



OCTOBER, 2022

ORANT CHARITIES AFRICA MONTHLY REPORT



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Healthcare Program

Executive Summary

Kasese Health Center is in Traditional Authority Chakhaza, Dowa District along M1 road (Kasungu – Lilongwe) in Malawi, Africa. The Health Center is operated by Orant Charities Africa in coordination with the Ministry of Health (MOH). Orant Charities Africa healthcare program assists patients through Kasese Health Center (static clinic) and Mobile Outreach Clinics (MOC) which reaches parts of Kasungu District. The Healthcare program provides curative and preventive health care services to impoverish rural communities. Kasese Health Center operate a busy Outpatients Department (OPD), **10** bed capacity **24** hours children observation ward, and a **7** bed capacity maternity ward, twice a week Antenatal Program, weekly Cervical Cancer Screening and monthly Eye Clinic, Under-Five Clinics (immunization and child growth monitoring) e.t.c. MOC takes the services to hard to reach areas thereby making healthcare accessible. Tropical infectious diseases are common health problems which includes: malaria, respiratory disease like pneumonia and bronchitis. However, non-communicable diseases are at the rise for example diabetes and hypertension.

For the month of October 2022, Kasese Health Center (KHC) saw **1480** clients at (OPD). The 24 Hours Children Ward admitted Zero patients (The ward was temporarily closed as Malaria season is not at the peak). Only **26** patients were seen during weekends and night. Total patients seen in the month of October is **1506**. MOC in Kasese catchments areas saw **558** while Kasungu (Bowe) Outreach clinic saw **2937** clients. MOC total patients seen is **3495**. Total patients seen in the month of October 2022 is **5001** (KHC: **1506** (**30%**) & MOC **3495** (**70%**)).

The Laboratory department tested **502** for Malaria; out of which **49** were positive, representing **10%** positivity rate.

The Maternity department admitted **21** mothers and referred **9**. A total of **21** babies were born and 2 had complications (**2 Prematurity**).

The Public Health department with the help of Health Surveillance Assistants (HSAs) administered **412** doses of Pfizer and **59** doses of J & J. Cumulatively, **3102** vaccines administered (Astra-Zeneca **895**, Pfizer: **1792** & J&J: **415**).

The HTS department tested **228** clients out of which **6** were positive, representing **3%**. Total patients seen at the eye clinic by an outsourced clinician is **96** and **8** patients were booked for surgery. A total of **170** women were screened for Cervical Cancer and **2** were VIA positive.

Monthly Attendance for both KHC and MOC

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

Months (2021)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Total
OPD Static Clinic	2138	2484	3178	1892	1921	1675	1295	605	1653	1480	18321
Bowe Outreach	2174	4242	4661	4091	2773	2444	2617	3822	3312	2937	33073
Kasese Outreach	618	589	686	550	495	492	711	618	635	558	5952
Children Ward	16	85	79	70	35	35	25	0	0	0	345
Nights/Holidays	30	44	46	49	41	21	30	37	28	26	352
Total	4976	7444	8650	6652	5265	4667	4678	5082	5628	5001	58043

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

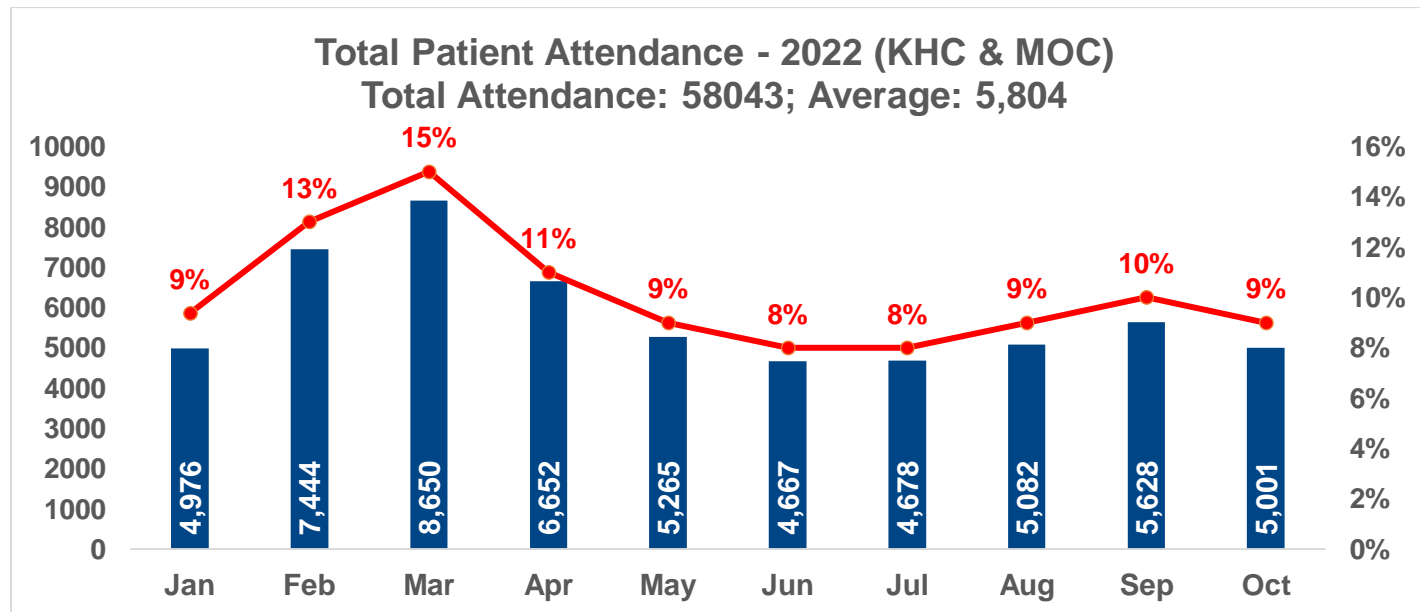


Figure 1 : Total monthly patient attendance – KHC & MOC (2022).

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

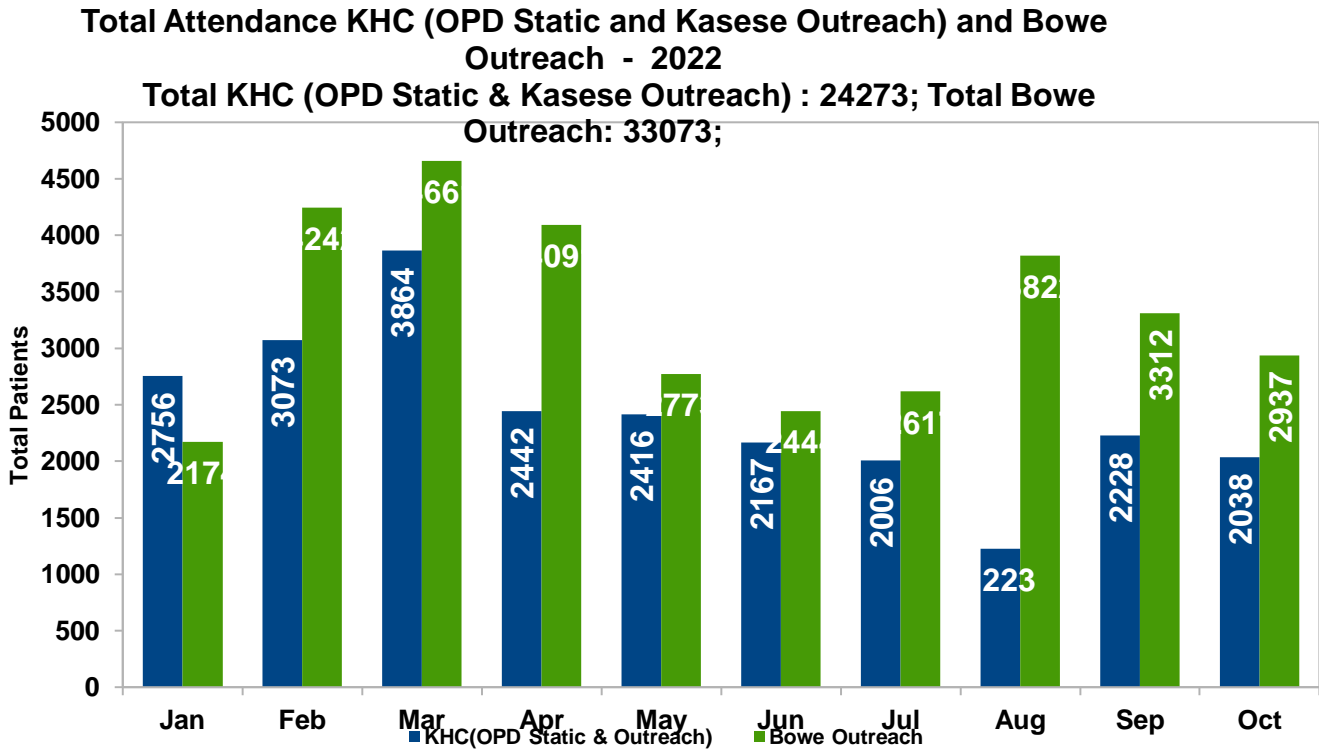


Figure 2: Total patients seen at KHC (OPD Static & Kasese Outreach) and Bowe Outreach – 2022.

