



MONTHLY REPORT

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## **HEALTHCARE PROGRAM**

### **Introduction**

For the month of September 2018, Kasese health Centre, received and treated a total of **1,922** patients, **71%** comes from within its catchment areas while **29%** are from outside the catchment area. The health centre also conducted **63** safe obstetric deliveries in maternity, admitted **35** children in our 24 hours Children's ward and treated **194** patients at **4** satellite community outreach clinics.

Furthermore, the eye clinic saw **28** patients, reviewed **5** who had post cataract surgery, and **4** received refractory eye spectacles. The health centre did not run short of medicine, medical supplies or water supply. Multiple bar graphs showing statistics for the clinic are included in the appendix of this report.

### **National Health Policy Conference**

Orant Charities Africa participated in the launch of a new national health policy, whose theme was '*Towards Universal Health Coverage*'. The meeting took place in Lilongwe at Bingu International Conference Centre and the guest of honor was the minister of health. The event was patronised by several stakeholders in the health sector. OCA was represented by the Lead Clinician. The main purpose of the policy is to provide a unified guiding framework for achieving health sector goals of the country, thereby improving the function of Malawi's health sector. The invitation to OCA to participate in the event has demonstrated that OCA's services in primary health care has brought visible impact to the country and have been recognized by the government health administration.

### **Health Advisory Committee Elections**

Kasese Health Centre received delegates from Dowa District Hospital (DHO), Dowa district council, and chiefs from our catchment area who came to participate in the election of a new health advisory committee. This was initiated by the new guidelines, which the government has just revised and adopted. The membership is now 15 people, and it is composed of religious leaders, women representatives, disabled persons, youths and five community members residing around the facility. The main objective of the committee is to act as the bridge between the health centre and community. They also oversee the effective and efficient utilization of resources including medicine, especially those supplied by government.

### **Treatment of Neglected Tropical Diseases**

The Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, will be conducting a mass campaign on treatment of neglected tropical diseases, which includes schistosomiasis and helminthes. The activity will take place in all the schools in our catchment area and schistosomiasis hotspot areas like communities near the Bua river. OCA clinicians at Kasese Health Centre will be involved to monitor, manage and report any adverse affect of the drugs. The drugs are to be dispensed by all Health Surveillance Assistance (HSAs) in their respective areas and schools.

## **WATER PROGRAM**

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

OCA is advocating Community Based Management of water supply facilities in which the community takes charge of its water resources using their own human, material and financial resources. There are some major repairs that require external support and OCA supports communities in handling such

repairs. During the reporting period, OCA managed to repair seven wells in areas of Chipanthenge, Mkwinya, Buza , Kachigamba, Katundu, Joseni, and Chikamphula villages. Women are also showing keen interest in water well repairs. These repairs ranged from fixing a full set of pump inner parts to a complete overhaul of the pump.

### **Revamping of Water Point Committees and CBM Trainings**

Every water point is expected to have a management committee responsible for day-to-day operation and maintenance, OCA reconstituted and revamped five such committees to ensure sustainable implementation of water supply services at community level.

After being reconstituted the committees had their capacity built through a refresher Community Based Management training that equipped them with skills and knowledge in operation and maintenance of water points. The 2-day training sessions delivered in both theory and practical setup, were facilitated by Water Monitoring Assistant, OCA staff as well as Health Surveillance Assistants (HSAs). A total of 55 (50 WPC members and 5 chiefs) from Lungu, Tchale, Kamphata, Chimwendo and Mngwenya villages have been trained. Both theory and practical sessions were conducted as depicted in the pictures;



### **Sanitation and hygiene campaign in boreholes**

Provision of potable water goes beyond providing water supply facilities. With this in mind OCA embarked on a mission to promote sanitation and hygiene in water supply facilities, the ultimate aim of this exercise was to make water points really sources of potable water and prevent them from being breeding grounds for disease vectors and pathogens. A total of 25 water points were visited and users were provided with health education. Water points committees whose water point surroundings were not hygienic were enlightened on things they need to improve and then an appointment date for a second follow up visit to determine if change has taken place were agreed upon.

