



MONTHLY REPORT

OCTOBER 2019

COMPILED BY

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## OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

### Visit of OC Executive Director

The Executive Director (ED) visited arrived in Malawi on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2019 and had time to see progress of programs implementation in Healthcare, Water, Education and Agriculture. The ED also spent time with the mobile clinic and also administrative staff. The ED attended a Board Meeting and also visited Bwaila Rotary Club where OCA Country Director made a presentation about OCA to attract more donors.



*The ED meeting sponsored students at Nkhamenya girls secondary school (left) and field visits to irrigation clubs (right)*

### Donation to Kamuzu Central Hospital

Orant Charities Africa (OCA) donated colostomy bags to Kamuzu central hospital – intensive care unit. OCA had colostomy bags



in stock which were also donated from the US a long time ago. Looking at the need of Colostomy bags at the central hospital, OCA donated the items to save lives in Malawi.

To the left is the picture of lead clinician and matron of the unit receiving the donations.

### OCA staff retreat



OCA for the first time organized a retreat to Lake Malawi which took place on Saturday (26/10/2019) at Kambiri lodge in Salima as a way to motivate and build capacity of staff,. The staff arrived at the venue in Salima around 8:30 am. The activities started with 3 hours training on *personal development and well-being with much emphasis on entrepreneurship and saving culture*. The facilitator was a renowned Entrepreneur by the name *Charles Nyekanyeka from*

*Planetarium Institute*. This was a new experience, motivating, team building and refreshing. The training gave staff opportunity to acquire skills and knowledge on how to invest or be

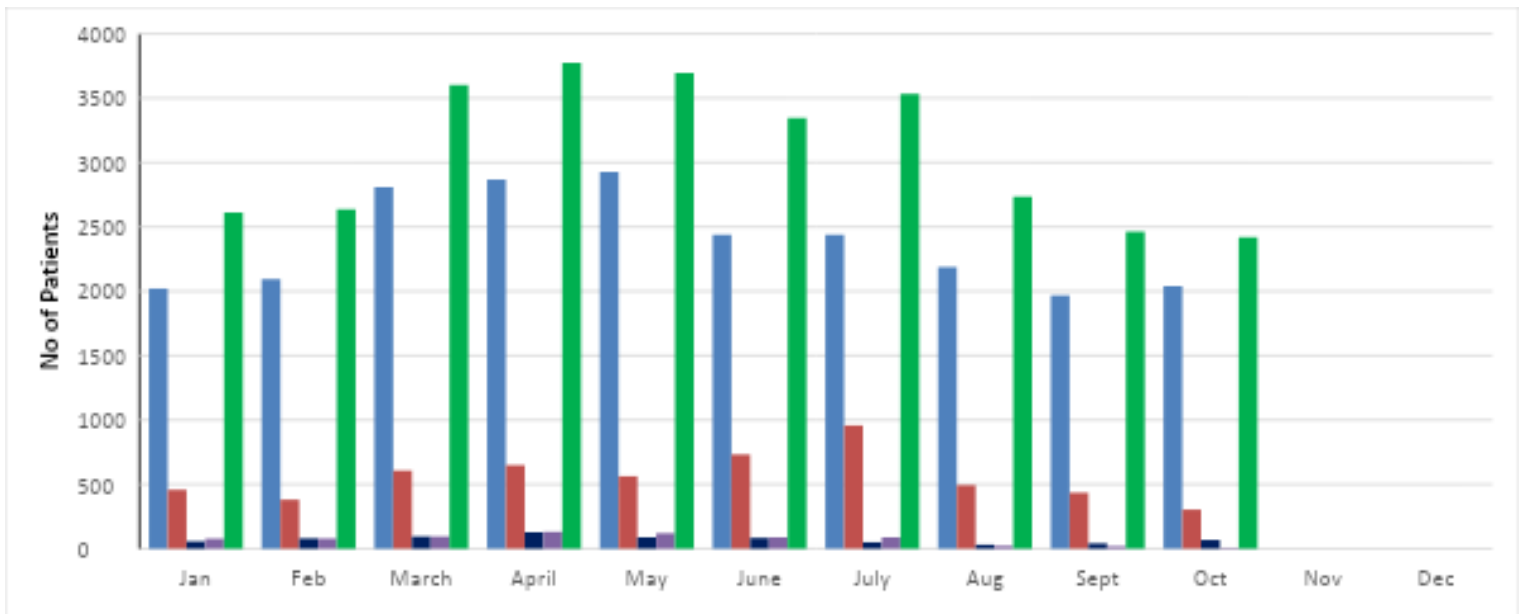
entrepreneurs on their free time in order to meet their daily needs as salary alone has proved not to be enough in consideration with inflations currently experienced in Malawi. Staff also had time to interact on the beach; swimming, beach soccer, and other activities.