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

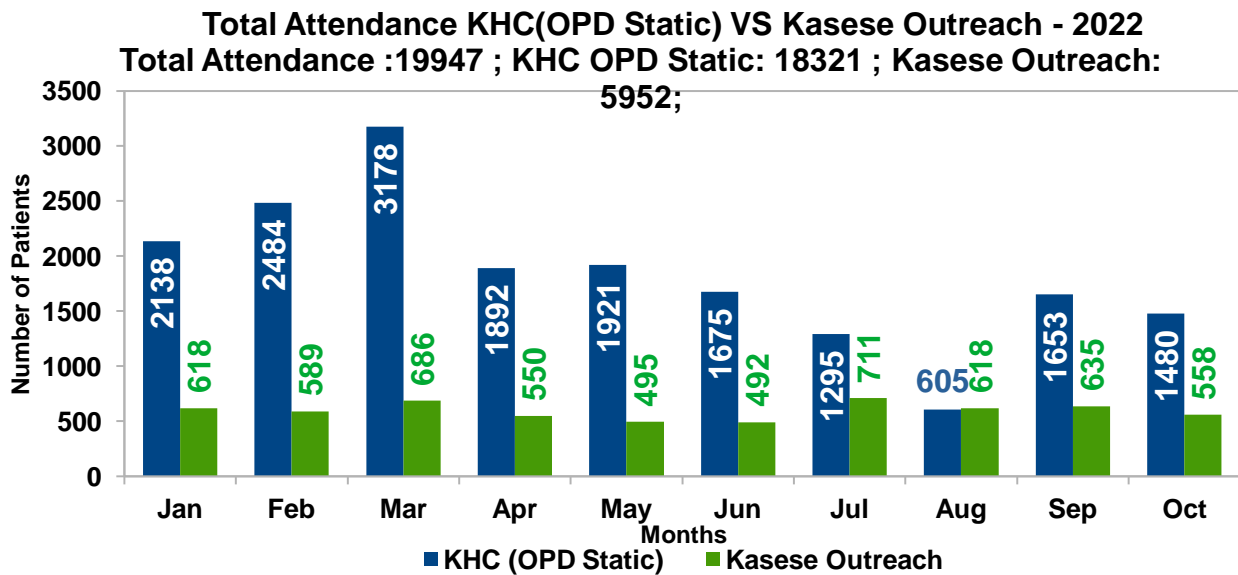


Figure 3: Total Attendance KHC (OPD Static) and Kasese Outreach – 2022.

Figure 3: 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).

KHC OPD Static VS MOC (Kasese & Bowe) - 2022

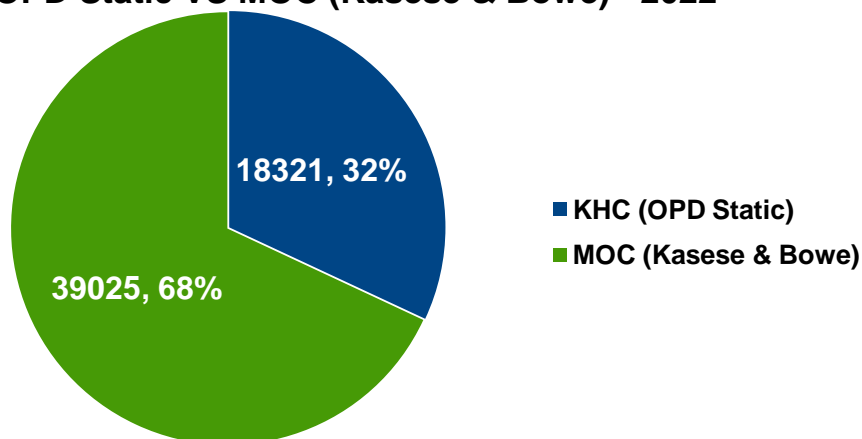


Figure 4: Cumulative patients seen at KHC (OPD Static) and MOC (Kasese & Bowe).

COVID-19 Situation Updates

The COVID 19 situation in the country remains low and in October 2022, 1 test was conducted. The Health Center continues to provide vaccines 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).

Cumulative COVID-19 Data – KHC Static.

Table 2 below shows Cumulative COVID 19 Data.

	Staff(OCA/HSA)	Others	Total
Cumulative Tests	4	36	40
Cumulative Positives	0	12	12
Cumulative Deaths	0	0	0
October Tests	0	1	1
October 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	25	40	65
2nd Dose	63	74	137
Booster	93	117	210
Brought Forward	674	706	1380
Cumulative	855	937	1792

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)	10	12	22
Booster	15	22	37
Brought Forward	170	186	356
Cumulative	195	220	415

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
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 October 2022

Vaccine Type	Beginning Balance	End Balance
J & J	150	300
Pfizer	90	360

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

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

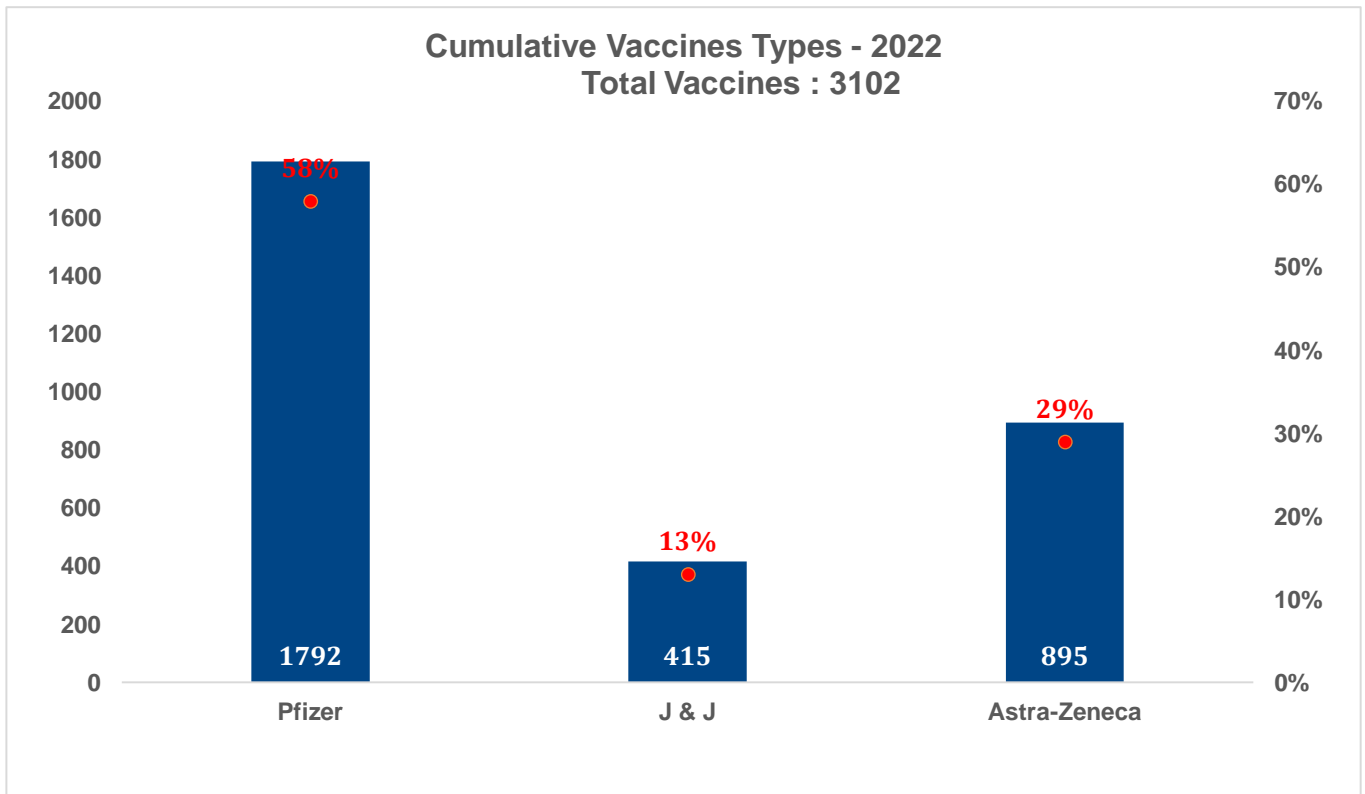


Figure 5: Cumulative Vaccine Doses Administered at KHC (2022)

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

Cummulative COVID 19 Tests - 2022
Cumulative Tests: 40

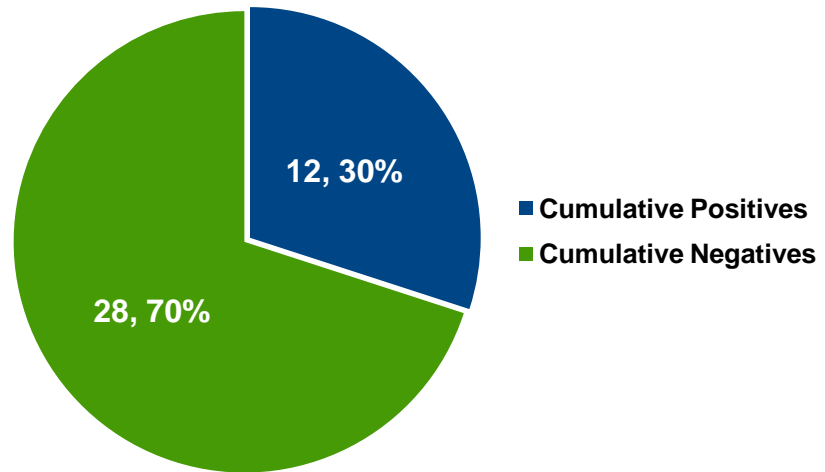


Figure 7: Cumulative COVID 19 Tests (2022).

