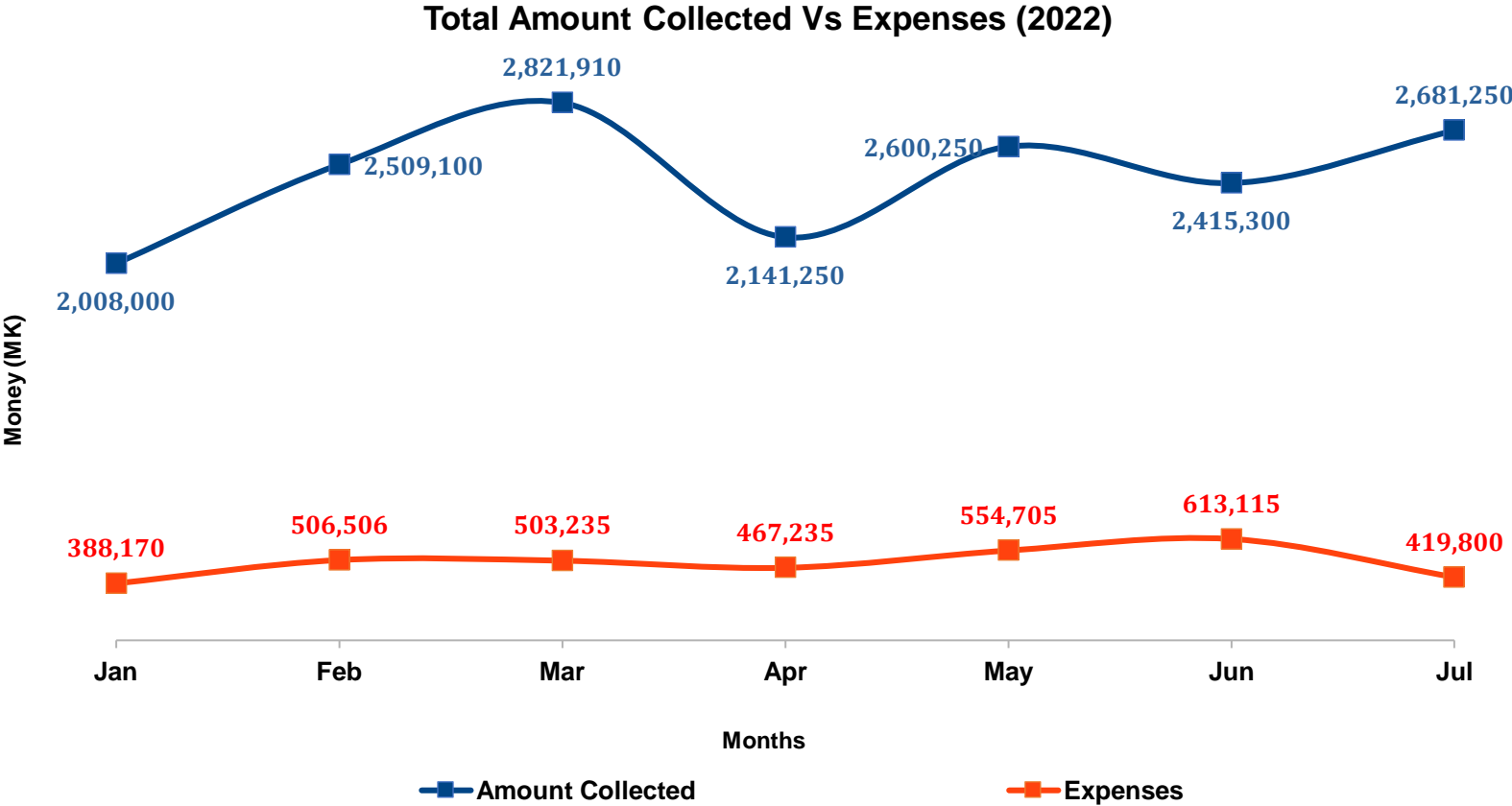


Figure 19: Expenses and Amount Collected (2022).