## HEALTHCARE PROGRAM

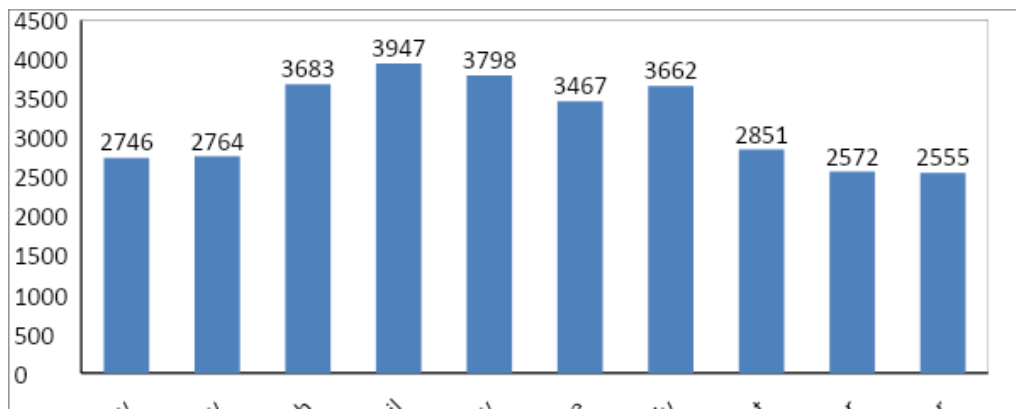
### Monthly Patients Attendance

The Health Centre saw a total of **2,419** patients through the out patient's department. This figure excludes those who attended the maternity and antenatal care (ANC) as they will be reported below. Out of **2419**, about **68** children aged between 2 months and 12 years were admitted in the 24 hours' children's ward while **304** patients were seen in mobile/outreach clinics within Kasese catchment, Dowa District. However, the mobile team also saw **1668** patients in Bowe catchment areas, Kasungu District.

**Graph showing Clinic patient's attendances (OPD, Outreach, Children's ward and Weekends / nights)**



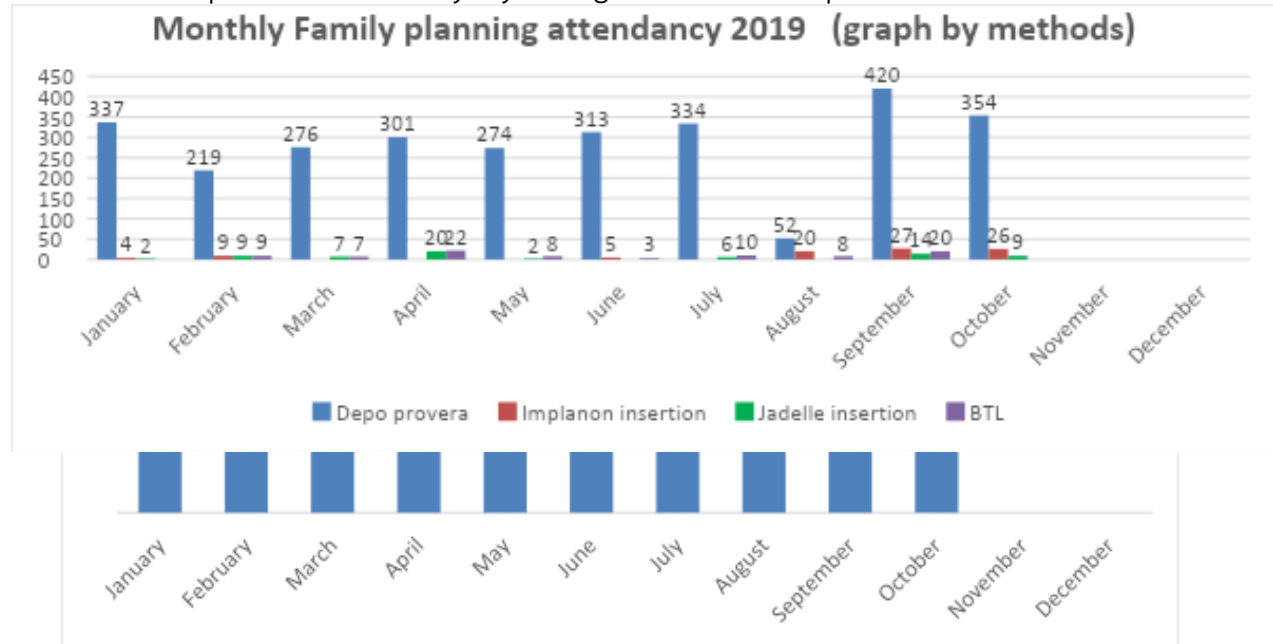
**Below graph shows-Summary of Total Monthly patient attendance (OPD, ANC and Maternity)**