Reproductive and Family Planning Health

4.1 Maternal and New-born Health Care

Months (2022)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Total
Admissions	21	26	29	29	24	27	38	32	41	21	288
Referrals	2	5	2	14	13	9	10	5	9	9	78
New Babies	22	26	29	29	24	27	38	32	41	21	289
Alive Babies	22	26	27	29	24	27	38	32	40	21	286

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	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Total
Weight <2500 grams	1	1	1	0	1	0	3	2	1	0	10
Prematurity	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	8
Asphyxia	1	0	5	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	10
Sepsis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Still Birth Fresh	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Still Birth Macerated	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Neonatal Death	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	4	2	10	0	1	1	5	5	3	2	33

Table 7: Newborns with complications – 2022

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

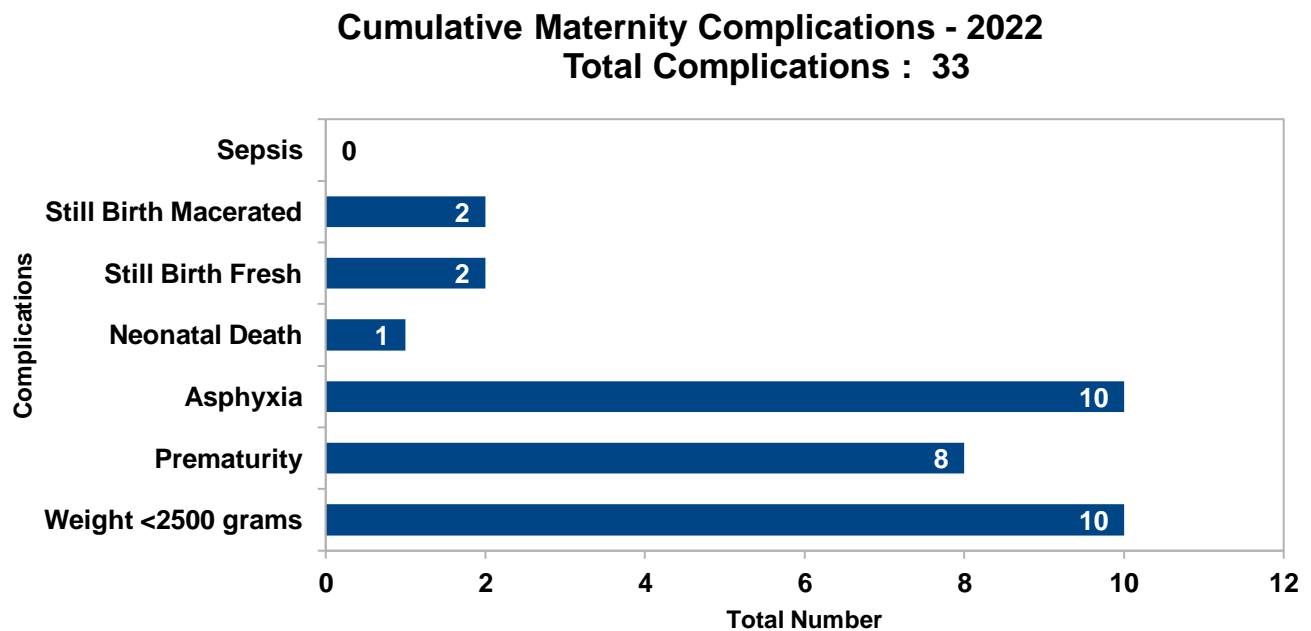


Figure 8: Cumulative Maternity Complications – 2022

Figure 9 below shows total monthly Maternity attendance.

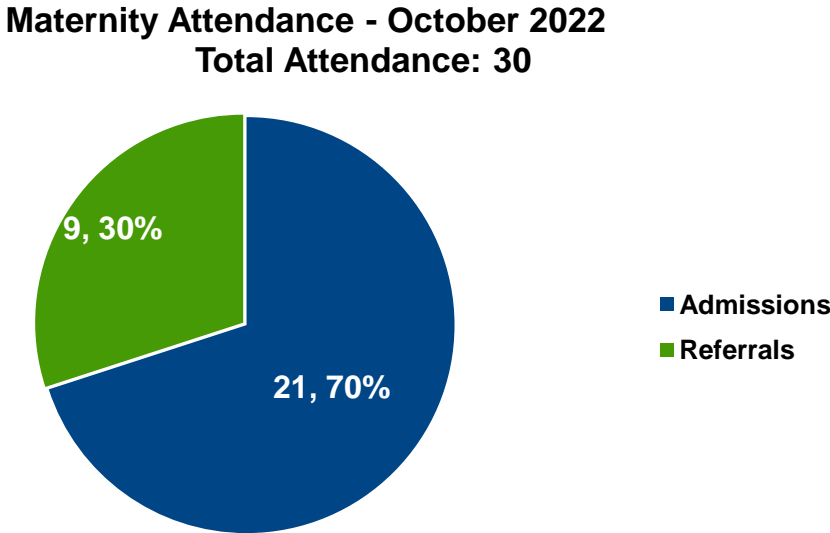


Figure 9: number of Admissions and Referrals (October 2022)

Table 8 below shows the reason for the referrals

Referral Reason	Number of Clients
Pre-eclampsia	1
Premature Labour	1
Obstructed Prolonged Labour (OPL)	3
Foetal Distress (FD)	2
Other	2

Table 8: Referral Reasons - October 2022

Figure 10 below shows ANC New attendances.

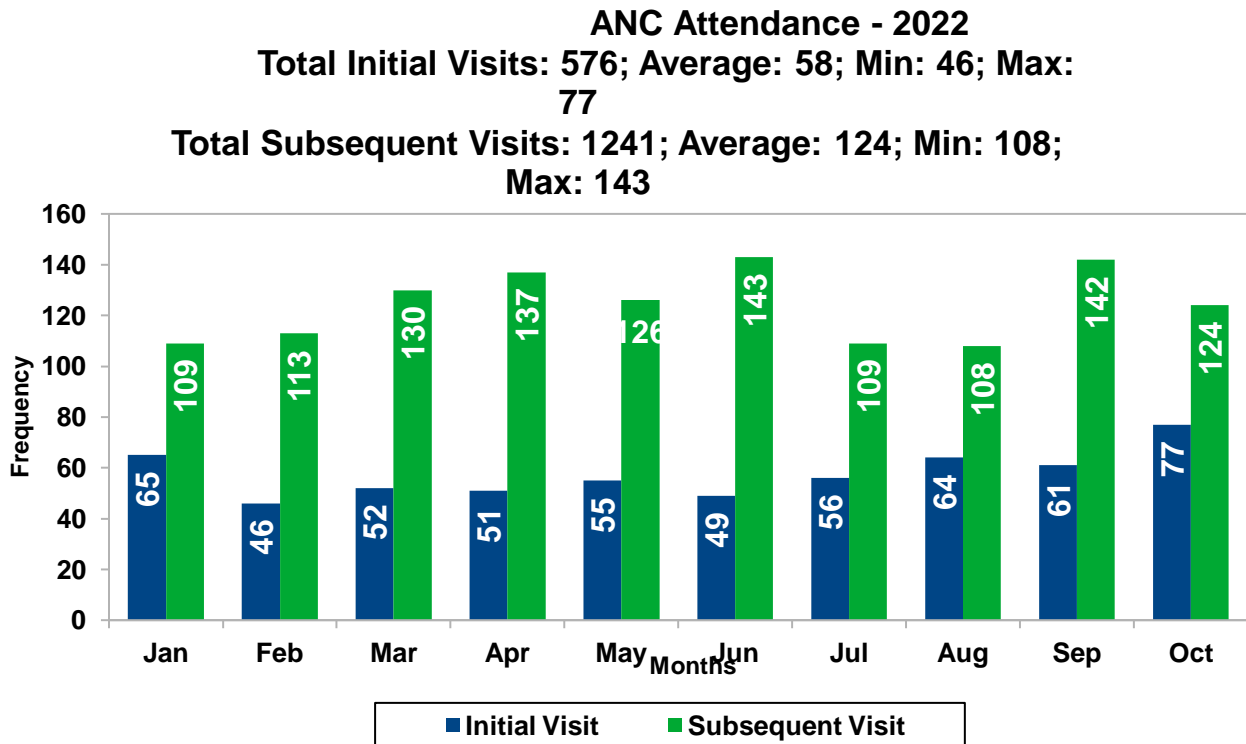


Figure 10: ANC New Attendances (2022).

