

# 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 impoverished 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 include: malaria, respiratory disease like pneumonia and bronchitis. However, non-communicable diseases are on the rise for example diabetes and hypertension.

For June 2023, Kasese Health Center (KHC) saw **2584** clients at (OPD). Only **64** patients were seen during weekends and nights. The total number of patients seen in June is **2648** (KHC OPD). MOC in Kasese catchment areas saw **864**. Kasungu (Bowe) Outreach clinic saw **4218** clients. MOC's total number of patients seen is **5082**. The total number of patients seen in June 2023 is **7730** (Dowa: **3512 (45%)** & Kasungu **4218 (55%)**).

The Laboratory department tested **3092** for Malaria, out of which **1241** were positive, representing a **40%** positivity rate. In Dowa, **1216** patients were tested and **207(17%)** were positive cases; in Kasungu, **1876** patients were tested and **1034(55%)** were positive.

The Maternity department admitted **28** mothers and referred **23**. A total of **26** babies were born at the facility and **2** were born in transit (BBAs). Out of **28** babies, **9** had complications (7 Weight < 2.5 Kgs Prematurity: **1** and Asphyxia: **1**). The total Maternity attendance was **51 (28 admissions and 23 referrals)**.

The HTS department tested **193** clients, of which **2** were positive, representing **1%**.

The total number of patients seen at the eye clinic by an outsourced clinician is **48** and **9** were booked for surgery.

The MOC team managed to conduct all **21** scheduled visits in the month representing **100%**

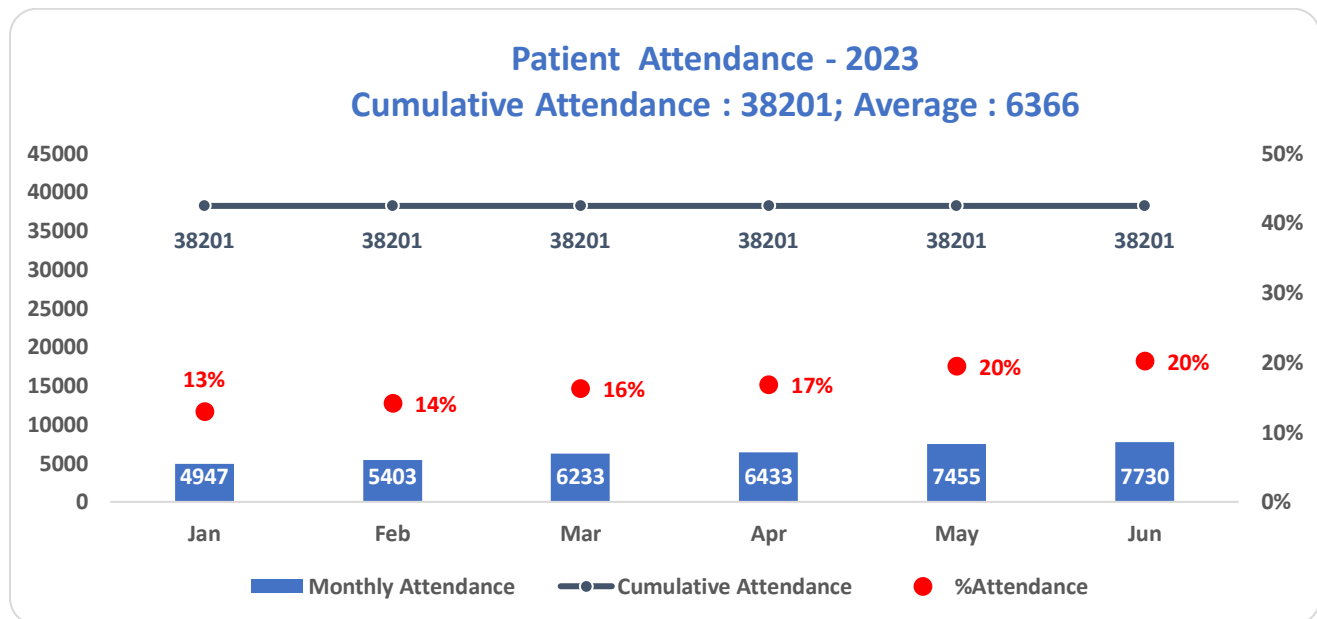
## Monthly Patients Attendance

Table 1 below shows monthly patients seen in both Dowa and Kasungu.

