



MONTHLY REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2020

COMPILED BY

GABRIEL KAPANDA
(COUNTRY DIRECTOR)

HEALTHCARE PROGRAM

Introduction



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

The health center provides in details the following services: Outpatient's clinic (OPD), 24hrs children's observation ward, Maternal healthcare services like obstetrics (Antenatal care, deliveries, provision of family planning methods, cervical cancer screening e.t.c). In addition, the health Centre provides preventive services through public health like (nutrition supplements, growth monitoring and immunizations).

The healthcare program in its provision of services work in collaboration with the Ministry of health through Dowa district health offices(DHO), other stakeholders like Kasese health Centre advisory committee (HAC), St Andrews hospital, Reach Trust, Girls empowerment network (GENET) and Riders for health.

Population and Distance to the nearest hospitals.

Kasese catchment area has a population of approximately 36,381. The distance to the nearest government hospital is 78km (Dowa district hospital) and to Madisi hospital which is under Christian health association of Malawi (CHAM) is 5km.

Monthly Summary Attendance Reports

Table below shows total monthly patient attendance from different clinics under the healthcare program.

2020 Clinics	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept
OPD Kasese clinic	3105	2765	4062	3562	2976	2616	1714	1609	1859
Bowe Outreach	2450	3143	4578	473	0	0	0	0	1927
Kasese Outreach	469	714	1041	1010	0	0	0	0	480
Children Ward	128	98	152	105	28	39	18	17	37
WK/Nights/Holiday	88	69	122	100	97	23	36	23	46
Total Patients	6,240	6,789	9,955	5,250	3,101	2,678	1,768	1,649	4,349

From the table above, it shows that the total number of patients seen by OCA health program which includes Outreach (Mobile) clinic in Bowe is **41,779** as of September 2020. This figure does not include maternity cases as they are reported in other sections below.

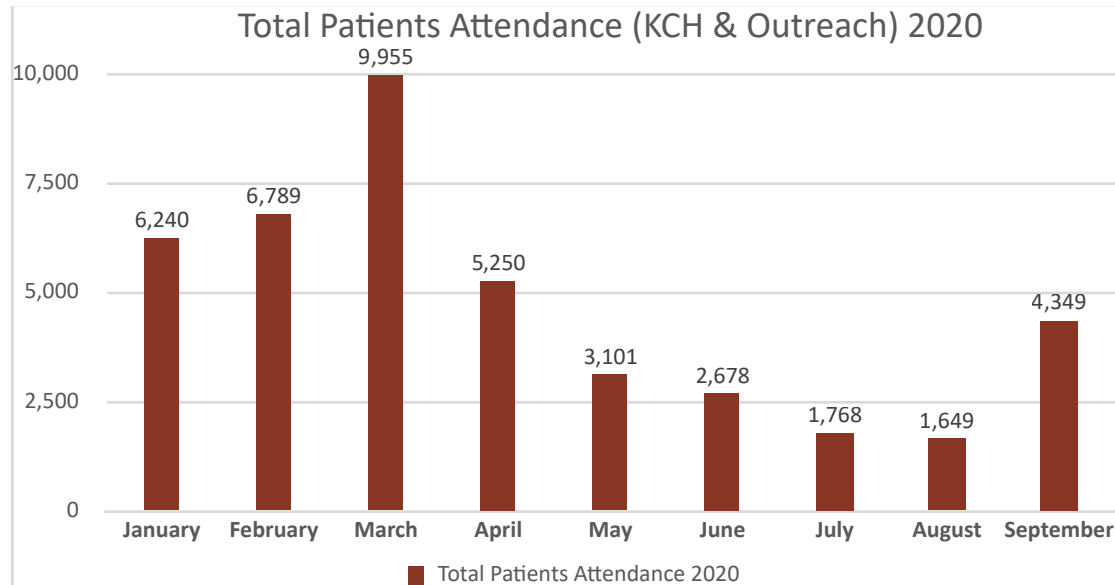
Kasese Health Centre (KCH) continues to provide excellent care to the residents of its Catchment area and beyond. The major diseases of public health concern in Kasese and Malawi at large is Malaria, with its epidemics in every rainy season. The entire population is affected, however, pregnant mothers and under five children are at higher risk. Orant Charities Africa provides high impact health care interventions that have improved substantially the health of communities within Kasese catchment areas and beyond.

As for the month of September 2020, the healthcare program attended to:

- ❖ Total **Number** of patients treated in Bowe outreach clinic was **1,927**.

- ❖ Total Number of patients treated at Kasese outreach clinic is **480**.
- ❖ Total number of patients treated at Bowe and Kasese outreach clinics was **2,407**
- ❖ Total number of patients treated at KHC OPD and Kasese Outreach Clinic was **2,422**
- ❖ Total number of patients treated by KHC and MOC was **4,349**
- ❖ Total number of admission at KHC children ward was **37**
- ❖ Total number of deliveries at KHC maternity ward was **37**
- ❖ Total number of new Antenatal mothers (ANC) was **42**

Graph below Shows the total Patients attendance in Healthcare program



Health Centre Coronavirus (COVID -19) Responses

COVID 19 situation in the country continues to improve, there are few cases of new infections as low as 6 per day. Kasese health Centre has not registered any new case and the health centre continues to adhere to the standard Covid-19 precautionary measures. Schools across the country have open for pupils and student to resume classes.