Achievements and Challenges

Success Highlights

1. Malaria cases: There is a huge drop in malaria cases from **17%** positivity rate seen last month to **6.9%** this month of July. It's a big achievement as far as malaria incidence is concerned, the decline could be attributed to good preventive measures which includes good use of Insect Treated Nets (ITNS), education in the communities and maybe spillover effects of vaccines in neighboring districts.

2. Polio vaccines campaigns: The Health Center with the assistance from the Ministry of Health (MoH) through the HSA, continues to administer door to door polio vaccines to under five children in Kasese catchment area. So far, they are now administering the 3rd dose out of the target 4 doses.

3. Eye clinic: The eye clinician conducted a successful eye cataract surgeries in Kasungu district hospital for **28** patients from Kasese catchments areas, some were done surgery of both eyes.

4. Medicine and medical supplies: The Health Center procured medicine and medical supplies for the month of July 2022 in accordance with the budget and also purchased oxygen concentrator and 4 sterilization drums. The oxygen concentrator is to be used in labour ward and will assist during resuscitation of asphyxiated infants.

5. Management information system: The Health Center conducted in-service training on 16-17 July on Mizu EHR for the staff in different modules, which includes pharmacy, clinician, and laboratory. In addition, a computer was installed in 24 hours children observation ward.

6. BEmONC and quality care assessment: The Health Center received supportive supervision and assessment by Dowa district safe motherhood coordinator on basic emergency obstetric and new born care (BEmONC) before its accredited as BEmONC Center. The Overall baseline assessment performance is **42%** while the requirement should be above **50%**. The detailed report is available and already shared with other managers.

7. Key Performance indicators: with the guidance from the Director of Healthcare Services, the health care program now has approved key performance indicators and a roadmap. The information is currently at the final stage and the data tools are under development.

8. Maternal, Neonatal and child health program manager (MNCH): Orant charities Africa appointed Linda Phiri (lead nurse) as a Program Manager for Maternal and Child Health. Her scope of work includes supervision of facility and community-based Maternal and Child Health activities and while working hand in hand with other

Healthcare Program Managers (MOC and Health Center Managers). She reports directly to Director of Health Services.

9. **New clinician**- the newly recruited clinician, MacPherson Chigwenembe, reported to work on 19th July 2022 at Orant Charities Africa. He is stationed at Kasese health Center and assists in outpatient treatment of patients and being on Call.

Key Challenge highlights

1. Unstable market prices for medicine and medical supplies. Prices are almost upwardly adjusted at every purchase.
2. Shortage of HTC providers. There is currently only one Counselor, and the Health Center plans to train two more. One for Outreach clinic, one for static.
3. There is still high number of newborns with complications during delivery including asphyxia, low birth weight, and prematurity.

Water and Sanitation Program

Introduction

The first half of the year has been successful in the WASH program implementation. In the past six months, the WASH has managed to make significant progress in the project about the targets for the year. As we begin the second half of the WASH program continue to support communities around Kasese towards improving access to sustainable water and sanitation services. In the just-ended month of July, the WASH program conducted several activities in line with the program goal of reducing morbidity



and mortality of people of Kasese through improved access to water supply, sanitation facilities and good hygiene practices. The following major activities were conducted during the month;

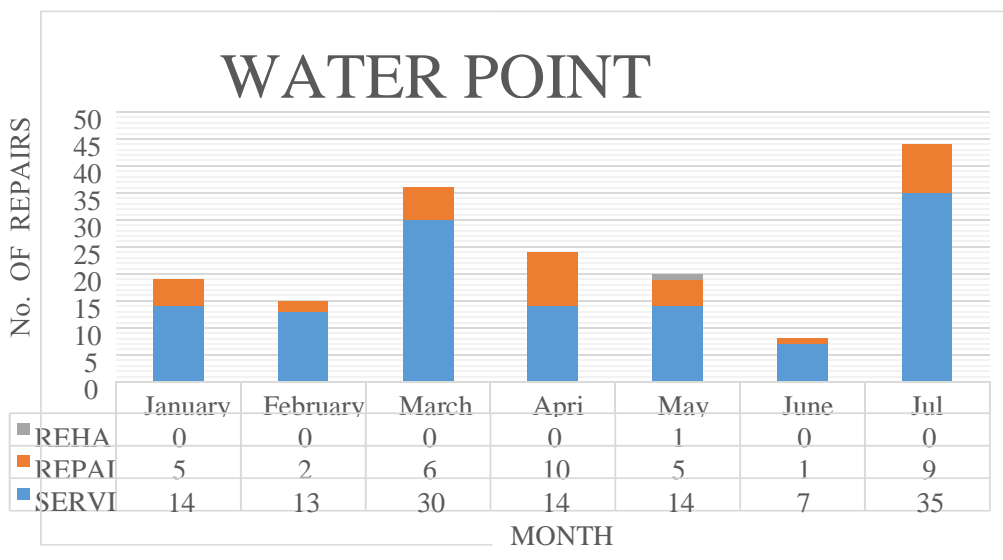
- Water point repairs
- Borehole drilling (Nambela & Fumbi village)
- Water Point Committee (WPC) training for James borehole
- Construction of latrines at Nambola (continuation)