Months (2023)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
OPD Static	1755	1680	2385	1978	2301	2584	<b>12683</b>
Bowe MOC	2481	3188	3005	3523	4373	4218	<b>20788</b>
Kasese MOC	667	489	803	876	723	864	<b>4422</b>
Nights/Holidays	44	46	40	56	58	64	<b>308</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4947</b>	<b>5403</b>	<b>6233</b>	<b>6433</b>	<b>7455</b>	<b>7730</b>	<b>38201</b>

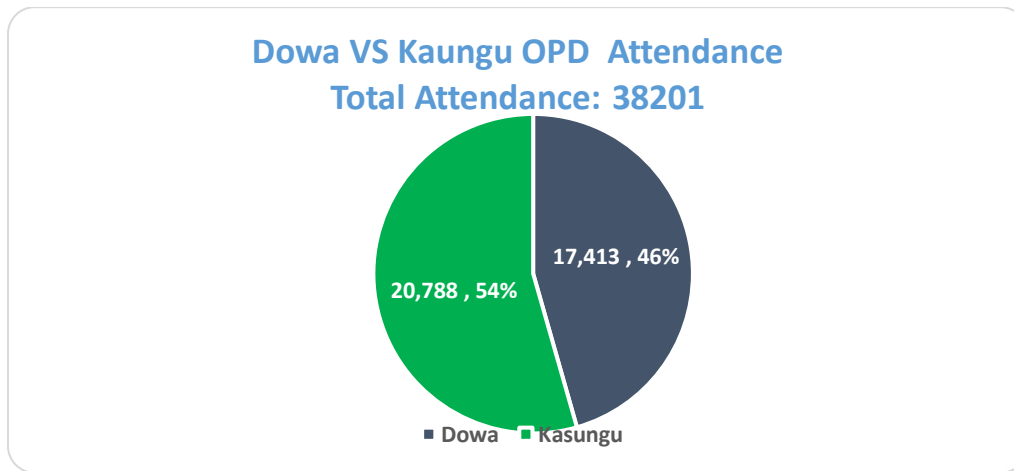
**Table 1: Total monthly patients seen at Dowa and Kasungu (2023).**