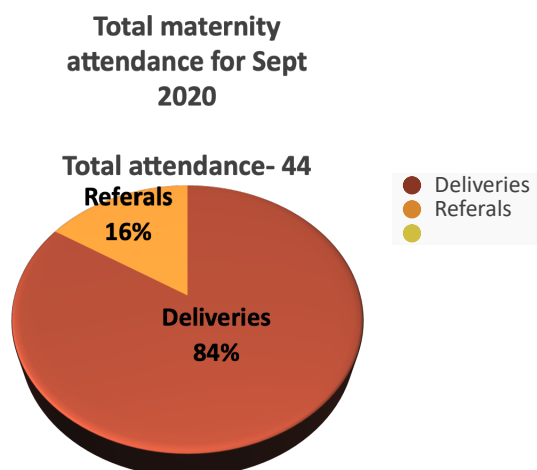
Reproductive and Family Planning Health

Maternal and New-borns health care

The health Centre Continues to provide excellent maternal and neonatal health care. All women access high quality care during pregnancy, delivery and postnatal. All received quality medicine and are attended by skilled healthcare workers. Those in need of referrals to hospital are timely taken care of which is evidenced by good maternal and new-born outcomes, as the health Centre has never experienced maternal related mortality for the past five years.

As for the month of September 2020 the maternity had **44** attendees, **37** spontaneous vertex deliveries(SVD), **one** neonate was born on transit to the clinic (BBA), **7** mothers were referred to Madisi hospital for cesarian section(C/S). The health centre had no neonatal death.

Maternity attendance for the month of September 2020



Cervical Cancer Control Clinic Report

Cancer of the cervix remains a public health problem in Malawi and amongst the top leading causes of cancer death (MOH, National cervical cancer strategy 2016-2020). In addressing this problem, Kasese Health Centre conducts routine visual screening of cervix using acetic acid to women of childbearing age between 25 to 49 years. As for the Month of September 2020, **13** Women were screened and two had VIA Positive, The one suspected of having cancer lesion were referred to Kamuzu central hospital for biopsy and further management. Furthermore, they were all supported by OCA in terms of hospital bill payments and bus fares. Below is a table showing Monthly total cases screened and positive results.

Monthly number of clients screened for cervical and their outcomes

Month	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept
TOTAL	36	48	80	31	28	31	30	18	13
positive	0	1	5	4	2	2	1	2	2

Family Planning Service

The health Centre conducts family planning clinics once a week on Wednesdays, in accordance to the Ministry of health (MOH) policies and in coordination with BLM. Orant Charities Africa (OCA) understands that Family planning increases maternal and child survival through timing spacing of pregnancies and by helping couples plan pregnancies during the healthiest time within a woman's reproductive cycle. Furthermore, Orant understands that preventing unintended pregnancies, especially among the high risk group and vulnerable in society is key to improving Maternal and new-born child outcomes.

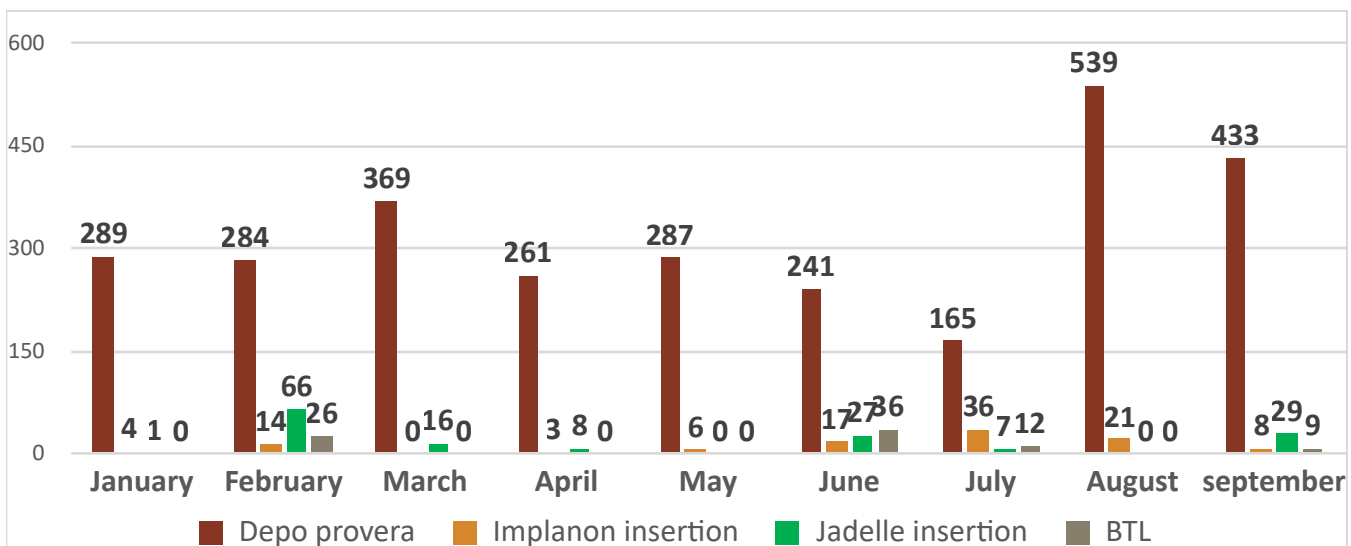
As such, there is good linkage with government health systems, non-governmental organisations like (BLM) in family planning provision, whereby the government provides supplies and training to healthcare workers and the health centre provides the technical service.