### **Sanitation Situation Analysis and community mobilization for School Latrine Construction Program**

OCA intends to construct latrines in primary schools, during the reporting month a situation analysis was done to understand the current situation and sanitation needs in the schools basing on outstanding requests for latrines. Two schools were visited namely Chiliphiza and M'dinga primary schools; in both schools there was a great need to provide latrines that could cater for both regular and menstrual

hygiene needs of learners. During the month of October, OCA plans to support construction of latrines in primary schools.

## **AGRICULTURE PROGRAM**

### **Agriculture Extension and Trainings**

OCA agriculture program is focusing more on improving livelihoods of farmers through capacity building and provision of farm inputs. OCA works with irrigation clubs, lead farmers and agriculture clubs in primary schools. OCA also strives to find markets for farmers to sell their produce at good prices. In the month of September OCA built capacity of 5 irrigation clubs and 1 primary school club in best agriculture practices such as transplanting of seedlings, pesticide application, seedbed alignment and manure application. A total of 65 males and 76 were trained. Pictures below shows some of the activities;



Learners preparing a school garden during their free time



Fall army worms have been affecting maize production in Malawi and Kasese catchment area has not been exempted. Fall army worm is a pest which is very destructive in maize field crop and it can destroy the whole farm if proper measures are not taken into consideration hence irrigation club members were trained on types of pesticides which they can apply to reduce the infestation. The aim of the training was to equip irrigation club members with knowledge on the rates of mixing the pesticides and also the proper time of applying the pesticides.

### **OCA Farm and Garden**

The main activity on the farm was removal of trees and stumps from the farm. Removing trees which do not add value to the farm land will pave the way for effective farm mechanization and prevents competition of nutrients between crops and trees thereby ensuring good crop growth.

### **Distribution of Inputs**

Farm inputs such as vegetable seeds, maize seeds, fertilizer and pesticides were distributed to five irrigation clubs and two primary schools. Distribution of farm inputs has empowered farmers and communities to realize their goals of being food secure and making profits from farm produce. **Figure** below depicts some of the harvests by Ndalusa irrigation club, which is supported by OCA.



### **Meetings**

One meeting took place at Ndalusa irrigation club under the topic of tomato marketing. The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss potential markets for tomatoes. Ndalusa irrigation club is one of the irrigation clubs which is involved in tomato production. Since tomato has short shelf life, it needs ready market to obtain profits.

Other meetings were done with potential buyers of tomatoes around Kasungu district. The meeting involved institutions like boarding schools, hotels, hospital and vendors. Through the meetings conducted, several institutions showed interest and as of now we have managed to supply at Kasungu secondary school, Chinkhoma market and Kasungu market.

### **EDUCATION PROGRAM**

OCA provides scholarship to students especially girls who would otherwise never be able to go to school or would have to drop out to be married. The scholarship is continuous until each student has acquired the expected knowledge and skills. The program also includes monitoring performance, counseling and mentoring.

The Education program is now having 3 types of donors. Orant Charities, Rotary international and Geo shack. Rotary and Geoshack is sponsoring only secondary school girls whereas Orant Charities despite sponsoring girls, it is also sponsoring some male students in primary school and university. Currently the Education program has 19 students under OCA while 27 students are under Rotary sponsorship.

### **Targeting of students**

Identification of students for Geoshack sponsorship is still in process. 35 Students will be recruited by the 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2018. However, one additional student under Rotary international sponsorship has been

identified in the month of September making a total of 28 students. OCA will recruit 2 more students under the Rotary sponsorship to make it 30 by the end of October, 2018.

### **Visit to schools**

In the month of September, schools opened for the 2018/2019 academic year. OCA managed to visit more than half of the schools where there are sponsored students. Students have started well and they have all gone to the next class. During the school visits, OCA managed to pay school fees for all students.

In addition, OCA visited Day school students at Ngala and Tchale Community Day Secondary Schools (CDSS) for the distribution of school bags. Upon seeing how these students are struggling in carrying their school materials, OCA thought it is wise to help them with some carrier bags. Both students and their school authorities were so grateful with this development.



Ngala CDSS students posing with their Head Teacher carrying their school bags

Lastly, OCA visited schools to collect letters of students to their donors. These students are those being sponsored by Rotary international donors. OCA is pleased that the students are able to correspond with their donors. Correspondence with donors assist students to value the sponsorship and to work hard so that they don't disappoint donors. Correspondence also assist donors to know the beneficiaries and appreciate the impact they are making.