Figure 1 below shows the total OCA patient attendance in 2023



**Figure 1: OCA Patient Attendance – 2023.**

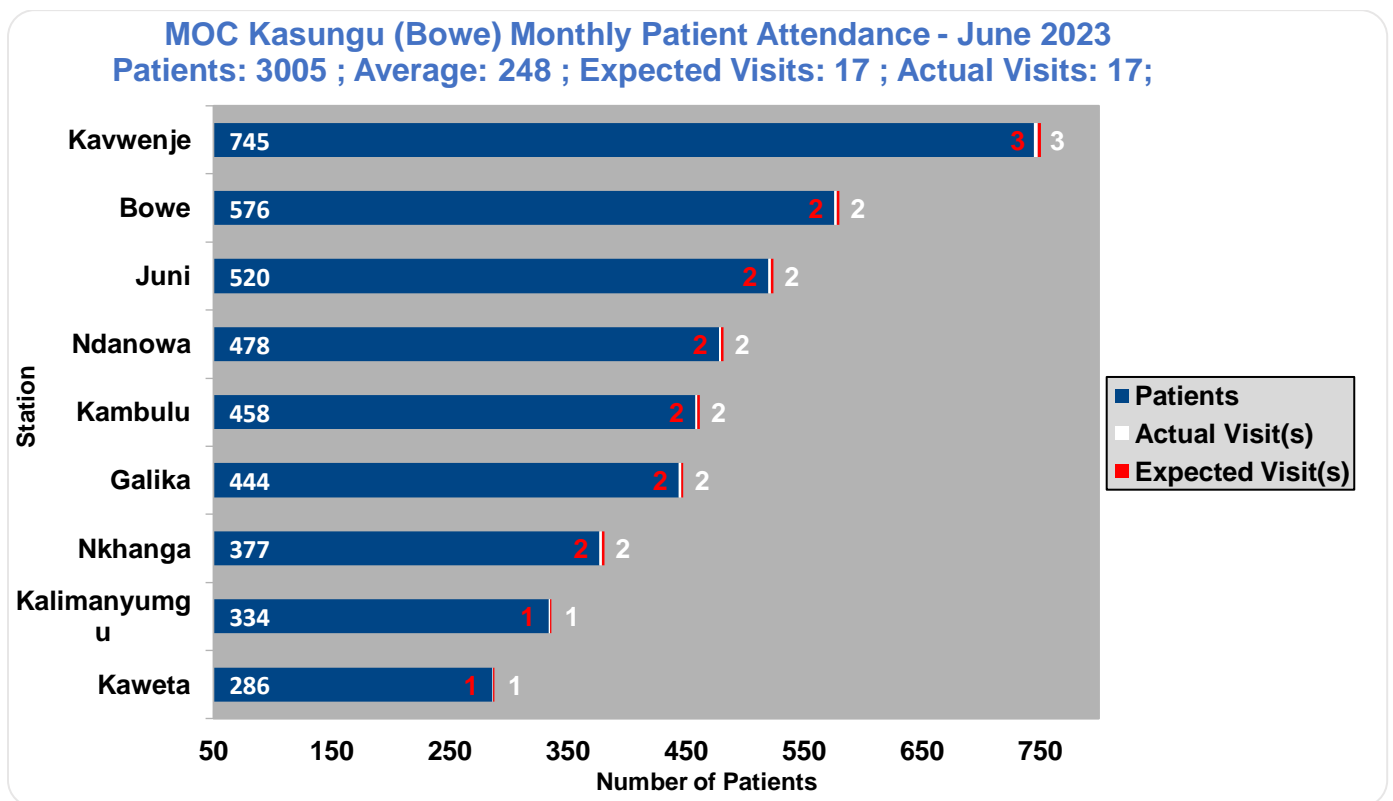
Figure 2 below shows the cumulative patient attendance for OCA healthcare program in 2023