The methods offered include oral pills, injectable and Implanons to women of reproductive age as per their choices and medical indications. As seen from the graph below many clients opt for injectable Depo- Provera family planning method because it is easy to administer.

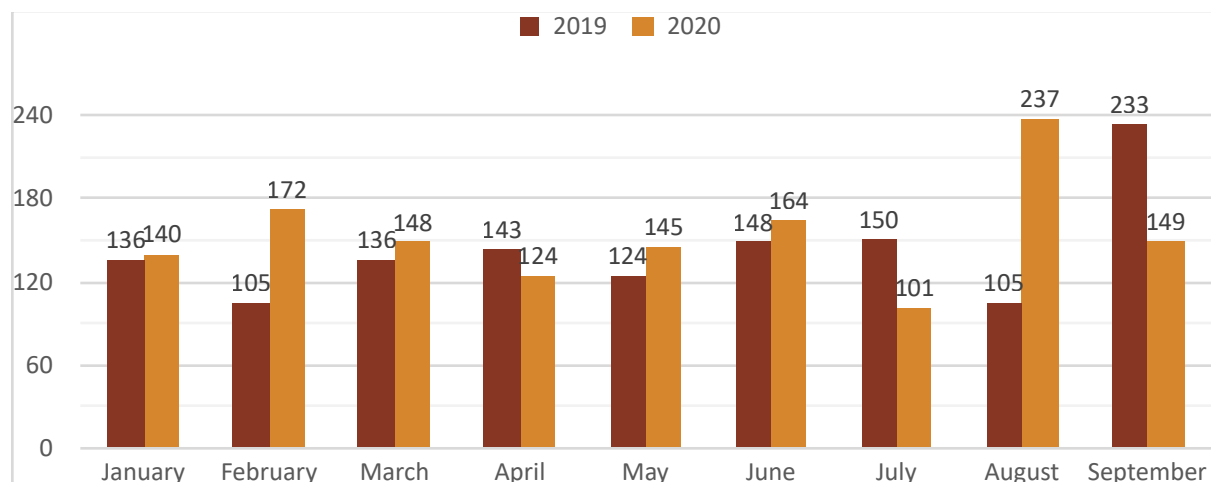
The month of September 2020 a total of **433** patients received Depo Provera injection. While **37** clients opted for Norplant's method, as it's the second most liked method. None received Permanent family planning methods e.g. bilateral tubal ligations (BTL).

Family Planning Clinic Attendance and methods provided.

Figure below shows Number of Adolescents (12-24year) accessing Family Planning Methods



for the year 2019 and 2020.

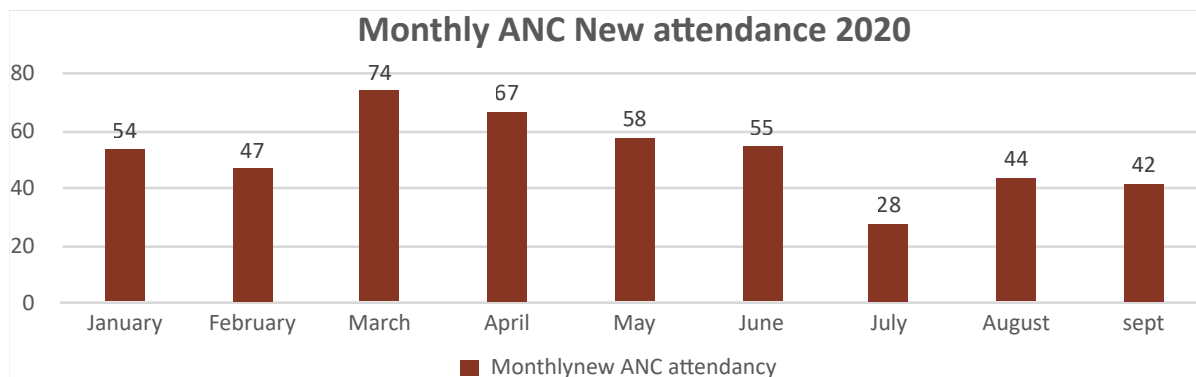


Antenatal Care (prenatal care)

The health Centre conducts prenatal (antenatal) clinics twice a week, on Tuesdays for those enrolling for the first time and Thursdays for subsequent visits. The recommended ANC visit by the World Health Organization (WHO) is more than 8 which should start as early as possible.