Cervical Cancer Control Clinic Report

Table 9 below shows 2022 Monthly Cervical Cancer Screening.

Month (2022)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Total	15	22	22	15	5	10	13	15	16	170
VIA Positive	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	2

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 outsource eye specialist continue to provide service in Kasese Health Center and operation is done at Kasungu District Hospital.

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	Aug	Sep	Oct
Eye Infections (Treated)	12	22	18	31	31	41	44	78	73	88
Eye Surgery (Booked)	0	6	11	8	6	7	11	10	11	8
Total Seen	12	28	29	39	37	48	55	88	84	96

Table 10: Monthly Eye Clinic Table - 2022.

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

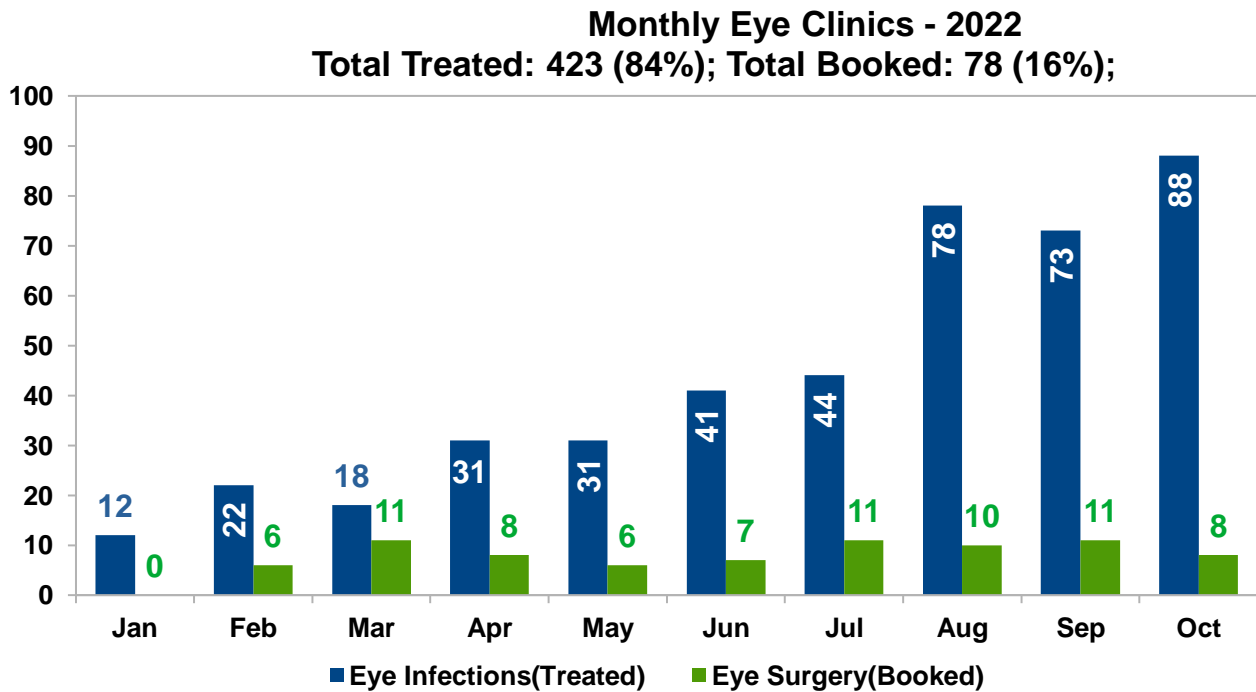


Figure 11 : Monthly Eye Clinic – 2022.

Malaria Report

Table 11 below shows Malaria tests for October 2022

	Total Tested	Positives	Negatives	Positivity Rate
Under 5	266	27	239	10%
5 Years and Over	236	22	214	9%
Total	502	49	453	10%

Table 11: Total Malaria Tests (October 2022).

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

2022	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Suspected Malaria Cases	1535	1722	1707	988	1023	754	684	625	585	502
Suspected Cases Tested MRDT	1528	1714	1698	988	1023	745	681	625	584	502
Confirmed Malaria Cases	250	322	162	168	237	129	47	31	34	49
New Malaria Cases Registered	257	330	171	168	237	138	50	30	35	47
LA Dispensed	257	330	171	168	237	138	50	30	35	47
LA Issued	690	300	600	270	2470	645	0	30	120	660

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

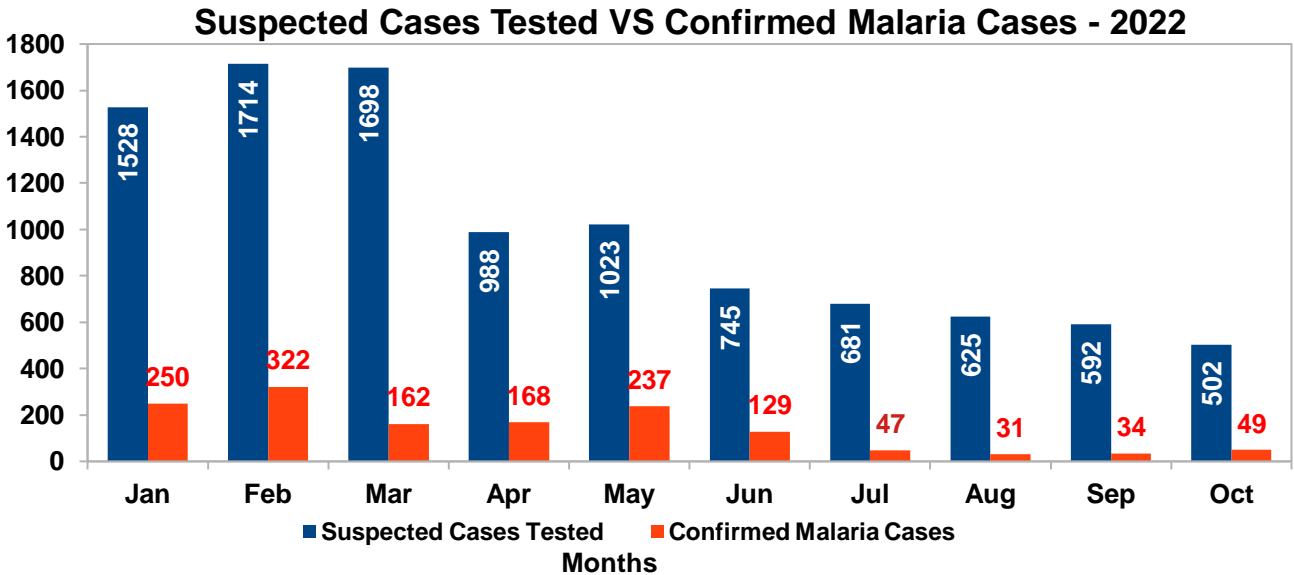


Figure 12: Malaria Suspected Cases Against Confirmed Cases - 2022

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 (October 2022)

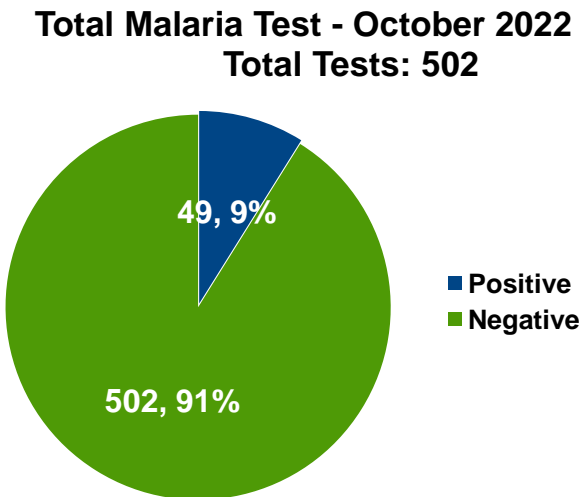


Figure 13: Total KHC (Static and Kasese Outreach) Malaria tests (October, 2022).

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

Under 5 Malaria Tests - KHC (Static & Kasese Outreach - October 2022)
Total Tests: 266

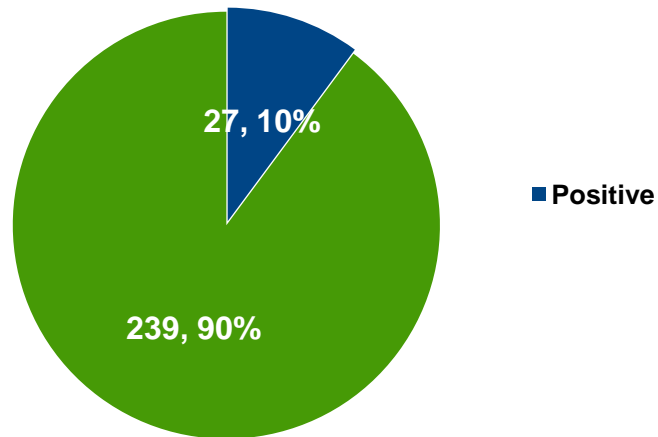


Figure 14: Static and Kasese Outreach, Under 5 Years Malaria tests (October, 2022).