Water point repairs and rehabilitations



Left - Old broken pump head and handle, Right – A repaired pump by OCA with a new pump head in Katundu village

As we begin the second half of the year in July, the WASH program continues to support repairs, services and rehabilitation of water points in the Kasese catchment. This is done to ensure sustainable functionality of water points which is tantamount to sustainable access to safe water within the OCA catchment. In July the water program repaired and serviced **44 boreholes (Service: 35; Repairs: 9)**. In 2022 the WASH program is promoting preventive maintenance (Service) of water points (Hand pumps) rather than the traditional reactive maintenance. Preventive maintenance involves replacing fast-wearing parts such as rubber seals in hand pumps before the hand pump breaks down. On the other hand, in reactive maintenance, hand pumps are maintained in response to reported breakdowns. Preventive maintenance is important in preventing major breakdowns which are costly and takes time to maintain thereby ensuring sustainable access to potable water for the rural community. The graph below shows the water points repaired and serviced by the WASH program in 2022 so far;



A graph showing the number of repairs conducted between January to July 2022

Borehole drilling and construction

In line with Sustainable Development Goal 6 aimed at ensuring universal access to sustainable water and sanitation services, the OCA water program drills boreholes in communities within the Kasese catchment. In June the WASH program drilled 2 more boreholes in Fumbi and Nambela villages which takes the total for the year so far to 6 out of the annual target of 15. The borehole in Fumbi village is expected to benefit approximately **300** people while the one in Nambela village will benefit **250** people. Currently, all the two boreholes are working properly.



Left – Old water source in Nambela village, right – New water point constructed by OCA in Nambela village

Water Point Committee (WPC) training

The WASH program also trains water point committees (WPCs) in the management of their water points. In this initiative, among others, WPCs are trained to conduct minor repairs and promote sanitation activities on their water points to ensure sustainable access to safe water. During the month the WASH program trained **1** WPC from James village. The water point in James village was drilled and constructed by OCA in June 2022 with financial support from Dr John and Margie Meyer. During the training, a total of 10 water point committee members were trained. The training was conducted for 5 days in James village.



Left -A practical session during water point committee training for James borehole, Right – Classroom session during water point committee training for James borehole

Construction of latrines at Nambola Primary School



Left – Old latrines at Nambola Primary school, right – One of the new latrine blocks constructed by OCA at Nambola Primary school

Late in July, the WASH program began the construction of latrines at Nambola primary school. Latrines in schools are constructed to promote sanitation among learners with the aim of reducing sanitation-related diseases. Construction works are in progress and 1 latrine block has been completed and the second one is under construction at the same school. Each of the two latrine blocks will have 4 doors, the latrines will be allocated to boys and girls respectively. The latrines are expected to benefit a total of **385** learners from the school. Nambola primary school is located in Kabwinja Education Zone and covers standards 1 to 5.

Conclusion

The month of July was another successful month for the WASH program. During the month the WASH program managed to complete the implementation of almost all its planned activities. The oncoming month of August promises to be another exciting month with an expected mission visit by board members from Orant Charities United States (US).