However, according to the data many women do not comply due to several reasons like; cultural, and knowledge of pregnancies. For others it could be lack of access to healthcare due to factors like distance. However, for those who start on time, during the Antenatal clinics, they receive; two doses Tetanus toxoid vaccines, 3 doses of SP, FEFOL tablets, albendazole, Insecticides Treated Nets(ITNS) and get tested for syphilis .

Monthly antenatal attendance



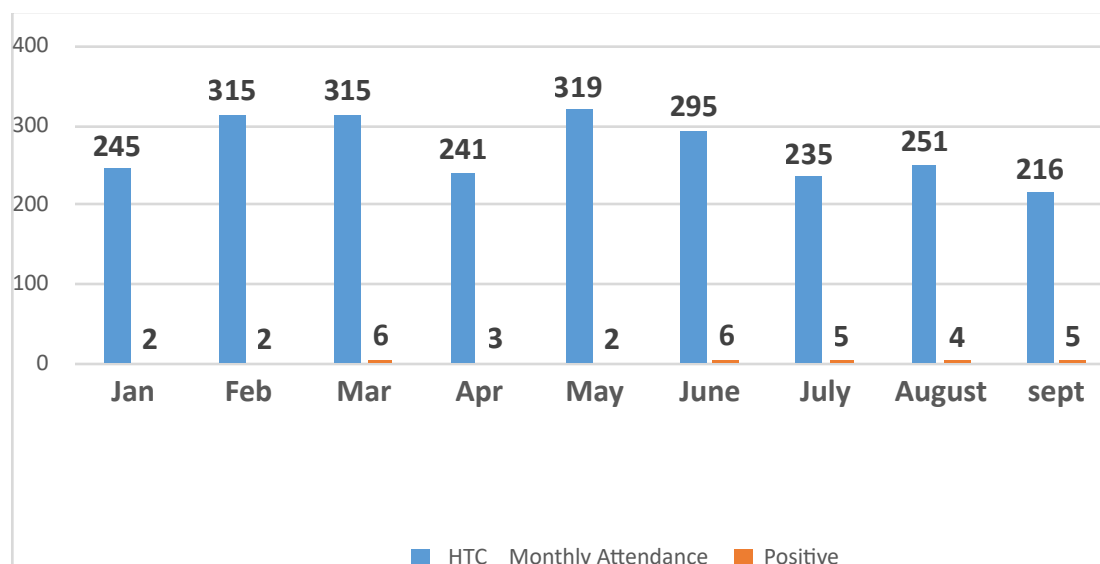
HIV/AIDS Clinic

The Health Centre HIV/AIDS Clinic continues to provide excellent ART/ TB care as depicted by quarterly awards of certificate of excellence by the Malawi ministry of health through HIV/AIDS unit. The Clinic so far has a cohort of **275** patients alive on anti-retroviral (ART) medicine. Children who are newly exposed for the last 3rd quarter are six (July to September). Good percentage of patients continue to get their viral results which are routinely done at every visit according to their milestone. The health clinic continues to switch patient's treatment from 5A to 13A which is DTG based regimens (DTG/3TC/TDF). Due to the COVID 19 pandemic and in order to reduce clinic congestion, the health Centre continues to provide 6 month bottles supply of ARV to all clients who are stable on ART.

HIV Testing and Counselling

The health centre conducts HIV counselling and testing to general public and antenatal mothers as prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT). The HIV prevalence rate is at 1.2% against the national prevalence rate of 8.2%.

Graph below shows monthly HIV testing and counselling (HTC) attendances and number of HIV Positives cases.



Eye Clinic

The outsource eye Clinician from st Andrews hospital resumed the eye Clinic on 20/09/2020 . Since march 2020, the Eye clinic was temporarily suspended due to the COVID 19 pandemic. A total of **41** patients were treated, majority being elderly. About 6 patients booked for cataract surgery.

Laboratory Services

The Health Centre Laboratory service continues to conduct and provide reliable tests befitting primary health care level, the most common tests are rapid test trips, basic microscopic tests for example Tb, malaria tests (MRDTS) and HIV tests. As for the month of september 2020 the health Centre conducted the following tests.

Complete blood count tests.

The health centre conducts a full blood count test for the only special cases and for this month **69** tests were conducted.