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

5+ Years Malaria Tests - KHC (Static & Kasese Outreach - October 2022)
Total Tests: 236

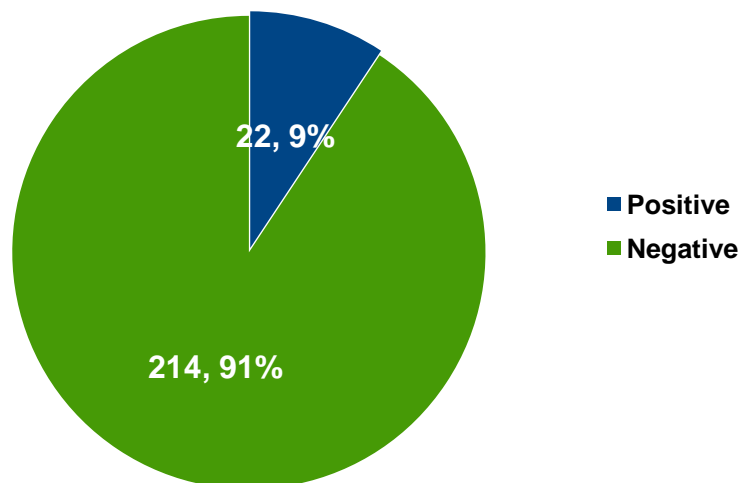


Figure 15 : Static and Kasese Outreach, 5+ Malaria tests (October, 2022).

HIV Testing Services (HTS)

Figure 16 below shows HTC Monthly Data (2022).

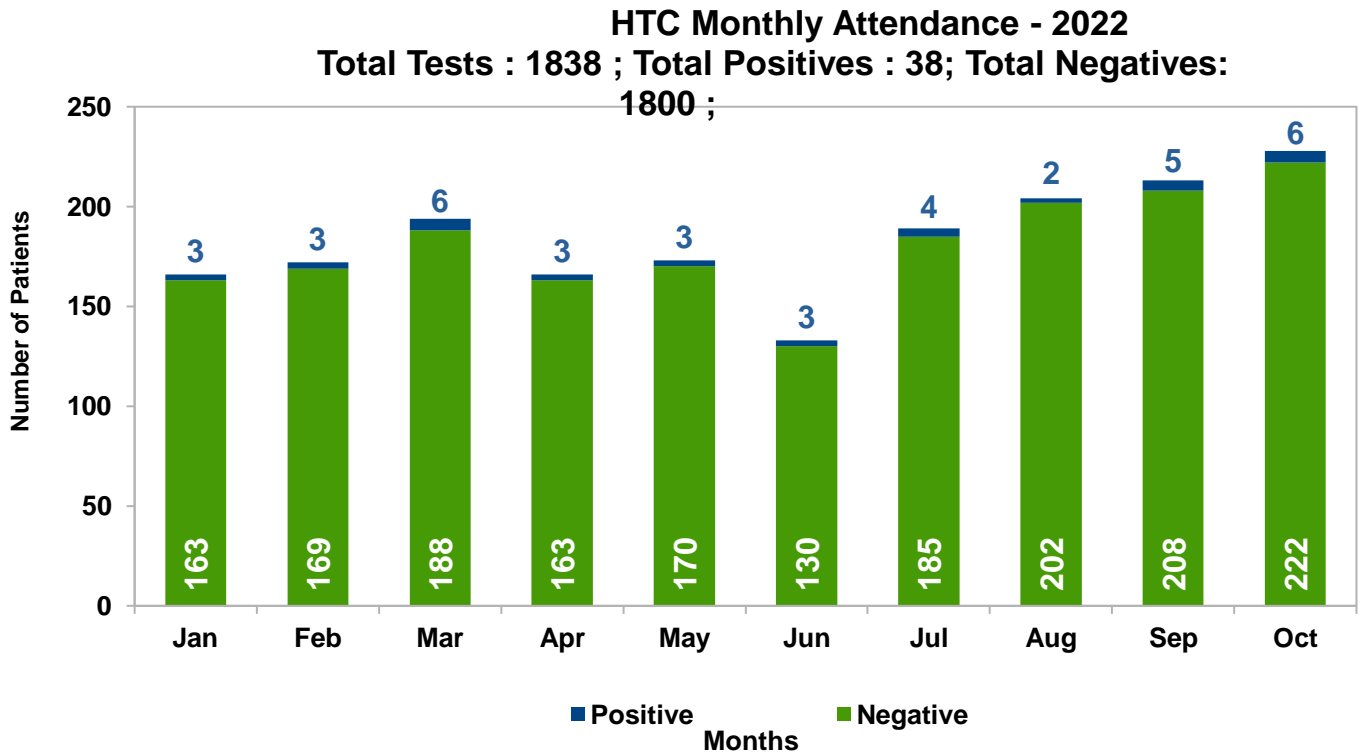


Figure 16: HTC Monthly Data 2022

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
Aug	84	17	17	3	6	0	39	13	0	0
Sep	65	13	8	2	1	0	44	19	0	0
Oct	83	5	21	1	0	0	50	13	1	0
Total	807	215	106	8	23	4	392	136	40	12

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

Figure 17 below shows qualitative lab tests 2022

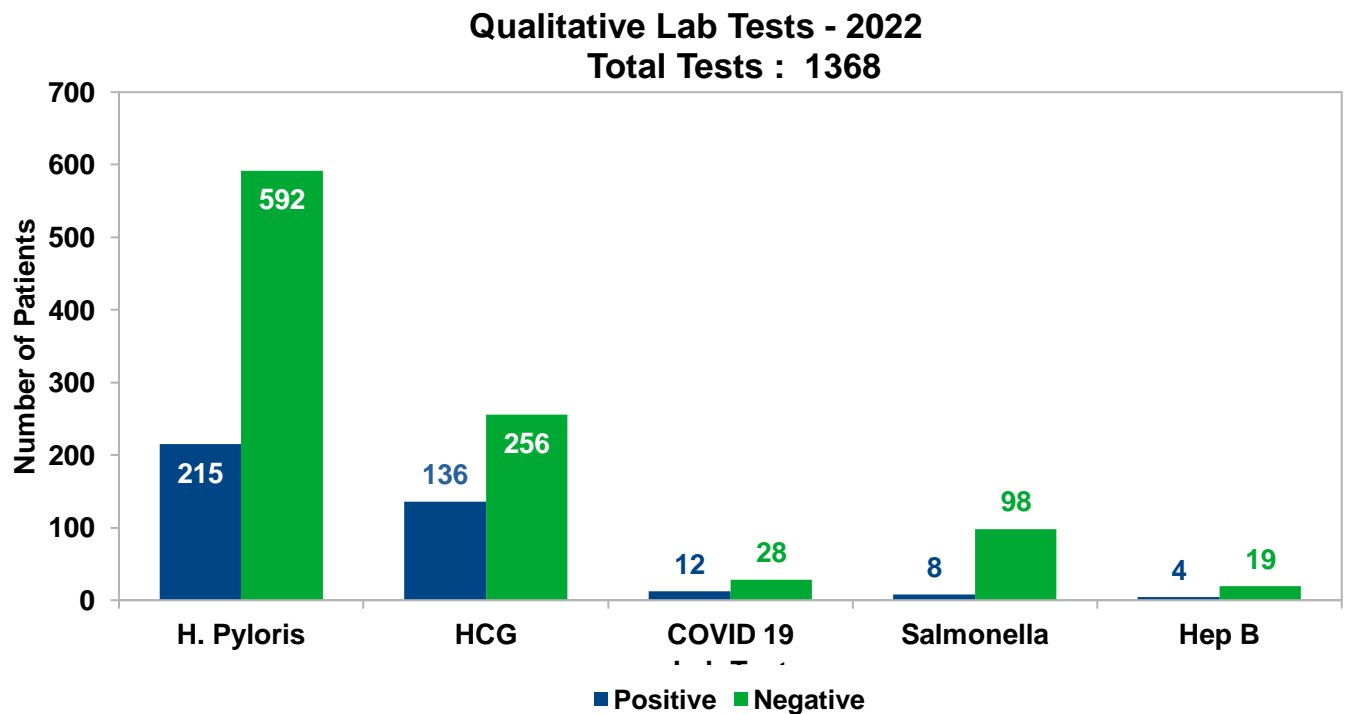


Figure 17: Qualitative Lab Tests – 2022.

