



MONTHLY REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2019

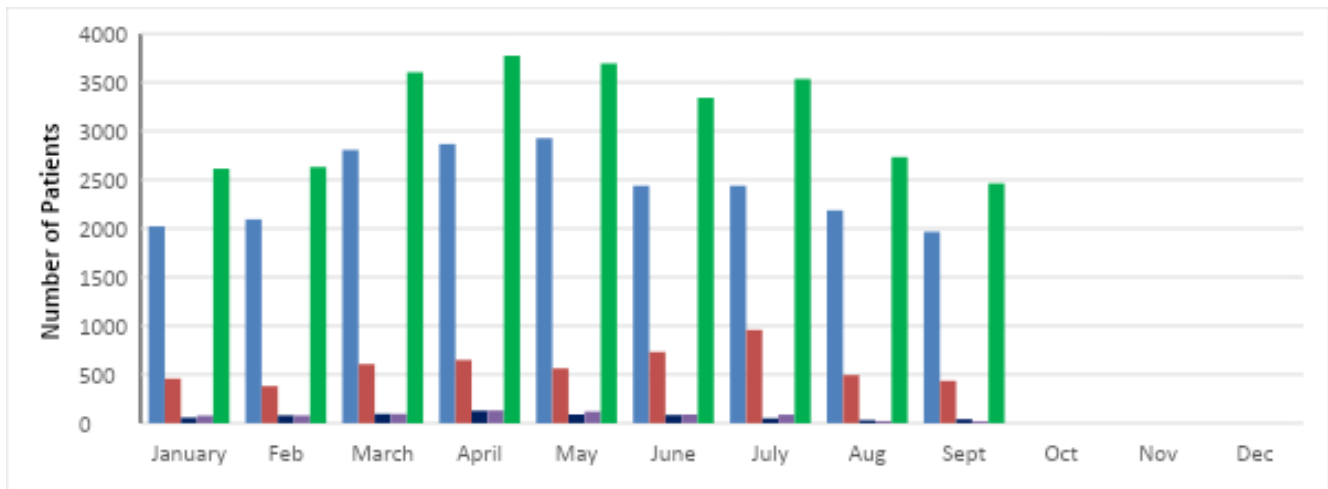
BY

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HEALTHCARE PROGRAM

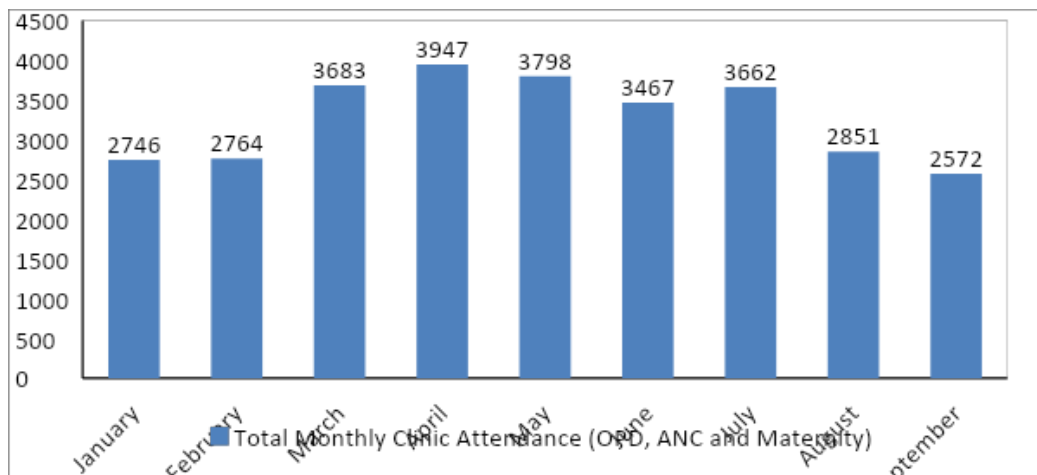
Orant Charities Africa continues to provide good quality health services to the people in Kasese catchment area. The healthcare program in its provision of services work in collaboration with Ministry of health (MOH) through Dowa district health office (DHO) and other stakeholders like, community health advisory committee, Reach Trust, Girls Network Empower (GENET) and Riders for health. In this month of September, the Health Centre saw **2,463** patients. This is the lowest attendance so far in this year as depicted in the graph below. At total of **41** children age between 2 months and 12 years were admitted in 24 hours' children's ward, outreach (mobile) clinics team saw **435** patients, only in Kasese catchment areas and many now access healthcare, as the outreach (mobile) clinics continues to reach those in hard to reach areas. In Bowe catchment area, the outreach (mobile) clinic team saw **1326** patients. The Mobile clinic team is always on the road 5 days a week and this helps to those who have challenges accessing healthcare services. *This approach of taking clinic services right into the community is saving a lot of lives.*