Agriculture and Business

Agriculture

Introduction

Malawi economy depends much on farming and OCA supports smallholder farmers to improve their economic status and reduce hunger problems. OCA supports smallholder farmers in both irrigation and rainfed farming through provision of farm inputs microloans and agriculture expertise. Some of the activities conducted during the month of June have been explained below.

Solar pump installation

Farmers in the village of Singo of Madzimayela irrigation club have been supported with Solar water pumps to reduce problems of irrigating crops. With rising cost of fuel and environmental problems caused by use of petrol and diesel pumps, Solar pump has been seen as the best solution to these problems. After charting with club members on how the pump will charge their production, Farmers said that solar pump will reduce cost of production since there will be no more cost of fuel, it will also help them to cultivate more land since they have a good watering system which was the big problem to them earlier. With the support of solar pumps, farmers are expecting to make more profits and improve their homes. Madzimayela irrigation club has 17 farmers and is cultivating 2 acres land but with the support of solar pump, farmers are planning to cultivate more than 5 acres land.



OCA farm

In the rainy season of 2021/2022, a big part of OCA farm was cultivated by 10 farmers from different villages surrounding Kasese. The total land of 20 acres was given to those

families who have insufficient land for crop production which aimed at commercial production. On top of being given land, these farmers were also provided with farm inputs at interest free and also assisted in finding good markets for their produce. After selling their produce, farmers were able to get better profits which empowered them to buy goat, fertilizer, clothes and food to feed their families. The program has transformed a lot of farmers' lives and left ever ending smiles on their faces.



Transplanting of Tomatoes

Farmers from the village of Ng'ombe showed much interest in irrigation farming and formed a club which was named Kambalani irrigation club. The club has 10 members which are cultivating tomatoes on a total land of 1 acre. Being the first year working with OCA, members were trained on proper tomato spacing and good crop watering for better harvest. The site has good soils for crop cultivation and enough water to irrigate the crops. Farmers from Ng'ombe village are happy working with OCA in irrigation as they are hoping to improve their lives with the OCA irrigation program as is the case with other villages which are already into this program with OCA.

Pest and disease control

Good harvest comes with good management of the field which includes control of Pests and disease. It is more important to control Pests and disease as it reduces quality and quantity of produce on the crops. Chale, Madula and Mvunguti irrigation clubs are cultivating Maize, beans and Tomato respectively where their fields were affected with diverse pests and disease hence Integrated Pests Management (IPM) was practiced. For the control of pests attacking the crops, the clubs were supported with synthetic chemicals which were applied. Club members were directed on the right dosage rate/ acre, right time of applying and right way of spraying the chemicals.

Fertilizer application

As a way of improving yield per cultivated area, application of Manure and fertilizer is more important and encouraged among farmers for better harvest. Irrigation clubs of Tchale, Madula and Kambalani are cultivating Maize, beans and tomatoes respectively where fertilizer application was done. These clubs were being supported with Fertilizer and expertise on fertilizer application so that the plant uses fertilizer properly and achieve high yields. Club members are also working hard in taking care of the field hence good yields are expected.

Sowing



Timvane is one of the big irrigation clubs working with OCA and during the reporting month, the club was involved in the process of sowing. The club was supported with seeds for sowing and chemicals used during sowing so that the nursery does not get affected with disease. Timvane being a club of 57 members and all members working on 3 acres land, it was seen as more important by club members to split the group into two. This is a case because the land being cultivated is becoming insufficient for the 57 members. Having extra sites for farming will help all members to have a better size of land for cultivation. Timvane has been divided into two whereby it is Timvane 1 and Timvane 2. Despite being split into two, members are working together in supporting each other and their work is uniform on both sides. Each of these clubs have chosen their leaders to lead them.

Business and Financial Empowerment Microloans

Financial Empowering Microloan (FEM) program continues to support women entrepreneurs around Kasese trading centre through provision of interest free microloans which are repaid in four equal installments and periodic entrepreneurship courses aimed at equipping women with essential business skills to enable women to successfully manage their businesses. These microloans and entrepreneurship courses are meant to empower women so that they become financially self-reliant and be able to support their households. In the month of July, FEM had accomplished the following activities as narrated as follows;

Sensitization meeting with Kachira Village Development Committee (VDC)

In an effort to increase community engagement/ participation, FEM and Education joint sensitization meeting with community duty bearers from Kachira section was conducted. The aim of the meeting was to raise awareness about the operations of FEM program and inform the members of the possibility of expanding the program to Kachigamba market. The committee was grateful for the approach used as it showed OCAs commitment to work with them in its interventions.