**Figure 2: Dowa vs Kasungu (2023).**

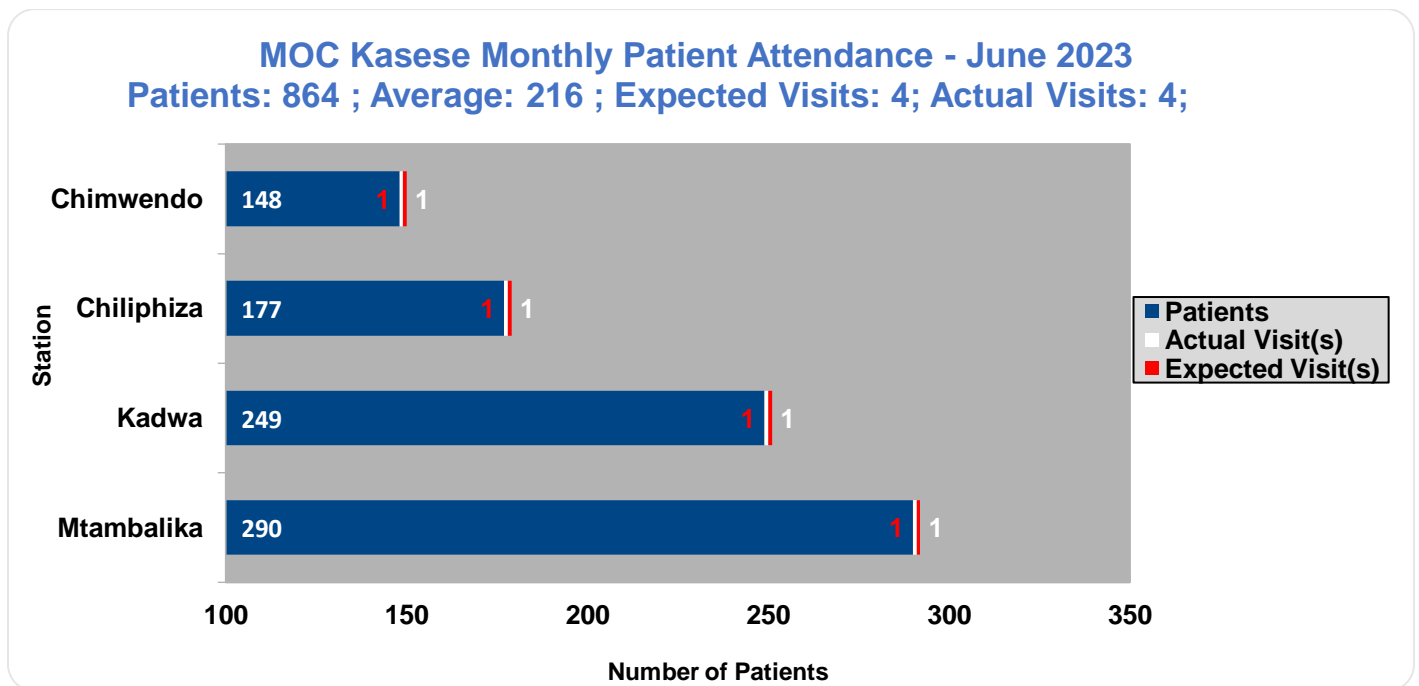
### OCA MOC Updates

Figure 3 below shows the Kasungu patient attendance for June 2023



**Figure 3: Kasungu Patient Attendance – June 2023.**

Figure 4 below shows the Dowa patient attendance for June 2023



**Figure 4: Dowa Patient Attendance – June 2023.**

## COVID -19 Situation Updates

The COVID-19 situation in the country remains low and in June 2023, **No** test was conducted. The Health Center continues to provide vaccines at the facility.

### Cumulative COVID-19 Data – KHC Static.

Table 2 below shows Cumulative COVID-19 Data.

	Staff(OCA/HSA )	Others	Total
<b>June Tests</b>	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>June Positives</b>	0	0	<b>0</b>

**Table 2: COVID-19 Cumulative Data.**

### COVID 19 Vaccine (Pfizer) – KHC Static.

Table 3 below shows Vaccine Doses Administered in 2023

<b>Dose</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Dose</b>	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Dose</b>	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>Booster</b>	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>B/F</b>	539	574	<b>1113</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>1113</b>

***Table 3: Pfizer Administered at KHC Static (2023)***

### COVID 19 Vaccine (Johnson & Johnson – J&J) – KHC Static

Table 4 below shows Vaccine Doses Administered in 2023

<b>Vaccine Type</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Johnson &amp; Johnson (J &amp; J)</b>	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>B/F</b>	414	646	<b>1060</b>
<b>Booster</b>	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>646</b>	<b>1060</b>

***Table 4: J & J Administered at KHC Static (2023)***

### COVID-19 Vaccine (Astra-Zeneca) – KHC Static.

Table 5 below shows Vaccine Doses Administered in 2023

<b>Dose</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Dose</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Dose</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