Clinic patient's attendances (OPD, outreach, children's ward and weekends / nights)



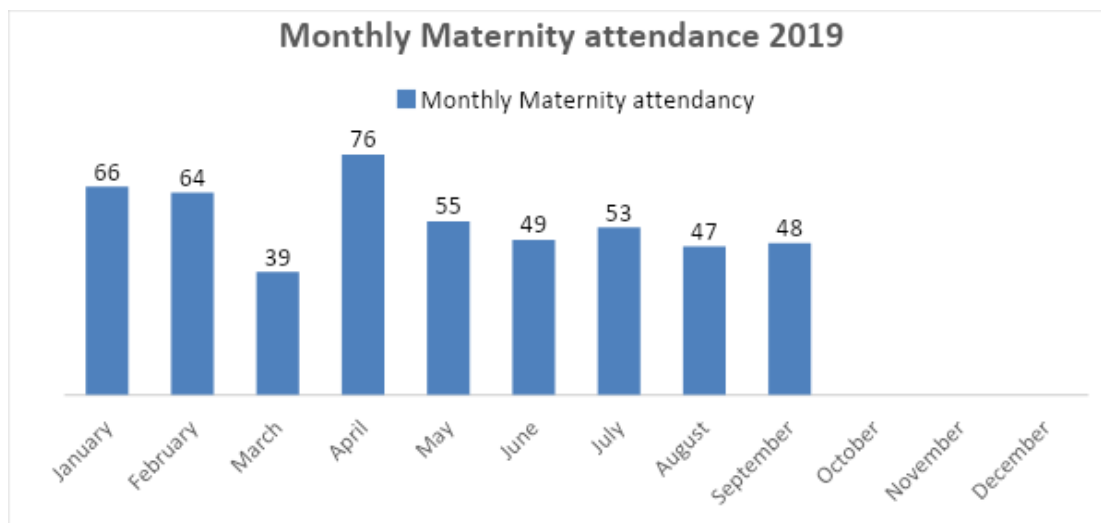
People rallying up to receive healthcare services at outreach clinic

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



Maternal and child healthcare

Kasese Health Centre continues to provide excellent maternal and neonatal health care. During the Month of September our nurses attended to **48** mothers in labour ward, conducted **32** spontaneous vertex deliveries (SVD). One child was born before arrival (BBA). Fifteen mothers were referred to Madisi hospital for further management, which includes caesarian section (C/S). One neonate had birth asphyxia and there was no twin's delivery. There was one child born through vacuum extractions.