Kachira VDC members during sensitization meeting

Targeting for FEM women

As part of program expansion, the FEM program has opened up the opportunity for women entrepreneurs and those that aspire to do business to express their interest so that they may be considered to be part of the program. Since we use a geographically market

based approach, our target market is the kachigamba market and the target population is women entrepreneurs from surrounding villages who carry out their businesses in the said target area. The plan is to recruit about 10 to 20 women entrepreneurs who will be incorporated in the third cohort. So far, we have received 29 applications which are under review.

Mapping of FEM Beneficiaries

Mapping of beneficiaries was done in an attempt to see the extent of spatial coverage of the program. As much as we are aware that most of the program beneficiaries are the ones that do business on kasese Trading centre, we wanted to establish where the women entrepreneurs are actually coming from. This will assist us to know the exact villages the program has the most impact.

Monitoring of Businesses

As part of routine checks to assess progress of businesses for the women entrepreneurs, monitoring visits were conducted. So far the most viable business at the moment is buying and selling of maize, groundnuts, beans and soybeans hence most of our women entrepreneurs are engaging in that business in addition to their normal day to day



businesses. Table 1 shows the list of women entrepreneurs who have diversified into selling agricultural produce. From the visits, it was also learnt that the business certificates have been of great use specifically for those in agro dealing business. Together with the certificate and a scale licence from Malawi bureau of standard, Alinet was able to transact without any interference and restrictions from the government.

Mary Mndolo

Table 1 Secondary Businesses for some of the women entrepreneurus

Loan No.	Name	FEM Group	Secondary Activity	Secondary activity type
P-25	Sofilel Manjawira	Tiyanjane	Selling maize	Food trade
P-12	Ireen Hendereson	Tiyanjane	Selling groundnuts	Food trade

P-16	Ndazona Teshar Mchonjo	Tiyanjane	Selling groundnuts	Food trade
P-22	Editta Mtsitsa	Tiyanjane	Selling maize	Food trade
P-13	Stella kalimbakatha	Tiyanjane	Selling maize and groundnuts	Food trade
P-17	Maligelita Josofati	Tikondane	Selling Beans	Food trade
P-04	Mary Mndolo	Tikondane	Selling Groundnuts	Food trade
P-15	Gloria Chidzanja	Tikondane	Selling Beans	Food trade



Sofilet standing in front bags of maize she has procured with her loan

Weekly Village Savings & Loan meetings

Weekly VS&L meetings continue to take place for both cohorts. In the month, the women continued to meet for their weekly deposits and withdrawals. As of July 31, Tikondane FEM group had managed to save MWK 1,077,600 (\$1,042) with the highest FEM member’s savings at MWK 144,200 (\$139) and the lowest at MWK 55,000 (\$53). Tiyanjane on the other hand had total savings of MWK 883,600 (\$854.5) and the highest FEM members’ savings were at MWK 100,300 (\$97) and the lowest at MWK 51,300 (\$49.6).



VS&L Meeting with Tiyanjane FEM members

Education Support Program



Orant Charities Africa (OCA) education program aims to provide millions of girls across Malawi with safe, quality, gender-transformative education so they may find their voices and learn to lead. We work to ensure that girls realize they are equally deserving of the skills required to succeed. The following activities were conducted by OCA education program in the month of July, 2022

School Visits

OCA education program visited sponsored students in their respective schools. Likuni girls, Nkhamenya girls and Byanzi secondary were the schools which were visited. The aim of the visits was to monitor students' academic performance, encourage them to work extra hard and to provide them with material support. The support which was given to form four and form two students in preparation for the national exams which will start in the coming month (August) includes; Mathematical instruments, scientific calculators, rulers, pens, pencils, erasers and sharpeners. Students in form one and three were given hardcovers, pens, school bags to be used in class. Students from Byanzi secondary school also received sanitary pads. The school materials are given to the students in order to keep them in school and also that they are able to do better in class because their basic needs are met. The school does not provide these materials to the students and their parents cannot afford to provide for them because they are poor.