Malaria Report

The Malaria test is conducted both rapid test (MRDTS) and microscopy blood smear slides. The Malaria burden is less at this time around as seen from the laboratory positivity rates which is below 50%. A total of **1,039** Malaria tests were done and those positive were **282**,

representing a 27% positivity rate . For Children under five years, total tests done were **634** and Positive were **191**, Negative tests were **443**. And for those who are above five years, the total tests done were **405** positive tests were **91** and negative were **314**. The table below shows the total malaria suspected cases, and the actual confirmed (MRDTS positive) verse LA tablets dispensed to treat the year 2020 for Kasese Catchment only.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept
Total Malaria suspected cases	2734	2482	3861	3761	2253	1538	875	694	1039
Suspected cases Tested using MRDT	2734	2482	3825	3761	2253	1538	871	694	1039
Confirmed malaria Cases through MRDT	1854	1697	2694	3044	1758	952	408	205	282
Total new cases registered	1854	1697	2730	3044	1758	952	412	205	282
Total LA dispensed	1816	1758	2730	3027	1713	840	412	205	230
Total LA issued	1860	2910	2280	3300	2790	2040	1140	1050	1110

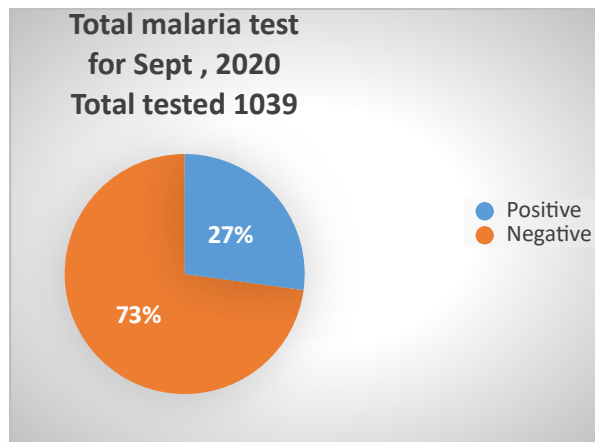


Figure below shows under five years and over five years percentage of malaria tests for the month of September 2020

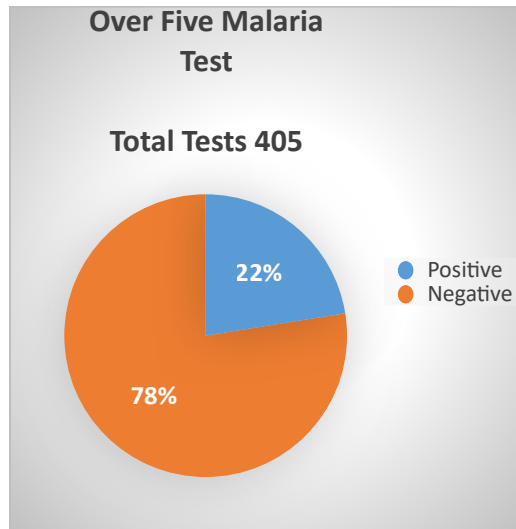
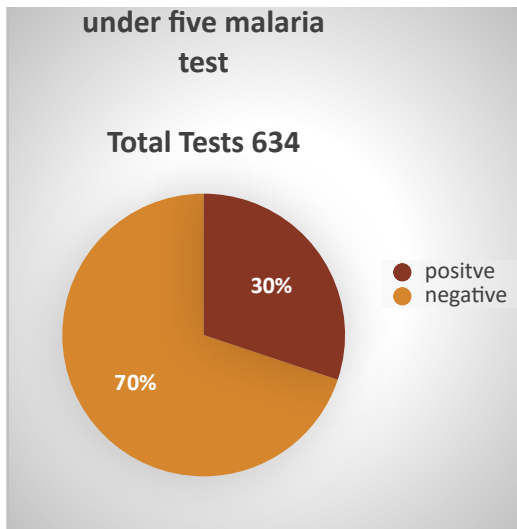


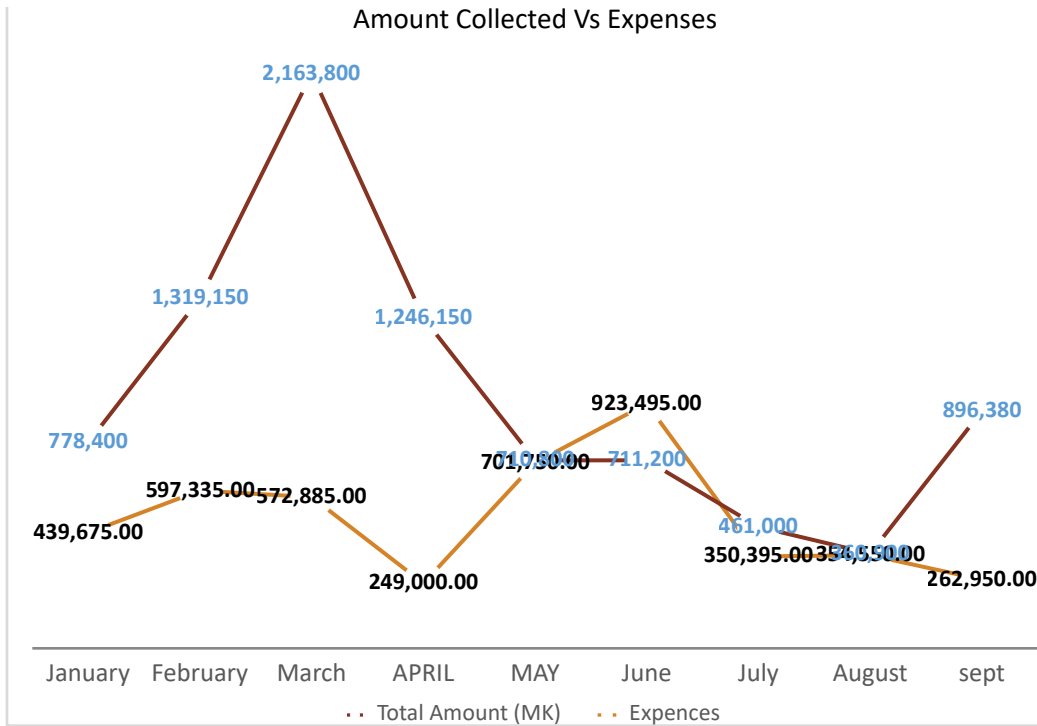
Table below shows other Laboratory tests conducted