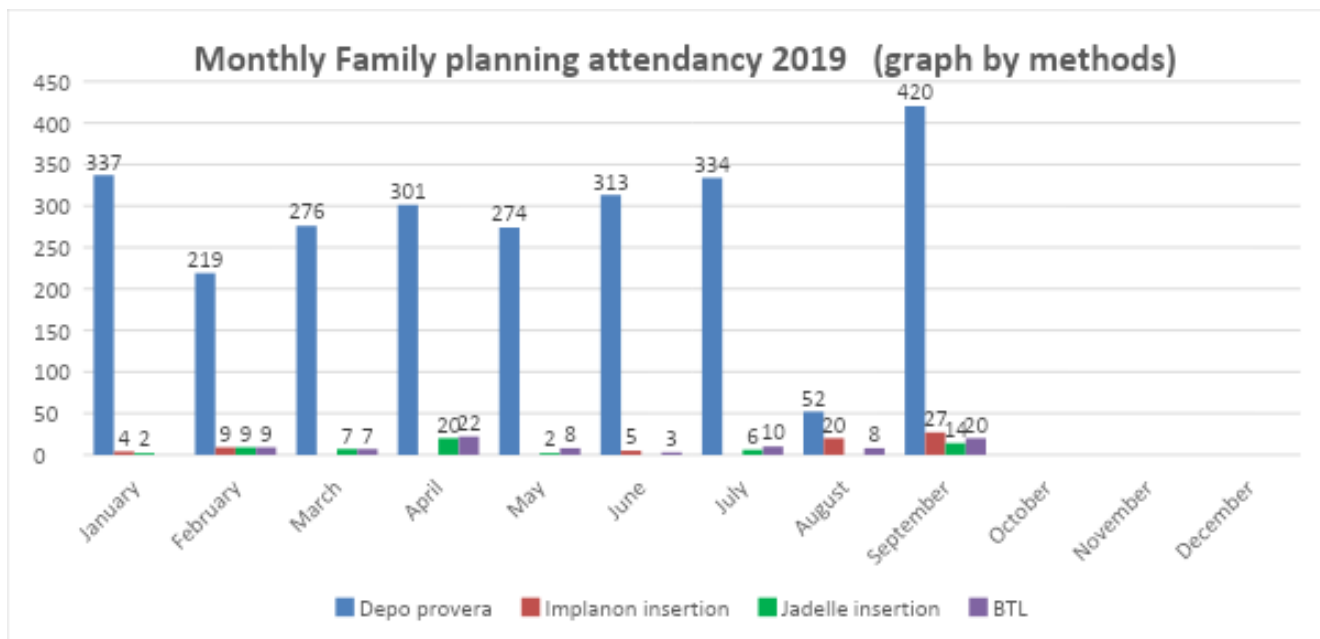


Cervical Cancer Screening (VIA)

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 September 2019 the Health Centre screened **18** clients; one patient with suspected cancer was referred to Kamuzu Central Hospital (KCH) for cryotherapy management. What we have observed is that some women are coming for cervical cancer screening for the first time while their situation is worse. As such we have scheduled mass awareness campaigns in our community to encourage women to come in large numbers for screening. Prior to the mass awareness campaign, stakeholders meeting which will include chiefs will be conducted.

Family Planning Clinic

In accordance with Ministry of health (MOH) and stakeholders like BLM the Health Centre provide family planning methods which includes: oral pills, injectable and Implanons to women of reproductive age as per their choice and medical indications. 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 subsequence visit. The health Centre attended to **61** pregnant mothers. The Kasese Health Centre also conducts HIV counseling and testing service weekly at ANC in Mtambalika Health post, it's a government owned health post but Orant Charities provide support through outreach clinic and now ANC services. Mtambalika Health post has a Nurse from the government who assist the community in service provision. All tested negative for HIV test.

Laboratory services

The Health Centre does basic Laboratory test befitting primary health care level, mostly rapid test strips and basic microscopic tests like for example TB and Malaria. Malaria prevalence at this time of the year is low, since its dry season and breeding areas are not favorable for mosquitoes. A total of **965** malaria test were done and those positive were **218**, this represent less than 50% positivity rates. As for **Helicobacter Pyloris** (*H. pylori*'s) tests, **27** were positive out of **95** suspects. Total test done for syphilis were 13 and all were negative. The Health Centre has noted an increase in hepatitis B patients. As for the month of September, the total test done for Hepatitis B were four 4, of which one was positive and three were negative. Recently, there has been increase in typhoid and some places in Malawi and Kasese catchments area were affected too which claimed lives of some people. However, for the month of September the incidence has reduced; total salmonella test done were two and none were positive.

ART Clinic

The Health Centre provide excellent weekly integrated ART/TB services, total patients cohort since the clinic conception is **756**, those alive on ART are **268** and children on ART are **17**. The ART clinic has maintained certificate of excellence since 2016, thanks to well trained and dedicated team of staff, which includes clinicians, nurses and data clerk. Recently, the clinic received one laptop and few staff were trained on E-master card by the Ministry of health (MOH). The transition of data commenced early September 2019 and all hard copy records have been transition to Electronic master cards, which will ease the documentation, bill counts calculation, bookings, drugs stock records, reports generation among other benefits.