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
Aug	95	86	23	100
Sep	49	72	18	101
Oct	56	93	24	125
Total	565	789	116	1092

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

Figure 18 shows quantitative lab tests for the year 2022

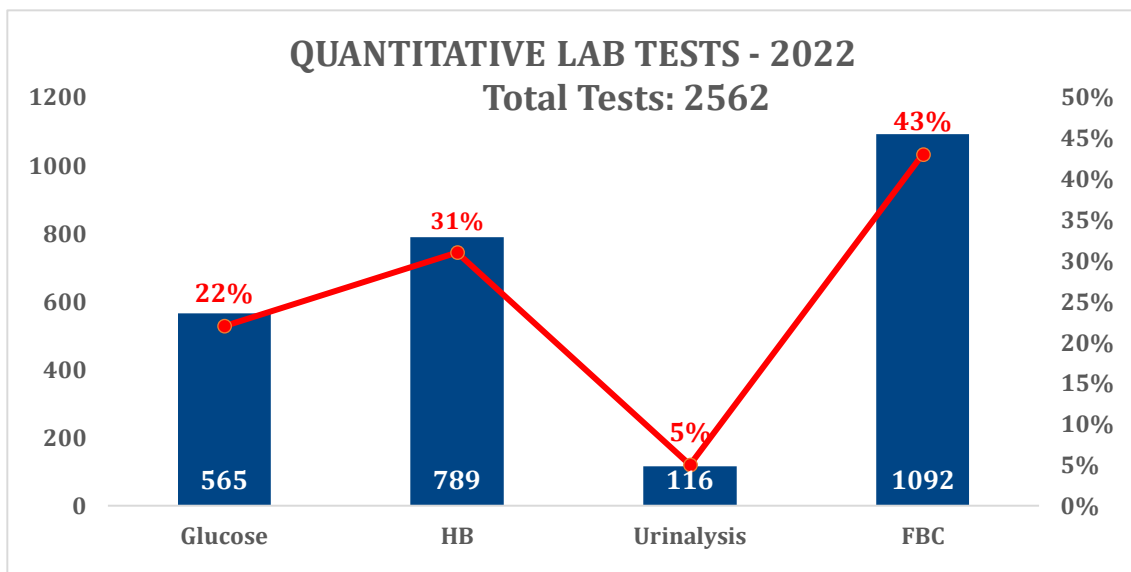


Figure 18: Quantitative Lab Tests – 2022.

Disease Group Trends

Figure 19 below shows diseases occurrences for October 2022

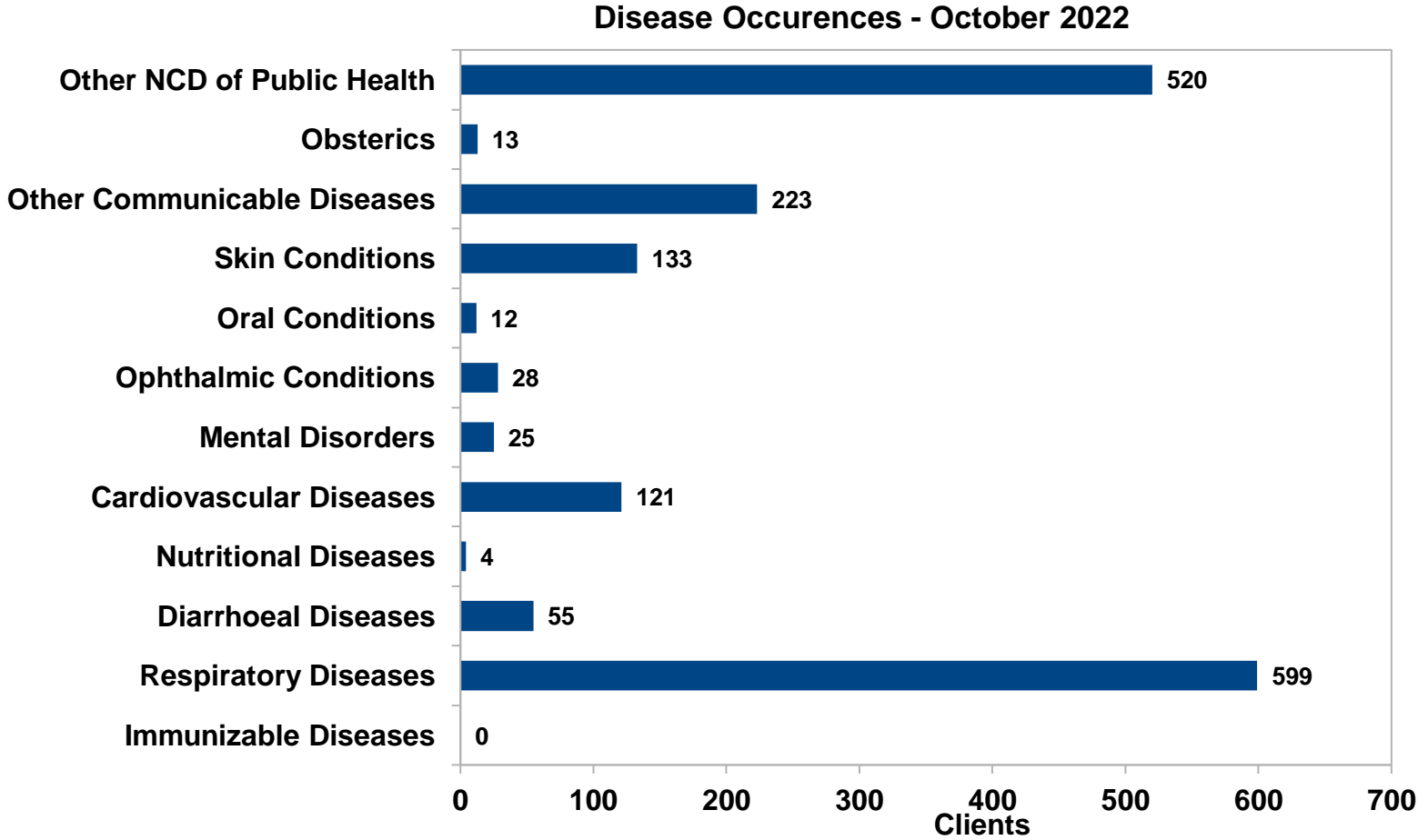


Figure 19: Disease Occurrences (October, 2022).

Healthcare Finance and Administration

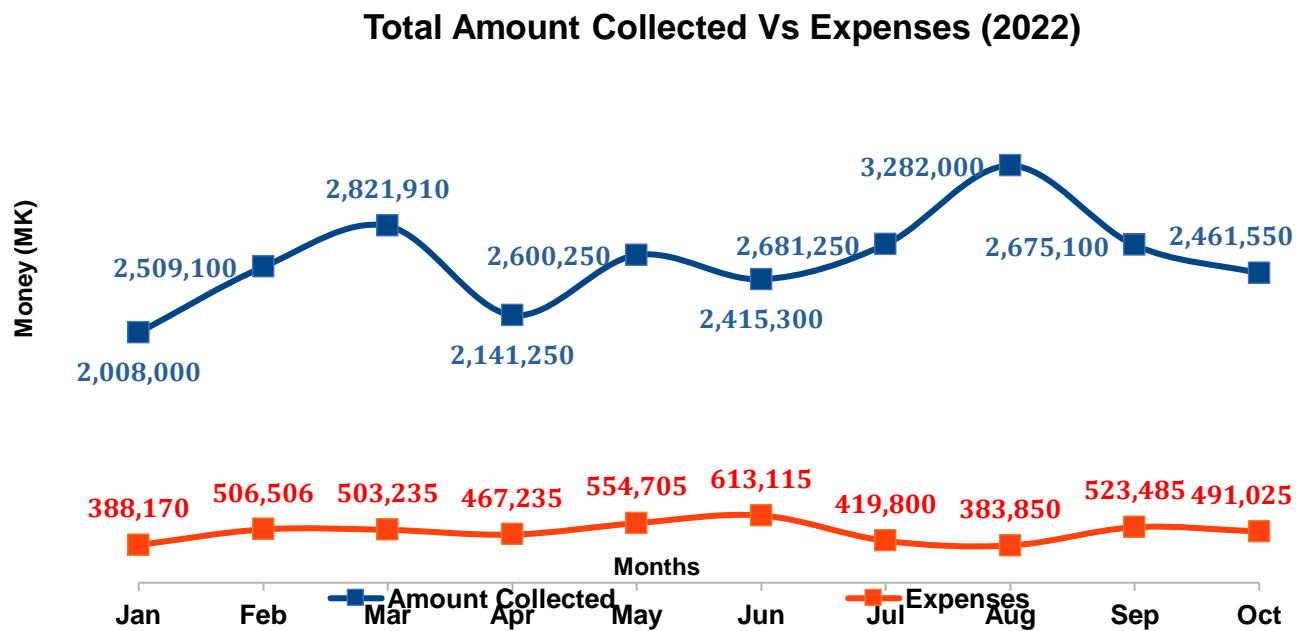
Table 15 shows clinic finance table for 2022.

2022	Amount Collected	Amount Spent on patient bills
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
August	MK 3,282,000	MK 383,850
September	MK 2,675,100	MK 523,850
October	MK 2,461,550	MK 491,025

Table 15: Clinic Finances – 2022.

Figure 20 below shows Expenses and Amount Collected (2022).

Figure 20: Expenses and Amount Collected (2022).