Tests	Total tests	Result(pops)
H. PYLORIS	51	14
Salmonella	9	3
Hep B	3	0
VDRL	4	0
HCG	50	13
TB MICROSCOPY	7	0
GLUCOSE	123	

Health Finance

The Health Centre’s major funding is from donors (Orant Charities USA).. In addition, the health Centre charges a small user fee from patients, User fee collection is the little money the patients pay at the Clinic entry point (cashier desk). The fee is within the means and resources of our average community member. However, those who cannot afford are not barred from accessing the services, while others are exempted in accordance with the user fee policy. For the month of September 2020, the healthcare program collected MK 896,380 (1,195 USD) and at the same time assisted a good number of destitute patients with bus fare and payment of hospital bills which amounted to MK261,950 (USD 349.2).

The figure below shows monthly user fee collected and expenses.



WATER PROGRAM



OCA country Director Handing over a new borehole to Kasese 2 village

Introduction

OCA Water program strives to contribute towards reducing morbidity and mortality of people of Kasese through improved access to water supply, sanitation facilities and good hygiene practices. This goal contributes to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through ensuring access to clean water and sanitation for all. OCA water program achieved the following milestones;

- 8 Water pump repairs
- 2 Boreholes drilled
- 1 Community – Based Management (CBM) training for Water Point committees (WPCs)
- Water Quality Testing (2 Boreholes)

DETAILED NARRATION OF MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

1. Borehole/ Well drilling

OCA continues to support rural communities through drilling of new water wells in areas with limited access to potable drinking water. Following collaborative assessment with community leaders, HSAs and OCA Water staff, OCA has drilled two new water wells in Mphamba and Zindo villages. People from the two villages were relying on unprotected hand dug wells as their source of drinking water. The two wells were drilled between 28th to 30th September, 2020. In both wells Afridev pumps have been installed. Demographic data for the two wells is as follows;

VILLAGE	GVH	TA	ESTIMATED POPULATION	MONTH DRILLED	YEAR DRILLED
Mphamba	Karonga	Chakhadza	290	September	2020
Zindo	Makombwa	Chakhadza	675	September	2020



Zindo water source before OCA drilled a borehole



New Borehole drilled by OCA in Zindo



Mphamba water source before OCA drilled a borehole



Newly drilled borehole before opening

2. Water Pump repairs



A collaborative effort between OCA staff, WPC and Area mechanic during pump repair at Singo village

To ensure sustainable functionality and accessibility of portable water for the people around Kasese health Centre. OCA continues to support repair of Afridev pumps wherever there is a need. During the month of September OCA water program managed to repair a total of 8 boreholes within Kasese Health Centre catchment area.

This was achieved through a collaborative effort from OCA staff, WPCs and Area Mechanics (AMs) who are trained artisan for pump repairs in their respective areas. The following are the details for pumps which were repaired in the month of September, 2020;

S N	VILLAGE/ LOCATIO N	GVH	TA	NATURE OF PROBLEM	MATERIALS USED	REMARK
1	Singo	Joseni	Chakhadza	W o r n o u t pipes	10 pipes, 3 cup seals, 4 bolt and Nuts, 1 U-seal, 10 pipes, 10 double End, 1 solvent cement 500ml, 4 Bush bearings, 10 pipe centralizers, 10 rod centralizers, 4 bobbins and 2 pump rods.	Successfull y done
2	Katuntha School		Chakhadza	W o r n o u t cylinder and pipes	1 Cylinder, 10 double- end sockets, and ten pipes	Successfull y done

3	Kampaliro	Ndalama	Chakhadza	Worn out Fulcrum & Hunger pin, broken bush bearings	Fulcrum pin, Hunger pin, 4 bush Bearing, 10 rod centralizers, 1 pump rod	Successfully done
4	Malirana	Inje 2	Chakhadza	Worn out pipes, bobbins and cup seal	10 rod centralizers, 1 pump rod, 1 Fulcrum pin, 4 bush bearings, 5 double end sockets, 2 bobbins, and 2 cup seals.	Successfully done
5	Inje 2	Inje 2	Chakhadza	Worn out pipes	2 Rod centralizers and 2 sockets	Successfully done
6	Zozo	Nkhandwe	Chakhadza	Broken bearings, worn out rod centralizers	2 Cup seal, 4 Bush bearing and 6 rod centralizers	Successfully done
7	Chidya	Makombwa	Chakhadza	Broken rod	1 Pump rod, 10 Rod centralizers	Successfully done
8	Bweya School	Josen	Chakhadza	Worn out cup seal	1 cup seal	Successfully done