Furthermore, MOH has changed its guidelines in HIV/TB management. The key new updates in the policies includes, introduction of routine screening for disseminated TB and cryptococcal infection using urine LAM, and crag rapid tests, the use of Amphotericin B and flucytosine in the management of cryptococcal infections (meningitis or cryptococcaemia). In addition to this the ART regimens, formulations and dosage has been changed and there is introduction of Delutegravir drugs (DTG), which will substitute Efavirex (EFV). Lastly, but not least in the notable changes is the differentiated ART services (DSD) which are patients centered approach that adapts continuum of HIV service to the individual needs of the people living with HIV.

Clinic administrations

- Linda Phiri (Lead nurse) is on annual leave.
- Wilson Bett (Lead clinician) and Olliveta (Nurse) attended one-week training on HIV/TB management. The training took place in Salima district under the sponsorship of Global fund through the Ministry of health.

WATER PROGRAM

Increasing access to clean water is very important. Apart from health benefits, access to clean water contributes positively to education, gender empowerment and economic development as women and children do not waste time to fetch for water. The water program accomplished the following in September;

- Distribution of 5 Hippo Rollers
- Drilled and Constructed 1 borehole.
- Carried out Water quality testing and Analysis for the new borehole.
- Repaired 10 Water wells (Boreholes).
- Built capacity for Water Point Committees in water point management and Repair (CBM trainings).

Distribution of Hippo Rollers

A Hippo roller costs about \$125 and carries about 90 Litres of water. Hippo rollers provides an efficient and effective way of transporting water in rural areas at household level. OCA distributed

5 water Hippo rollers to villages whose clean water sources is far from their houses as an interim solution to minimize the burden of carrying water on the head for a long distance. A total of 5 rollers were distributed to the following villages; Namkumba, Chongole, Phaya, Chimbalame & Kauma bwinja. The hippo rollers will be used by every household who needs them and the village health committees will help in managing the rollers to ensure equal sharing and sustainability. It is envisaged that these water rollers will ease the burden women face as OCA plans for a long lasting solution of providing a water source close to them.



Borehole drilling and construction.

OCA managed to increase access to potable water to 368 new beneficiaries to people of Mtandadza village through the newly drilled 58-meter borehole. Mtandadza village is located in the hard to reach area and had remained backward in as far as access to clean water is concerned. Before OCA's intervention villagers used to draw water from unprotected sources as depicted in the image below. The construction of the new borehole will go a long way in enhancing public health in the area.



Water Quality Testing and Analysis.

Following the drilling of a new borehole in Mtandadza 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, however preliminary tests conducted by OCA and in-situ test by the Ministry officials pointed towards good quality water.

Borehole Repairs

OCA is advocating for Community based management of water supply facilities in which the community takes charge and ownership of water supply facilities using communities' own resources. There some repairs which the communities need to be supported. OCA supports communities with major repairs. During the reporting month, OCA facilitated repair of 10 boreholes as outlined in the table below;

SN	CVH	VH	Repair(s) Done	Number of Users on the Repaired Borehole
1	Bweya	Msoa	Cylinder, 6 pipes ,3 sockets, 8 rod centralizers, 4 bush bearings	416
2	Chiliphiza	Chiliphiza primary school	1 fulcrum pin, 4 bush bearings, 13 rod centralizers , 1 cup seal, 2 Bobbins	1640
3	Nankumba	Chazaila	Pump head, 4 bush bearings, 4 pump rods, 2 bobbins	497
4	Nankumba	Chazaila	6 sockets, 1 fulcrum pin, 4 bearings, 12 rod centralizers, 2 pipes, 4 rod steel, 2 bobbin, 1cup seal	469
5	Chimamba	Chimamba one	Full inner set	656
6	Buza	kapundu	2 pipes, 6 sockets, 12 rod centralizers, 2 pipe centralizers , 4 bearings	1265

7	Nambera	Ntata	4 bearings, 12 rod centralizers, 6 sockets, 4 pipes, 3 rod steel, 1 cup seal, 2 bobbin, 1 corn plate, Solvent cement	490
8	Bweya	Chinveka	12 rod centralizers, 2 bobbin, 4 pipes, Brass plunger, cylinder.	651
9	Nambera	Ntata	4 sockets, 2 pipes, 3 pipe centralizers, 12 rod centralizers, 4 bearings	430
10	Bweya	Ndeka	1-foot valve, 1 rubber flapper, 1 nylon rope, 1 brass plunger, 1 O-ring , Solvent cement	419



Image showing borehole repair in progress.