***Table 5: J & J Administered at KHC Static (2023)***

## COVID 19 Vaccine Status – KHC Static.

Table 6 below shows Vaccine Status in June 2023

Vaccine Type	Beginning Balance	End Balance
Pfizer	0	0
J & J	0	0

*Table 6: Astra-Zeneca Status at KHC Static (June 2023)*

## Reproductive and Family Planning Health

### Maternal and New-born Health Care

Months	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Admissions	38	44	36	30	28	28	204
Referrals	13	8	14	15	13	23	86
New Babies	38	44	36	30	28	28	204
Alive Babies	38	44	35	29	28	28	202
Facility Deliveries	33	36	32	29	25	26	181

*Table 7: Maternity Data – 2023*

Table 9 below shows the Maternity Data of new babies with complications.

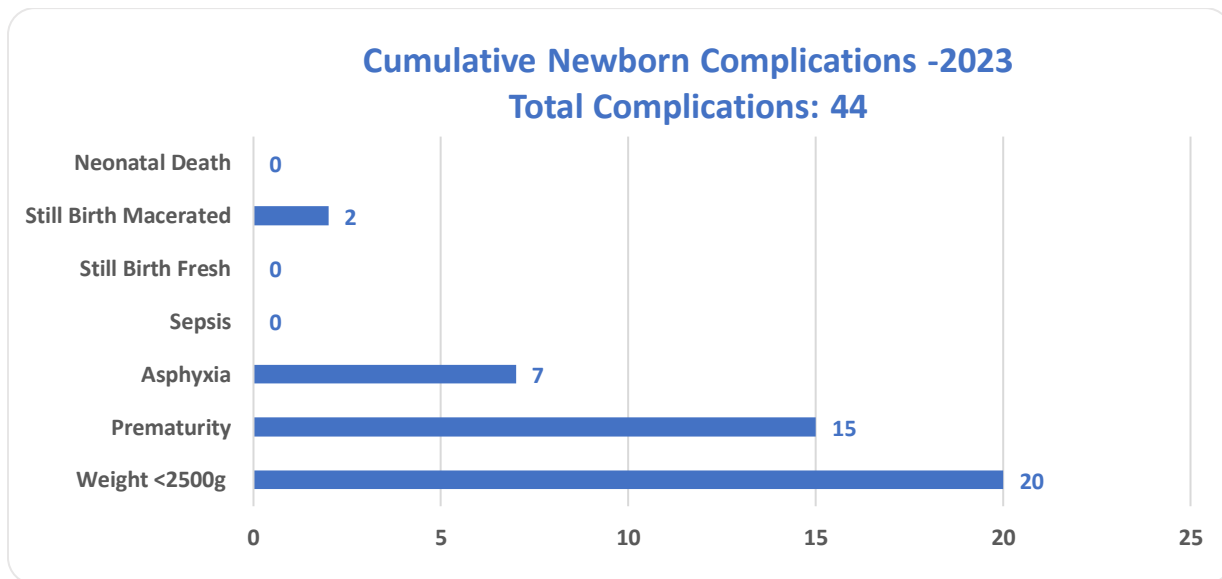
Months (2023)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Weight <2500g	2	1	7	3	0	7	20
Prematurity	4	7	1	1	1	1	15
Asphyxia	1	1	0	1	3	1	7



<b>Sepsis</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Still Birth Fresh</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Still Birth Macerated</b>	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
<b>Neonatal Death</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>44</b>