Therefore, the total number of patients seen in Kasese Catchment is **2555** which includes maternity and antenatal care.

### Maternal and child healthcare

Kasese Health Centre attended to **60** mothers in labour ward. **50** births were spontaneous vertex deliveries (SVD). Two babies were delivered via vacuum extractions and four were born before arrival (BBA). Eight mothers were referred to Madisi for hospital delivery. Out of those referred, one had antepartum hemorrhage (APH), three had CPD, while four had other complications, therefore total deliveries at Kasese Health Centre maternity were **48**. The health Centre is proud to report that since we opened the maternity 4 years ago we have not experienced maternal deaths related



to deliveries.

### Cervical cancer screening (VIA)

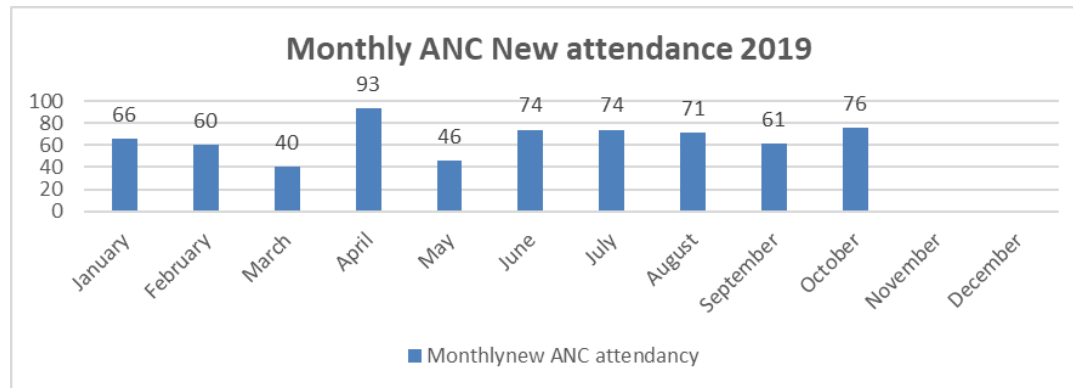
Cancer of the cervix remains amongst the top three leading causes of death in Malawi. In addressing this problem, the Health Centre conducts routine visual screening of cervix using acetic acid to women of childbearing age between 25 to 49 years and for the month of October, 2019 the Health Centre screened **20** clients. Out of the 20, only two were suspects of cervical cancer and were referred to Kamuzu Central Hospital for further tests and management.

### Family planning clinic

As depicted from the graph, many clients opted to injectable depo Provera family planning method because it is easy to administer and it does not interfere with most of the medicine available in Malawi. 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; less liked method is the permanent sterilization method, which is called 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 subsequent visit. The health Centre attended to **76** pregnant mothers.



### ART Clinics.

The health Centre continues to provide excellent ART/ TB care.

### Laboratory services

The lab conducted the following tests; Tuberculosis (Tb), Helicobacter Pylori (H. pylori's), Hepatitis test B & C, Syphilis tests (STI), Salmonella test (typhoid test) and Malaria. Two patients were found positive with Tb, **21** out of **63** tests were positive on H. pylori's, two patients out of eight were tested positive for Salmonella and Hepatitis test respectively. As for Malaria, a total of **1,096** malaria test were done and those positive were **408**, this represent less than 50% positivity rates.