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 20 WPC members plus 2 chiefs making a total of 22 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 Chinveka and Singo 2 villages.

Conclusion

The month of September, 2019, was another great as the water program managed to serve communities as per its plan. Additional 386 people now have sustainable access to water through the new borehole that has been given and hundreds of others from 10 villages have been given a chance to see other borehole work again and enjoy good health.

AGRICULTURE PROGRAM



Introduction

The following activities were done in irrigation club sites around Kasese catchment area being supported by OCA (material and technical support), primary school participating in the school Garden project. One meeting was attended in Madisi Extension planning area (EPA).

Irrigation farming

Irrigation farming focused on working with smallholder farmers on how to develop a good constitution for their clubs and opening bank accounts. It also focused on activities of tomato sowing, tomato transplanting, maize planting and fertilizer application.

Irrigation microloan program

Microloans have been given to five irrigation clubs as of now. These Irrigation clubs have agreed to the conditions of the program. Some of the necessary conditions to be fulfilled by the clubs are opening bank accounts and submitting constitutions governing their clubs. These clubs include Ndalusa, Timvane, Kasangadzi, Khamalidyetsa & Nthila irrigation club.

Fertilizer and pesticides application

Monitoring of fertilizer application was done in Chapuwala and Nkhandwe villages where members of Nkhamalidyetsa and Ndalusa irrigation clubs respectively were applying top dressing

fertilizer to their Maize plants. The objective was to make sure that the recommended application rate was used in order for the farmers to achieve maximum yield per cultivated area.



Healthy seedlings after applying basal dressing fertilizer

At Khamalidyetsa irrigation club maize crop was being affected with the pest known as fall army worms hence proper controls were taken. 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. OCA supported Khamalidyetsa with pesticides which they can apply to reduce the infestation.

Transplanting of tomato seedlings and bed making

Taking farming as business, irrigation farmers are encouraged to grow crops that will be scarce and yield better prices during the time of harvesting with the aim of increasing profits. Kasangadzi irrigation club has transplanted tomato seedlings which is expected to be harvested during the months of January and February. During these months, the tomato will be scarce because most of smallholder farmers cease from producing crops which are mostly produced under irrigation farming and concentrate much on crops which are mostly planted for rain fed such as Maize, Groundnuts and Soya. When the supply is low farmers get better prices. Kasangadzi irrigation club in Nankumba village has planted the tomatoes in dip beds. Dip beds helps in controlling water runoff and increases surface for infiltration of water hence water is being saved. Dip beds were constructed in sizes of 3m length and 1m width.



bed making in progress



Day old transplanted tomato seedlings

Sowing

Tomato sowing was done at Timvane irrigation club in Mantchondo village. Tomato seeds were sown in mother beds and will be transplanted. Mulching during sowing was being done to avoid too much heat and direct water drops into the soils. Direct water drops into the soil may move seed from its proper position causing overcrowding and the seedlings become elongated (grow thin and tall) which results into unhealthy seedlings being produced. Mulching was done to balance heat and light as well.

Planting of Maize

Nthila club in Chilemba village for this year has registered 35 members and the total land under cultivation is 5 acres. Currently the club has already planted Maize and basal dressing fertilizer has been applied. Nthila irrigation club is one of the irrigation clubs which were established by OCA in the year 2017 and members have been using watering canes for irrigating their crops. Some well-wisher's farmer after seeing some big challenges faced during watering using watering canes, has supported Nthila irrigation club with fuel powered watering pump with the aim of reducing watering problems hence increasing cultivation land size and frequency of land cultivation as per year. OCA plans to support clubs with long lasting solutions like solar-powered irrigation.