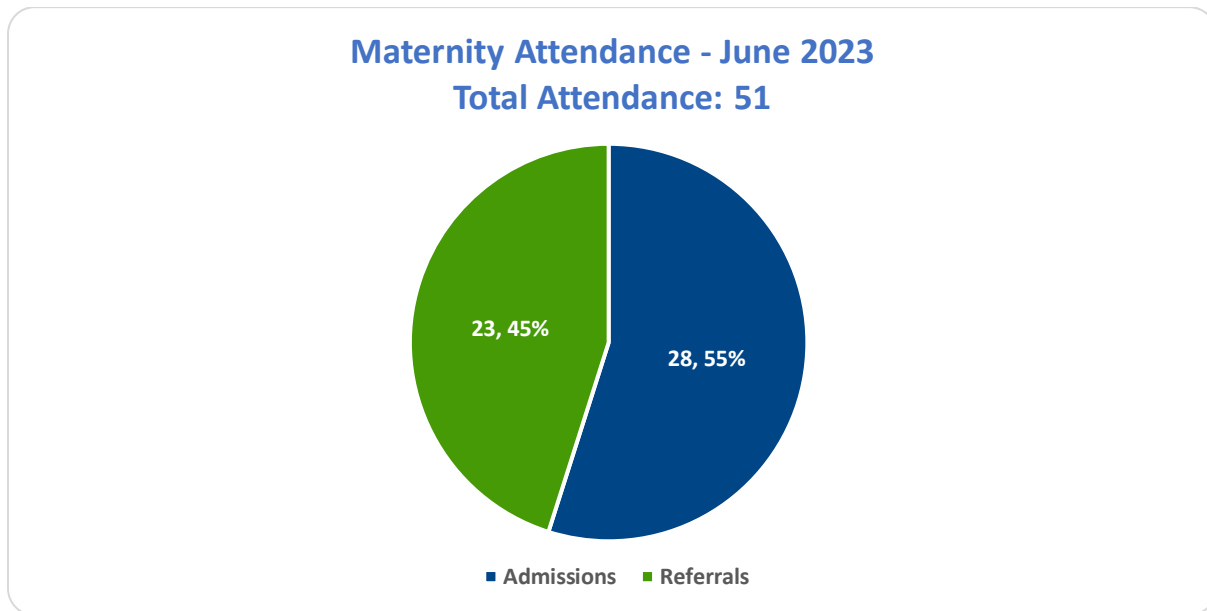
**Table 8: Newborns with complications – 2023**

Figure 5 below shows the total newborns complications for 2023.



**Figure 5: Newborns Complications – 2023**

Figure 6 below shows the total monthly Maternity attendance.



**Figure 6: Admissions and Referrals (June 2023)**

Table 9 below shows the reason for the referrals

<b>Referral Reason</b>	<b>Referred</b>
Foetal Distress	<b>5</b>
Eclampsia	<b>1</b>
Obstructed Prolonged Labour	<b>7</b>
Young Prim	<b>3</b>
Premature Labour	<b>1</b>
High Parity	<b>1</b>
Grand Multi-Parity	<b>1</b>
CPD	<b>4</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>

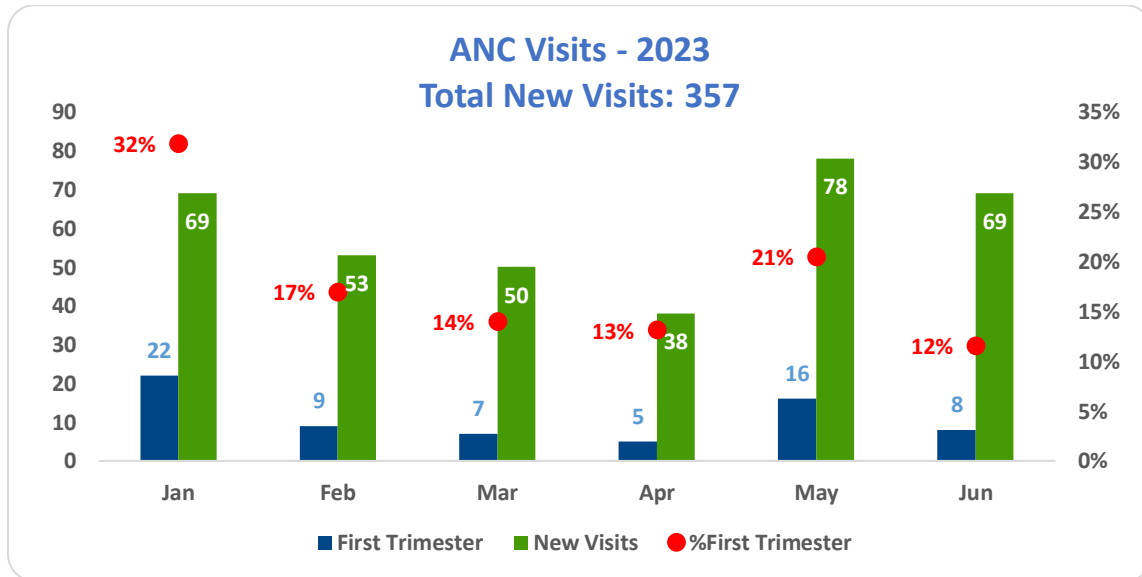
**Table 9: Referral Reasons - June 2023**