Students from Nkhamenya (right) and Likuni girls (left) secondary schools carrying materials given by Orant



Students from Byanzi secondary school after receiving sanitary pads and school materials from Orant



In the same reporting period, OCA received a visitor (Executive Director) from Orant Charities USA who accompanied the education program to Nkhamenya girls secondary school for encouragement, support and progress. The Executive Director was warmly welcomed by the students and they had a wonderful interaction. It was an inspirational visit and the students were greatly inspired from what was shared with them.



Nkhamenya Girls secondary students getting inspired by Orant Executive Director

Meetings

I. Meeting with Parents

In the month of July, 2022 the education program organized a meeting with parents and students from Ngala Community Day Secondary School (CDSS). The aim of the meeting was to discuss how we can help our students excel in life. From last year's MSCE exams, it was noted that students from Ngala CDSS are not performing well. This is due to several factors some of which are; poor background, lack of exposure or enough role models in their communities, lack of full parental involvement e.t.c.

During the meeting it was discussed that our students can be exposed by bringing in role models in their schools to inspire them. We also highlighted one another on the importance of parents getting involved in their children's education and also the responsibilities of parents toward their children's education. It was a very fruitful meeting

because a lot of parents learnt a lot since most of them were not getting involved in their children's education. Some of the issues raised were that parents need to;

- provide a supportive environment in the house
- connect with their children's school teachers/authorities
- ensure that their children are not over-scheduled
- encourage their children
- monitor their children's performance



OCA education program conducting a meeting with parents and students from Ngala CDSS

It was also suggested that meetings with parents should be conducted every term so that we should help one another on how best our students can excel in their academics.

II. Meeting with Village Development Committee (VDC)

Orant Charities Africa Education program together with the Financial Empowerment Microloan (FEM) program conducted a meeting with VDC for the Kachira section within Kasese catchment area. It was a joint meeting in order to cut out some costs but the two programs had different agendas.

The aim of the meeting for the education program was to remind one another on what OCA education program does and also inform the community about OCA new programs

such as the introduction of OCA University program called “**Orant Ulemu Scholarship**” The initial plan of the scholarship is to assist students who were previously assisted by Orant in Secondary school. We noted a gap in students’ academic life that after graduating secondary school they were failing to progress in the university due to lack of tuition and support.

In addition to that, the community was also informed of the addition of boys into the program. Currently, 15 percent of the total number of Orant sponsored students are boys. Our program does not completely leave out boys. Especially those who are in dire need of our support. We understand that boys are also caught in the cycle of poverty. The choice to sponsor a boy means the end of this devastating cycle. And the beginning of a new life for him and his family.

Lastly, the meeting was also to initiate the community to advocate for poor girls to have access to education since the community is the nearest body to girls and girls are parts of the society. They have the responsibility to support and advocate for the girls.



Meeting with VDC

Follow up Visit

OCA education program also had a follow up visit for one sponsored student who was selected to the University of Malawi to study Bachelor of Arts in humanities. The student was learning at Nkhamenya girls secondary school and Orant paid for her school fees for four years (form 1 to form 4). The aim of the visit was to follow up on how she is preparing for University since the school is opening soon on 8th August, 2022.

The student is very happy that she is going to University but she was not prepared in terms of what is required at the university because she does not know where she will get money for tuition, food and accommodation. After meeting with her parents, they were also excited that their daughter is going to the University since out of their eight children, Marah is the only child who has gone far with education to the point of going to University. However, the parents are in a dilemma on how they will manage to support their child in University since they are very poor and they only rely on farming.



Marah (middle) with her parents

Marah has applied for the government scholarship loan and if she will not be successful, OCA is considering supporting her University education through the “Orant Ulemu scholarship” funding. As an Orant Charities education program we believe that education is a key to change. Sponsorship gives a child the means to escape from poverty and to change his or her life for good.