3. District Coordination Team (DCT) Meeting



Cross- section of members during DCT meeting organized by Dowa District Council

On the 9th of September, 2020 OCA Water program was invited to attend a monthly District Coordinating Team (DCT) meeting in Dowa organized by Dowa District Council. The meetings are aimed at ensuring coordination among development partners and also to review progress made in the district for that period. The agenda for the meeting was to assess new WASH projects to be implemented in Dowa district. During the meeting Rhema Institute for Development (RDI) presented on a new gravity-fed piped water supply project targeting Dowa turn-off and surrounding areas. Furthermore, there was also a presentation on a new Covid 19 prevention project by Pump Aid which is aimed at improving access to portable water through repair of 100 targeted boreholes all over the district. It should be noted that some of the boreholes to be repaired are likely to fall within the Kasese Health Centre catchment, probably reducing the output of repairs in the coming month of October, 2020. More importantly, this will further improve functionality of pumps in OCA catchment thereby complementing our effort.

4. DCT Members Monitoring Field visit and borehole handover ceremonies



DCT members, OCA Water Program Manager, Area mechanic and Local leaders during DCT members field at Ngoma village. To the Right, OCA Country Director drawing the first bucket of water witnessed by a happy community during a borehole handover ceremony at Kasese 2 village.

Apart from attendance at the DCT meeting OCA water program further organized a DCT members monitoring field visit on the 23rd of September, 2020 for some of the newly drilled boreholes in the year. The activity was aimed at promoting coordination with district stakeholders as well as updating the stakeholders on the progress of the OCA Water program for the year 2020 so far. The meeting was attended by 5 DCT member's representatives from different government departments namely; District Water Office, Agriculture (Irrigation), District Planning & Development, District Health Office and Environmental. The members managed to visit 3 newly drilled boreholes as follows; Nyanda, Ngoma and Kasese 2. Following the visit, the DCT members expressed satisfaction with what OCA was doing especially in the provision of water in rural communities and further pledged support to future OCA activities.



DCT members viewing a drilled borehole together with chiefs and HSA's

OCA also managed to conduct borehole handover ceremonies for three newly drilled boreholes in Kasese 2, Nyanda and Ngoma villages. In all three villages the ceremonies were attended by DCT members, ADC representatives, Traditional as well as jubilant people from the villages.



Community clowns (left) appreciating a borehole

5. Water Quality Testing

In order to ensure adherence to drinking water standards as well as provision of safe drinking water to the communities around Kasese Health Centre. OCA invited a Chemist from Governments' Central Laboratory to collect water samples for testing on 2 newly drilled water wells namely; Kasese 2 and Nyanda which were drilled in August, 2020.

The water quality results for the two boreholes indicated conformity to physical, biological and chemical drinking water standards for both Malawi Government (Malawi Bureau of Standards –MBS) and World Health Organisation (WHO).

6. CBM Training for Water Point Committees (WPCs)



Ngoma WPC members during CBM training



A group discussion during CBM training

To ensure sustainable management of boreholes by communities. OCA continues to train WPC in Community Based Management (CBM). During the month OCA organized a 5 days CBM training for Ngoma 2 WPC from 14th to 18th of September, 2020. The training was held in Ngoma Village, GVH Makombwa, TA Chakhadza in Dowa. Among the facilitators of the training were OCA Water program staff, Water Monitoring Assistant from Water department -Dowa and Health Surveillance Assistant . The training was attended by 10 WPC members (5 males and 5 females). Also in attendance during the meeting was GVH Ngoma. The following were some of the key lessons during the training;

- Afridev Pump functionality and repair
- Water handling and sanitation
- Borehole hygiene and water related diseases prevention
- Water Point fundraising, management and record keeping
- Roles of Water Point committees and other relevant stakeholders
- Development of action plans for water management

CONCLUSION

September was a busy month for OCA water program as it had a number of activities to implement. Despite this, OCA water program is proud to reveal that all the planned activities for the month were achieved in a timely manner. Furthermore, OCA water program is proud to reveal that 3 recently drilled water points namely; Kasese 2, Ngoma, and Nyanda have constructed beautiful brick walled fences from their own village contributions. OCA wishes to promote the construction of such fences by communities for all newly drilled boreholes as they have potential of promoting good sanitation and hygienic environment around the water points, thereby preventing the spread of water related diseases.

AGRICULTURE PROGRAM



Introduction

During the reporting month of September 2020, the Agriculture program conducted its activities in areas of Irrigation farming and demonstration plots as outlined below.

1) Irrigation farming

Planting and sowing

Timvane irrigation club has ventured into the second crop for this dry season and has cultivated Maize crop which will be cultivated in both irrigation and rain-fed farming. Maize is one of cereal crops and has been regarded as the best crop to be cultivated as most households are going through hunger problems hence the harvest from the field will help to reduce hunger. Apart from being staple food, Maize is a source of income for farmers since they can sell while fresh. Irrigation members are being encouraged to use hybrid varieties and improved farming techniques for increased yields.