### Malaria Reports

The Health Centre received supervisors from Malaria control program, who came for commodity, accountability, performance tracking (CAPT) specifically on the following antimalarial supplies, LA medicine, MRDTs, and Mosquito nets. The focus was on the monthly reports of May, June, July 2019. Overall, the Health Centre performance scores were 99.3%, which is excellent and there was no much discrepancies for the above commodities verses beneficiaries. On reporting, the Health Centre scored 100%, validation 100% and on accountability 98%.

However, there were few areas which the Health Centre should improve on, for example on LA issued from main pharmacy was more than confirmed cases in the lab and also the use of MRDTs was less than confirmed cases. Immediate solution for this is that pharmacist should account for the previous ordered LA before resupplying. In addition, to record LA issued in the register for easy tracking of consumption. Lastly, was a call for proper documentation in all registers.

### Kasese health Centre youth friendly health services



Kasese health Centre in conjunction with Girls Empowerment Network (GENET) continues to provide youth friendly health services. Youth from Kasese catchment aged between 10- 24, access health services on a daily basis. The youths are taught disease prevention measures, the effects of early childhood marriage, and lifesaving skills, among others. Weekly schedules for meetings are as follows; on Tuesday they meet for various games, Wednesday and Saturday for class lessons. They play games like volley ball, Bao, football, chess and snakes and ladders.

According to the youth leader Chinsisi who is also a patient care attendant (PCA), the group have some challenges which includes funding for other activities, lack of parental support, and transport logistics whenever they want to travel for games and interactions with other youths. This calls for further coordination between GENET and OCA to see how best the youth can be assisted.



Teenagers playing draft game.

#### **Clinic administration**

- Mary Kadzola (Nurse ) is on her annual leave.
- On 30 October 2019, Two pharmacists attended a two days training on ART/TB integrations organized by Ministry of health that took place in Salima District.
- The Health Centre Advisory Committee (HAC) members held monthly meeting

#### **WATER PROGRAM**



### **Executive Summary**

The following major milestones were realized in the month of October:

- Drilled and constructed 1 borehole.
- Carried out water quality testing and Analysis for the new borehole.
- Repaired seven water wells (Boreholes).
- Built capacity for Water Point Committees in water point management and Repair (CBM trainings).

### **Borehole drilling and construction**

OCA managed to increase access to potable water to 782 new beneficiaries of Ndeka 2 village through the newly drilled 46-meter borehole. Ndeka 2 village is located in the hard to reach area and has remained backward in as far as access to clean water is concerned. Before OCA's intervention villagers used to draw water from unprotected sources. The drilling/construction of the new borehole will go a long way in enhancing public health in the area.



*Civil works in progress on the new borehole*

### **Water Quality Testing and Analysis**

Following the drilling of a new borehole in Ndeka 2 village, there was need to ascertain the quality of water if it was fit for human consumption as per World Health Organization (WHO) and Malawi Bureau of Standards (MS) standards. OCA thus engaged the Central Water Laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Water Development to carry out a full biological and chemical analysis. At the time of submission of this report, samples had been taken for analysis in Lilongwe at the central water laboratory, preliminary tests conducted by OCA and in-situ test by the Ministry officials pointed towards good quality water.



## Borehole Repairs



*image depicting a repair session in progress*

OCA supported repairs of seven boreholes to increase access to clean water as outlined in the table below;

| SN | GVH      | VH        | Repair(s) Done  | Number of Users on the Repaired Borehole |
|----|----------|-----------|---|--|
| 1  | Kachila  | Mateke    | 10 rod<br>centralizers, 4<br>Bush bearings,1<br>Cup seal, 1<br>Hunger pin.                                    | 390                                      |
| 2  | Nkhwichi | Chikalamo | 11 rod<br>centralizers, 2<br>Bobbin,1 Cup<br>seal, 4 Bush<br>bearings,1<br>Cylinder,4<br>Sockets,4<br>Pipes 4 | 516                                      |

|   |         |                        |  |      |
|---|---------|------------------------|--|------|
| 3 | Mkwinya | Katsuka primary school | Head pump<br>, 9 rod<br>centralizers, 1<br>Rubber corn,<br>2, Bobbin, 4<br>Bush bearings, 1<br>Fulcrum pin, 1<br>Hunger pin,<br>Pump handle. | 1265 |
| 4 | Joseni  | Msosa one              | 1 Cup seal<br>Bobbin 2<br>Sockets 4<br>Bush bearings 4<br>Pipes 3<br>O ring 1<br>rod centralizers<br>7                                       | 430  |
| 5 | Joseni  | Msosa two              | Full inner parts   | 419  |
| 6 | Joseni  | Mtambalika             | Full inner parts   | 1064 |
| 7 | kachila | kachila                | Pipes 2<br>rod centralizers<br>14<br>rod 4<br>Bearings 4<br>Cup seal 1<br>Full cylinder<br>Sockets 4   | 749  |