Primary school program

Primary school learners of Katsuka primary school were trained and monitored on tillage which include breaking of hard pan which suppresses penetration of roots dip down the soil for absorption of nutrients for plant use and enhances soil water infiltration. Learners were equipped with knowledge on types of tillage and importance of tillage. The training was done practically so that learners should be able to use the gained knowledge in their school studies and also for their home gardens.

Meeting

OCA attended one Area stakeholder planning (ASP) meeting organized by Sunseed oil company (A company that provide market for the legumes) at Madisi Extension Planning Area (EPA). The main objective was to make people be aware about their markets. Sunseed would like to buy more legumes this coming season e.g. Soya, Groundnuts and Sunflower. Farmers have need to be encouraged to grow more of these crops since markets will be readily available for their crops. OCA has taken the initiative to encourage farmers in the community to produce more legumes.

EDUCATION PROGRAM

Schools have opened in mid-September and our education support program continues to empower students especially girls to rise out of poverty through Education. We are pleased to report that all the eight girls sponsored by Rotary International District 5810, who wrote Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE) at Nkhamenya Girls Secondary School in 2019 passed the exams. Nkhamenya girls achieved a 100% pass rate. Nkhamenya Girls is a girls boarding school

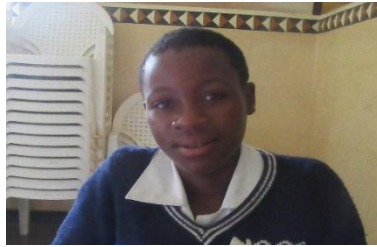
with well experienced teachers and good facilities. The following are the eight girls who had sat for the MSCE;

Angella Botoman



Aggregate Points: 20

Beauty Mkandawire



Aggregate Points: 20

Mary Chipala



Aggregate Points: 21

Clara Mzumara



Aggregate Points: 21

Lilian Maholo



Aggregate Points: 21

Mary Chadeluka



Aggregate Points: 25

Bertha Phiri



Aggregate Points: 32

Ruth Mkandawire



Aggregate Points: 32

The lower the points the stronger the pass. The highest performing student in secondary school gets six points (all distinctions) and the highest gets 36 points (all credits) to qualify for public universities. These girls will apply for the university enrollment. It's not easy to make it to public universities in Malawi and we will be happy if they make it to college especially public universities where tuition is cheaper than private Universities.

The Education program focused on replacing the graduated students with other new students in the rotary program. We are pleased to report that we have found students both in form one and two who are vulnerable and hardworking who will be part of the program. Thorough assessment through the bursary committee in schools and community engagement, girls have been identified. Orant Charities Education program conducts interviews with needy students and also parents to make sure that only those who are vulnerable are enrolled in the program.

VISITS TO SCHOOLS

As schools have opened, we visited the following secondary schools; Dowa, Nkhamenya, Madisi, Byanzi, Dzenza, Chankango Community Day Schools (CDSS), Ngala CDSS, Tchale CDSS, Natola CDSS and St Peters primary School. Our visits entails meeting with students and school authorities to encourage the students and collect school reports. We also provide basic resources to students such as groceries (which includes menstrual pads & other hygienic materials) and writing materials to smoothen their life so that they can concentrate much on their studies rather than worrying about lack of materials.



Students posing with their Head teacher (far left)

& OCA representative (far right)



Tchale CDSS students

CHALLENGES

Boarding students are performing better than day students. When we met day students, one of the girls said *'After knocking off from school, I have to walk back home for an hour or more to my home and when I get home its getting dark and I have to start cooking dinner/supper. After that its already dark and we don't have electricity or candles for me to study with'*. OCA intends to provide the day students with solar powered desk lights for reading. This will help the students to study when its dark. OCA will also remind parents/guardians the need to give their children ample time to study. Someday students who stay very far from schools ends up in self-boarding where they rent a small house and stay with their friends. The disadvantages of such situations is that the girls can easily be taken advantage of by boys and end up being pregnant. OCA encourages girls to concentrate on their education rather than having fun. A better solution of eliminating self-boarding schools is construction of hostels at the school. In this case, girls will be looked after by the boarding master. Schools like Ngala CDSS has land where hostels can be constructed, and it all hinges on having financial resources to support community contributions like labour and locally available building materials.