Achievements and Challenges

Success Highlights

1. **Expanded program of immunizations.** - The Health Center received a supervisor from the World Health Organization (WHO), her name is Dr Doris John, and she was accompanied by environmental officer from Dowa district. As per her feedback report. Overall, the Health Center's immunization program is doing well. However, she noted that the health Center does not have EPI monitoring charts, and guidelines/ manuals. She also promised to come back and have a talk on EPI surveillance on Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) diseases and other immunizable diseases like neonatal tetanus, measles, and polio.
2. **Cholera pandemic-** Malawi declared an outbreak of cholera in March 2022, and since then there has been **8,490** confirmed cases across the country with **253** deaths. Dowa district is not spared from the infections and in a bid to response to the outbreak, Orant Charities Africa conducted a brief training on Cholera to all the staff and Health Surveillance Assistants, the training was done by multi-disciplinary team from Dowa district hospital.
3. **Cervical cancer screening** - The Health Center with the help of cervical cancer focal nurse (Mary kadzola) conducted community awareness of cancer and the screening program in Kasese catchments areas (Chilonkholi, Chiliphiza, Chimwendo, Kachigamba, Mtambalika, Chiwira and Kabulusi health posts), in total **170** women were given health talks and screened. Two were found VIA positive and they were treated with thermo-coagulation and two with obvious lesion of cancer were referred to Kamuzu Central Hospital for a biopsy and further management.
4. **Malaria infections** - The Health Center have observed a significant drop in out-patients attendance and a subsequent drop in malaria positivity rate. This is a big achievement as far as malaria diseases burden is concern.
5. **Eye Clinic** - There is a significant increase in eye clinic attendance compared with the other previous months.

Key Challenge highlights

1. There is low cervical cancer screening coverage in the Kasese catchment area. Currently, we screen less than **20** patients per month as compared to the target of **600** according to the population of women of child-bearing age in the catchment.
2. There is a need for EPI monitoring charts and manual (to be sourced from the Ministry of Health).

Water and Sanitation Program

Introduction

The WASH program continues making strides towards improving access to WASH services in the Kasese catchment in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 6. The month of October was another milestone towards achieving annual targets for the WASH program. This report provides a summary of WASH interventions conducted in October 2022. The following key interventions were achieved in October;

- Supported 37 water point repairs (Service/preventive: 28; Repairs: 8; Rehabilitated: 1)
- Drilled 2 boreholes (Mateke & Kam'phika village)
- Trained 2 Water Point Committees (WPC) from Zindo 2 and Timoti villages
- Completed construction of 1 latrine block at Kapini
- Attended WASH District Coordination Team (DCT) Meeting



DETAILED NARRATION OF MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

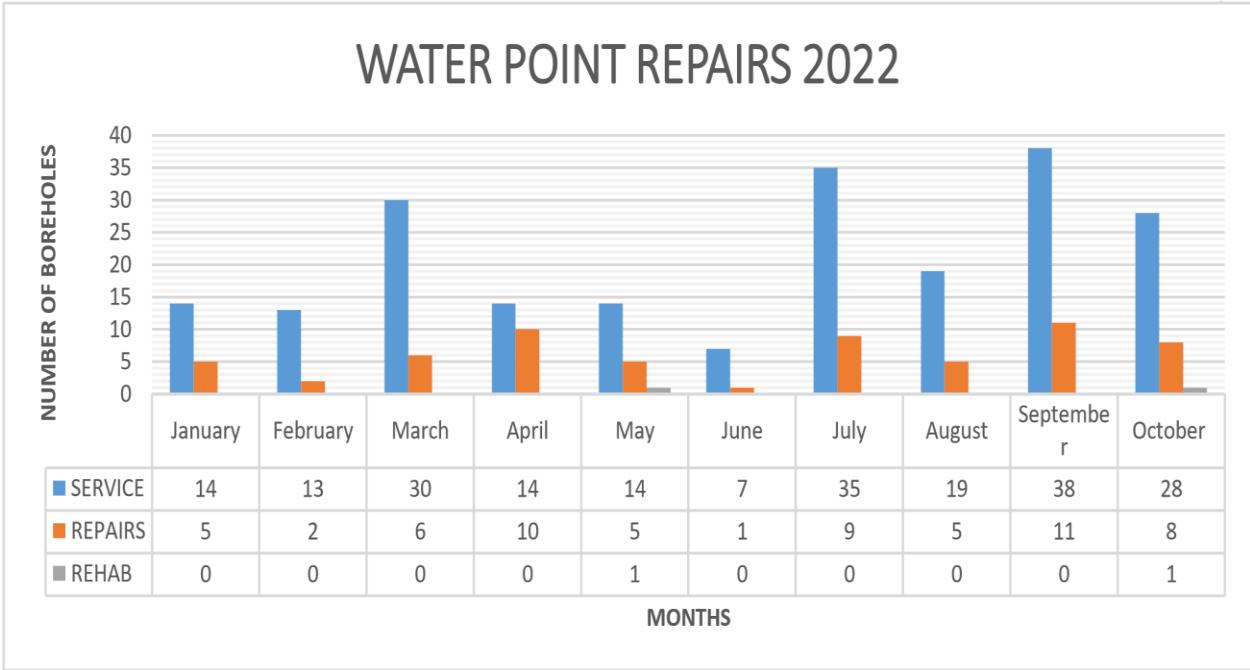
The following are key interventions the WASH program conducted in October 2022.

Water point repairs and rehabilitations



Pump repair session at Kamongo primary school during the month

To ensure sustainable access to safe water within the Kasese catchment, water point repair is among the key intervention for the OCA WASH program. In water point repairs two stakeholders are key, namely; the Water Point Committees (WPCs) and the Area Mechanics. Water point committees are volunteers who are responsible for the day-to-day management of water points on behalf of the users such as promoting sanitation and fundraising for water point maintenance. On the other hand, area mechanics are responsible for the maintenance of the water point with support from the OCA WASH program. In October, under this initiative the WASH program repaired a total of **37** water points (Service/preventive: **28**; Repairs: **8**; Rehabilitated: **1**). Cumulatively, in 2022 the WASH program has supported the maintenance of **276** water points (Service: **212**; repairs: **62**; rehabilitations: **2**). The graph below shows the trend of major/reactive repairs and preventive/service repairs by the WASH program in 2022 so far;



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

Borehole drilling and construction



Left – The old water source for Kam’phika village, right – New borehole drilled with support from OCA

To promote access to improved water services the WASH program drills new water points in Kasese. In October, the WASH program drilled 2 water points in Mateke and Kam’phika villages. The two newly drilled water points are fully functional. The water point in Mateke village is expected to benefit approximately **215** people while the one in Kam’phika village is expected to benefit a total of **230** people. The two new water points take the total of newly drilled water points to **12** out of the annual target of **15**.

Water Point Committee (WPC) training



Left -A classroom session during water point committee training for Zindo 2 borehole, Right – Practical session during water point committee training for Zindo 2 borehole

To ensure active participation in water points management the WASH program trains rural communities in Community Based Management (CBM) of water points.

In this initiative a total of 10 volunteers (forming a water point committee) from each community benefiting from a new water point are trained in minor water point repairs, water point maintenance funds management, community mobilization, water handling and water point sanitation. The WASH program trained 2 WPC from **Zindo 2** and **Timoti** villages. The water point in Fumbi village was drilled in August 2022 while the water point in Timoti village was drilled in September 2022. The two training sessions were conducted in the two respective villages for 5 days. In each village, the chief was also invited to attend the training. So far in 2022, the WASH program has trained a total of 9 WPCs.

Construction of latrines at Kapini Primary School

In September the WASH program started the construction of latrines at Kapini primary school. Kapini is the second school to benefit from the school latrine initiative in 2022. Two latrine blocks will be constructed at Kapini school; one for boys and the other for girls. Each block of latrine will have 4 latrine cubicles. These latrines are expected to benefit a total of 352 learners (Boys: 171; Girls: 181). Currently, the first latrine block has been completed and construction for the second latrine is in progress.



Progress of latrine construction at Kapini school

WASH District Coordination Team (DCT) Meeting

In October, the WASH program was invited to WASH DCT at the Dowa district council. The main agenda of the meeting was to strategize on the WASH survey which is underway in the district. The meeting also aimed at developing a Cholera preparedness strategy due to the impending outbreak of the disease. On the WASH survey, members were asked to support other activities related to the survey such as the development of survey reports and logistics for post-survey meetings. The survey is partly supported by United Purpose (UP). Similarly, on the Cholera preparedness stakeholders were further asked to support some activities which were budgeted during the meeting such as sensitization campaigns and training for extension workers. It was further agreed that NGOs which were already conducting the Cholera prevention initiatives should share progress reports with the DCT for documentation.

Conclusion

As we approach the end of the year, the progress that the WASH program has made on annual targets is promising. The WASH program has made significant strides in borehole drilling, water point repairs and training of water points which are key interventions. Therefore, the WASH program is optimistic about meeting the key target by the end of the year.

Agriculture and Business

Agriculture



Introduction

Farming is one of the important activities which are building the economy of Malawi. Smallholder farmers depend on farming to improve their economic status and feed their families. OCA support smallholder farmers in equipping them with knowledge on commercial farming. The activities are done in both irrigation and rain feed farming through provision of farm inputs as microloans and agriculture expertise. Some of the activities conducted during reporting month have been explained below;

Mbeya fertilizer making

High rising prices of the fertilizers in the country has brought threats to the smallholder farmers. There are great challenges among smallholder farmers to purchase enough fertilizers for their farms hence Mbeya fertilizer is the solution to the problem. OCA agriculture office trained 89 farmers in Mbeya fertilizer making which is easy to make from locally available resources. The farmers trained were from villages of Singo, Buza and Joseni. In last growing season, farmers did not make enough profits from their farms due to poor rains hence they did not save enough funds to buy farm inputs for the following growing season and also there is rising cost of farm inputs.