### **Built capacity for Water Point Committees in water point management and Repair (CBM trainings)**

It is common knowledge that most communities face problems in maintaining and operating their water supply facilities (boreholes), the root cause of this problem is that most members of Water Point Committees are not trained and do not have knowledge in proper operation and maintenance of Afridev pumped boreholes. In order to enhance communities' capacity in this respect, OCA conducted refresher CBM trainings to three (3) – ten (10)-member Water Point Committees. A total of 30 WPC members plus 3 chiefs making a total of 33 participants attended this training. These were 3-day training sessions facilitated by OCA staff, Health Surveillance Assistants (HSAs), Water Monitoring Assistants (WMAs) as well as Area Mechanics who were

helping in the practical sessions; the WPCs that were trained came from Mtandadza, Kamphata and Chimwendo villages.

## AGRICULTURE PROGRAM



*Maize from irrigation Clubs*

OCA focused much on irrigation clubs and OCA farm. In irrigation clubs, OCA provides microloans in form of inputs to clubs which have no interest to help them produce crops and stay out of hunger and poverty. On OCA farm, OCA is still looking for a farmer to partner with it in farming. The soil on OCA farm has been tested for nutrients.

### **Irrigation**

To improve livelihood of people through increased agriculture production, OCA worked with groups of farmers who are practicing irrigation farming called irrigation clubs. OCA provided expertise in several activities such as pruning tomato plants, sucker removal in maize plants, staking, fertilizer application, pests and diseases control, and marketing of the produce.

### **Tomato pruning**

Pruning activity in tomato is done with the aim of managing the plant for better health and fruits. Kasangadzi irrigation club is practicing tomato production and pruning was done to ensure good quality and bumper harvest. Smallholder farmers were encouraged to remove suckers during early stage to keep the main supporting stem healthy and strong. The removal of upper suckers was discouraged as they will eventually produce flowers and large sized fruits which are more marketable.

### **Maize suckers**

Maize plants also produce suckers which have no use to the main plant and they act as weeds if they appear in the farm. Maize suckers will result into competition for nutrients, sunlight and moisture. Sucker removal also helps in checking the occurrence of pest and diseases which can be harbored in the suckers. Sucker removal in maize plants can increase the yield per land cultivated hence more profits can be gained. Mnthila irrigation club was monitored and encouraged to conduct sucker removal.



*Maize field after removing suckers*

### **Stalking**

Stalking was done at Kasangadzi irrigation club to insure that cleaner and healthier tomato fruits is harvested. Stalking improves quality of tomato fruits and makes it easier to harvest and spray insecticides. Stalking was done using locally available materials as depicted below.



*Club members stalking tomato plants*

### **Fertilizer Application**

Nthila Irrigation club is practicing Maize production and top-dressing fertilizer application was done to obtain high yields and maximum returns from the money invested. Farmers were advised on applying top dressing fertilizer when maize plant has five leaves or approximately 4 weeks after planting. Dollop method and the rate of 5 grams in between planting stations was used for maximum production.

### **Pests and diseases control**

Some strange pests attacked the tomato field at Kasangadzi irrigation club and have been treated. Although Tomato gives more profits compared to Maize, it is also highly prone to many pests and diseases. Kasangadzi irrigation was attacked with some pests which looked like Red mites but its mode of destruction was too much within short period of time compared to Red mites. The problem was discovered early, this made it simple for controlling the problem.



*A farmer holding a leaf which was attacked by a pest.*

## Marketing

The target areas for marketing the produce from irrigation clubs were local markets around Kasungu, Mponela and Madisi. The results after selling have shown that farmers have made profits which will assist them to feed their families and cultivate bigger land in the next irrigation cycle. According to the findings on sales, it shows that the club has achieved MK524,880 as output and MK146,200 were inputs hence the club has made MK378,680 as profit. Below are tables showing inputs and outputs at Mantchedza irrigation club.