Farmers demonstrating maize planting

Ndalusa irrigation club has started preparing the land for planting tomatoes. Tomatoes are seen as a good crop in the farming business since they are usually in high demand.

Nursery beds were constructed where tomato seeds were sown. Nursery beds act as temporary homes for young plants until they are planted on permanent land. Tomato seeds are mostly sown to be transplanted because much better results are gained when seedlings are raised in a nursery.

Fertilizer application

Chigona irrigation is located in Buza village and has cultivated Orange maize on 1.5 acres of land. The club members were trained on the type of basal dressing fertilizer to be applied and



how to apply fertilizer in maize crop. The best type of fertilizer for basal dressing in maize is NPK and is applied during time of planting or after 5-7 days from the day of planting. The Dollop method was regarded as the best method for NPK fertilizer application where a hole of about 3-5cm deep was made between planting stations and one full Coca-Cola bottle top was applied.

Woman demonstrating fertilizer application

Pests and disease control

Pests and disease reduces quality and quantity of produce on the crops hence prevention or control is extremely important. Kasangadzi irrigation club is producing tomatoes and the field was affected with pests and diseases despite taking necessary measures. For the control of pests and disease which attacked the crops, synthetic chemicals were applied and the club

members were directed on right dosage rate/ acre, right time of applying and the right way of spraying the chemicals.



Tomato fruits affected with pests and disease

Tomato Staking and pruning

Staking is important in tomato production as it provides support and keeps the fruit and foliage off the ground. Staking also increases fruit yield and size, reduces fruit rot, and makes spraying and harvesting easier. Kasangadzi club was encouraged to do pruning to increase quantity and quality of produce.



Staked tomato plants to keep fruits off the ground

Pruning has to be done in tomato plants for good quality and good yields. Kasangadzi club is practicing tomato production and pruning was done as the variety planted demands pruning. If the plant is not pruned, it grows at random resulting into fruits growing smaller. Members of the club were also advised to conduct pruning activity during morning hours on sunny days so that

the wounds can dry quickly. Members were further advised to burn the infected leaves to avoid infections.



Pruned tomato plants for quality produce

2) Demonstration plots

Demonstration plots are designed for a learning purpose whereby smallholder farmers are taught step by step on methods of farming. On demonstration plots smallholder farmers are trained on how a particular technique is implemented and the learners are actively involved in the implementation of the technology demonstrated. For the growing season of 2020 to 2021, discussions with seed companies and other agriculture stakeholders to partner in demonstration farming are in progress. Two companies; Bayer (Monsanto) and Farmers World have already shown interest in partnership. With Farmers World (FW), three sites within our catchment area have already been identified. Two sites are located under Mphamba and Katalima sections respectively, and the last one is located on OCA farm. Land preparation activities have already commenced for the section sites.



EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAM

Executive Summary

Malawi announced plans for a phased reopening of schools beginning on September 7, as the rate of confirmed cases of COVID-19 has dropped. However, there are strict guidelines for reopening. Some of the guidelines include the following; disinfecting schools; and all schools to ensure that hand washing facilities are available and that hand washing with soap is enforced. In September, only classes sitting national examinations and fourth year Universities were open. The lower grades will reopen later in October.

OCA has only three students sitting for national exams and these reported for school in September.

The students are in form four at Nkhamenya girls secondary school. OCA education program had a chance to visit these students and the aim of the visit was to;

- Check how prepared are the students towards the national exams
- Provide masks to the students because every student is encouraged to wear a mask to avoid the spread of COVID-19. No mask no entry in class

- Provide the students with writing materials to be used during exams. The materials include; pens, pencils, rulers, mathematical instruments and scientific calculators. The students were also given reusable sanitary pads.



OCA personnel handing over the materials to the students (left), and posing with students (right)

It was a great visit, the students were very happy and they are all adhering to the COVID-19 restriction measures.

In the same month, an OCA University sponsored student from Salima Technical college reported for school. The semester will end in November; it is a continuation from where they stopped during the lockdown of schools due to Covid-19 measures. Another third year student at Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST) has been doing E-learning since September and will report to school in November, 2020. This is because they are reopening in phases.

Apart from visiting the students at Nkhamenya girls secondary school, OCA also visited Omega's family. Omega is a standard five student at St. Peters primary boarding school in Mponela. She is being sponsored by OCA. Her family is very poor and her mother being a widow does not afford to support the family. In September, OCA helped them with some basic needs for survival. The things include; bathing and washing soap, sugar, maize, cooking oil, candles, matches, salt e.t.c. Omega is the only girl in the family and she is the first born in a family of 4 children.



Omega's family

Conclusion

OCA is pleased to see reopening schools because the close down of schools due to COVID-19 was affecting a lot of students. By just staying at home, students were exposed to a lot of dangers like; early pregnancies and marriages, drug and substance abuse and also child abuse.