This has prompted most of the smallholder farmers to decide in using poor quality farm inputs which mostly bring low yields. Mbeya fertilizer making training will help smallholder farmers to save a lot of their income. Mbeya fertilizer is easy to make and it is rich in nutrients which are important to crops and also improves and maintain soil texture, structure, colour, depth and aeration. The Mbeya fertilizer has been appreciated by most of the farmers and they have promised to practice in their respective farms.



Farmers practicing how to make Mbeya fertilizer

OCA Farm

OCA has increased its land size for agriculture activities from 35 to 67 acres land. Previously, OCA had 35 acres (32-adjacent to campus and 3 acres-near pump house) land where agriculture activities were being done. The development has come at good time as OCA introduced OCA farm project which will need big sized land. Several crops will be cultivated on this land such as Maize, Soya and Groundnuts on total land size of 54 acres. These acres will be cultivated by OCA, farm club and demonstration farm where OCA will cover 31 acres, farm club 20 and demonstration 3. The high percentage of these crops will be Maize since the country might face hunger problem in the coming year due to high cost of farm inputs. Currently some activities are in progress on preparation of rainy season farming such as removal of unnecessary trees, land clearing and ridging. This will help to plant with first rains which is more advisable in rainy feed farming.

Planning Meeting

A planning meeting was done with Mwaiwanthu farm club to discuss about the the Orant farm project which started in the 2021-2022 farming season. This was a pilot project and is meant to empower poor landless farmers from around our catchment area. The members of Mwaiwanthu club were communicated about the period the project will take which is three years. The goal of three years project is to provide them with farming, business, financial, and leadership capabilities necessary to greatly improve their household wealth and security. There will be signing of contract every year with all farmers which will contain the details about the roles OCA and club members are playing in the project. It will also explain the expectations of OCA from the club members at the end of the project. Club members were also communicated on the type of the crops which will be cultivated in the farm which is Maize, Soya and groundnuts. This meeting presented a platform to encourage farmers to continue working hard so that their lives can improve.



A meeting with Mwaiwanthu farm club

Fertilizer application in Irrigation clubs

Madzimayela Irrigation club is cultivating Maize crop. This is one of the OCA Irrigation clubs which benefited from Water solar pumps which OCA distributed in this year 2022. The club has cultivated 2 acres of land with Maize which has not been the case in the past as there were only able to cultivate 1 acre land. This is also the second crop for this year, while in the past, they could only manage to cultivate one crop only year round.

The activity of fertilizer application was done with more happier faces as they are assured of enough water to irrigate their crops with the solar water pump. There is more hope of improved activities in irrigation farming with this introduction of solar water pumps.



Irrigated Maize crop

Harvesting and Marketing of Crops

Crop production under irrigation improves economical and hunger problems in the country. Irrigation clubs working with OCA are cultivating crops such as Maize, beans and tomatoes. During the reporting month, harvesting and marketing of these crops took place in clubs of Kambalani and Madula. In these club's crops produced are Maize and tomatoes respectively. The marketing of these crops is underway so that it can be sold in time with the aim of minimizing damages especially for tomatoes. Grading of these produce is more important to fetch good prices hence members were encouraged to do grading before selling out.



A Happy farmer on her tomato field after harvesting

Business and Financial Empowerment Microloans

Introduction

In a quest of contributing towards attainment of [Sustainable Development Goals](#) 1 and 8, OCA through the FEM continues to provide interest free microloans and strengthening the capacity of women entrepreneurs around Kasese. In October, the FEM program had initiated a number of activities as narrated in the report.

Activities planned and Achieved

Soap making training with Tikondane and Tiyanjane FEM Groups

Skills building session in soap making was conducted with Tikondane and Tiyanjane FEM groups. The training was facilitated by Scarious Evad, a consultant from Mitundu, Lilongwe. Each group was given a day to learn the skill with the facilitator. The objective of the training was to equip the women entrepreneurs with additional skills which may be used for a group project. Revenues generated from group project may be used to supplement income at households in addition to the income their day to day businesses.



Cohort 3 orientation meeting

In the reporting month, FEM program welcomed another cohort of women entrepreneurs around Kachigamba area. The group has 11 women entrepreneurs who operate different small scale businesses. A meeting was held with the group to get to know each other and highlight expectations of the program. During deliberations, the women entrepreneurs

were asked to come up with a group name for easy identification. The members settled for the name “Takondwa” meaning “we are happy”. The members chose this name as a reminder of how grateful and exciting it is to have been chosen to be part of the FEM program.



Bank Account opening for Takondwa FEM Group

OCA through the FEM program initiated a meeting between Mybucks team and Takondwa FEM members. The aim of the meeting was to open bank accounts for them and familiarising the women entrepreneurs with banking services. It is a requirement for FEM members to have bank accounts because Microloans are disbursed electronically. The recommended bank for the program is Mybucks bank, a bank which was opted for by previous FEM groups. So far, we have successfully opened eleven [bank accounts](#) for Takondwa FEM members.



Incubation training for Takondwa FEM group

In an attempt to equip the new cohort with good business practices before they start getting business microloans, a five-day training session was conducted. The training was facilitated by colleagues; Lauryn Dzombe from ZOE and Stella Ganunga from National Economic Empowerment Fund Limited (NEEF). The [main focus areas](#) were: Leadership and group dynamics, Introduction to business, developing a business plan, loan contraction processes, book keeping and savings and investment.



Loan recovery for Tikondane and Tiyanjane FEM groups

we are in the third month of the 2022 first loan period. In the reporting period, we have recovered loans amounting to MWK 1,002,000.00 from [Tikondane](#) and [Tiyanjane](#) FEM groups. the outstanding monthly loan instalment for both groups is MWK 650,000. 00. Although there were some challenges as many women did not manage to pay their monthly instalment, it is worth noting that some members like Malita and Tamale have managed to repay the whole loan amount before the due date.

Weekly VS and L meetings

Weekly village and savings group meeting continued to take place in the reporting month. Tikondane FEM group meeting were being hosted on Thursdays and whereas Tiyanjane meetings were being conducted on Fridays. In one of the VS&L meetings, the women entrepreneurs from both cohorts spared some time to practice on their own how to make the soap after a successful training that took place in the month.



Conclusion

In the reporting period, the FEM program has had a number of successful interventions ranging from strengthening capacity of the women in business management, digital financial literacy and other income generating activities, savings meeting and that have contributed in uplifting the women's lives.

Education Support Program

Introduction

OCA currently supports 112 students in 16 government partner secondary and primary schools across 7 districts to access education, succeed, and become leaders of change in their communities. This year, 50 sponsored students wrote MSCE examinations. We are also supporting 6 University/ college students in 5 partner schools across 5 districts through the Orant Ulemu Scholarship.

The following activities were conducted by the education program in the month of October 2022.

Selection of new students

A total of \$80,000 was committed by Geoshack to sponsor students. We are thankful to Geoshack for this support. This is a four-year program to support girls' education from

form one up to form four. About **30** students were targeted and identified for this program. These are needy students who cannot afford to pay for their education. These students come from different districts in Malawi. 17 students come from within Kasese Catchment area in Dowa. The 30 students are studying in **8** different boarding secondary schools.



New Identified students from St. Chavara girls sec. school (right) and Madisi sec. school (left)



Grace; a new OCA student from Dowa secondary school

In addition to that, five students were also identified during the same reporting period. These students are being supported by individual donors from US. Four students are from Nkhamenya girls' secondary school and one is from Likuni girls secondary school. Outt of the Five; two students are in form one and one each in form 1, 2 and 4.



Students from Nkhamenya girls secondary. school being sponsored by Individual donors through OCA

Junior Certificate of Education (JCE) Exams results

During the reporting period, JCE exam results were released and a total of **25** OCA students sat for the examination. This examination is the first secondary school national examination; it is written by the students after completing junior secondary level which covers two academic years. All the 25 students passed and they qualified for the award of the Junior Certificate of Education. This is representing a 100% pass rate.



Some of the students from Nkhamenya (right) and Tchawale CDSS (left) who sat for JCE exams

	OCA	Boarding students	Day students	Total
# of students who wrote JCE	25	24	1	25
Passed	25	24	1	25
Failed	0	0	0	0

2022 JCE results

Orant Ulemu scholarship Applications

In October, OCA education program opened applications for the Orant Ulemu scholarship program for the 2023/2024 academic year. More students are still applying or requesting for the tuition support for universities. Currently Orant Ulemu scholarship is supporting the education of 5 University/college students (4 females and one male). We had seven students but two were only being sponsored for one semester.



Chrispine, One of the Orant Ulemu scholarship students. He is studying diploma in Pharmacy at Malawi College of Health Sciences and currently doing Internship at Kamuzu Central Hospital.

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. The university loans from the government of Malawi does not meet the needs of all vulnerable students. It is within this background that OCA decided to help university students. However, it has been noted that more university students lack support including students who we did not support previously in secondary school. In future, with available funding OCA intends to support more students including those not supported by OCA in secondary school.