### inputs

| Inputs          | Quantity | Unit price (MK) | Total price (MK) |
|-----------------|----------|-----------------|------------------|
| NPK fertilizer  | 2        | 22,000          | 44,000           |
| Urea fertilizer | 2        | 20,500          | 41,000           |
| Pesticides      | 12       | 3,000           | 36,000           |
| Maize seed      | 7        | 3,600           | 25,200           |
|                 |          |                 | 146,200          |

### outputs

| Total members | Average yield (cobs)/ member | Unit cost (MK) | Total cost (MK) |
|---------------|------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 27            | 216                          | 90             | 524,880         |

## Profit or Loss

Profit = Output – Inputs

$$= \text{MK}524,880 - \text{MK}146,200$$

=MK378,680 (Profit)

## **OCA Farm**

### **Soil sampling**

With funding from Farmers World, soil testing was conducted at OCA farm to check the status of the nutrients. The activity did not target OCA farm only but also some smallholder farmers who are Lead Farmers (LF) around OCA catchment area. The results showed that on maize cultivation, the major nutrients that are likely to be limiting the yields are Calcium and total nitrogen available in the soil. There is also Boron, copper and zinc which are micro nutrients that are likely to be limiting the yields. From the results, it was advised to top dress the maize crop with NPK fertilizer at the rate of 4 bags per hectare and Urea at the rate of 3 bags per hectare for bumper harvest.

### **Lead farmers and club members training**

After receipt of results of soil testing, a training was conducted which involved all Lead farmers who benefited from the soil testing activity and some members from irrigation clubs were also invited. The training will help the smallholder farmers to make proper use of the results in the next growing season.



*Agriculture Extension Development officer (AEDC) addressing the farmers*

## **EDUCATION PROGRAM**

### **Menstrual Hygiene promotion and mentorship**

Supporting vulnerable students in schools goes beyond providing of tuition. Students have other needs which must be met to keep them in schools. Well-wishers from the US donated brand new reusable menstrual pads to be distributed to sponsored girls in schools so that they should not be disturbed during their monthly cycle. OCA also added locally made menstrual pads to supplement the donation to ensure that all the girls have access to menstrual pads. With help from one of the representatives from the OCA board, Ivy, the menstrual pads were distributed to girls in schools. The girls were also advised on how best to use them and to maintain hygiene. Below are pictures of menstrual pads distribution;



*With Girls from Natola (left) and Tchale (right) CDSS*

During visits to distribute menstrual pads, good quality time was spent with the students to learn their challenges and encourage them to work hard in school. Students were told of opportunities which awaits them in life when they pass in their studies.



*Interacting with students at Madisi Secondary School (left) and Natola CDSS (right)*

### **Additional Students at Nkhamenya Girls Secondary Schools**

To replace the girls who graduated this year, additional students have been found at Nkhamenya Girls Secondary School. These students come from different districts and they are vulnerable and cannot afford to pay for their own tuition. A total of 12 students have been found. Many of these students are being sponsored through Rotary International District 5810 and a few students by individual donors from the US. The following are the pictures of the students;

**Lexina Nkhata**



**Form: 1**

**Margret Chiziwa**



**Form: 1**

**Rabbecca Kathumba**



**Form: 1**

**Takondwa Chawinga**



**Form: 1**

**Elizabeth Shaba**



**Form: 1**

**Eunice Mdzinga**



**Form: 1**

**Tiyamike Kayesa**



**Form: 1**

**Loveness Kamwendo**



**Form: 1**

**Chimwemwe Phiri**



**Form: 1**

**Prisca Jossam**



**Form: 2**

**Walusungu Kaunda**



**Form: 2**

**Jane Zimba**



**Form: 2**

### **District Education Network (DEN) Coordination**

District Education Network (DEN) is a group of all NGOs working in the education sector at district level. Since OCA sponsors students in Kasungu district, it is a requirement that our education program engages with other NGOs to learn best practices and contribute to advancement of district education goals. OCA Country Director made a presentation of the Education support program at Kasungu. DEN recommended OCA for the positive impact it is doing in the education sector. DEN advised OCA to work more towards sustainability of the project through empowering families of sponsored girls to be self-reliant. This may include income generation activities like agriculture (including livestock rearing) and through village savings loans (VSL).





*Presentations in progress*

### **Communication with Sponsors**

It is important that students are encouraged and interact with sponsors. This also allows integration of cultures and learning from various experiences. The Executive Director brought letters from the US which have been distributed to the students and they have replied. The letters from the students have been sent to the sponsors via emails.