Table 10 below shows ANC attendance.

2023	New ANC Visit	First Trimester
January	69	22
February	53	9
March	50	7
April	38	5
May	78	16
June	69	8

**Table 10: ANC Attendance – 2023**

Figure 7 below shows 2023 Monthly ANC Visits.



**Figure 7: Monthly ANC Visits - 2023.**

## Cervical Cancer Control Clinic Report

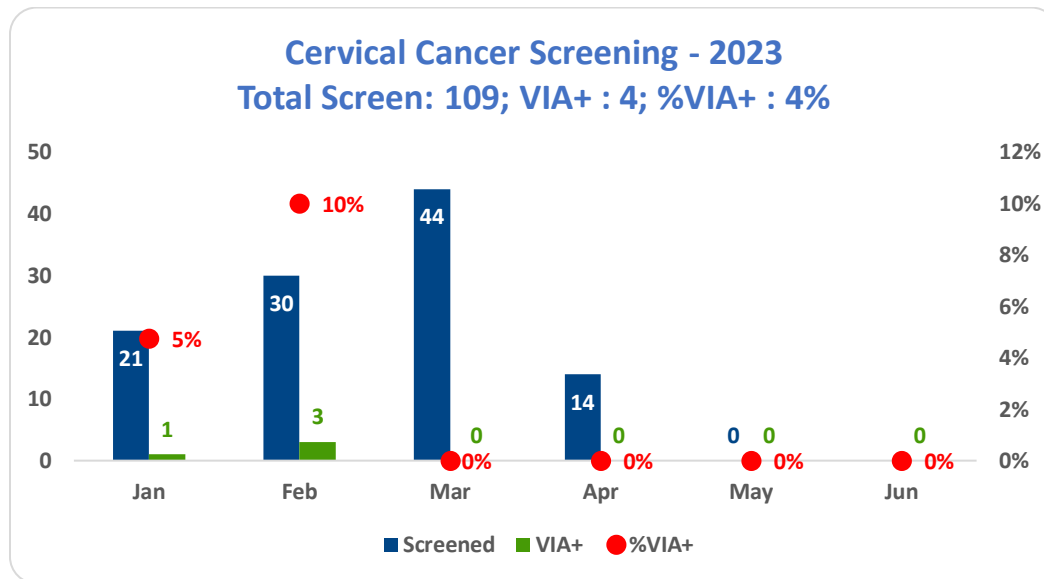
Table 11 below shows the 2023 Monthly Cervical Cancer Screening.

Months	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
<b>Total</b>	21	30	44	14	0	0
<b>VIA Positive</b>	1	3	0	0	0	0

**Table 11: Monthly Cervical Cancer Screening 2023 Table.**

The monthly Cervical Cancer screening remains to be low, there is a need for more community sensitization.

Figure 8 below shows 2023 Cervical Cancer Screenings.



**Figure 8: Cervical Cancer Screening - 2023.**

## Eye Clinic

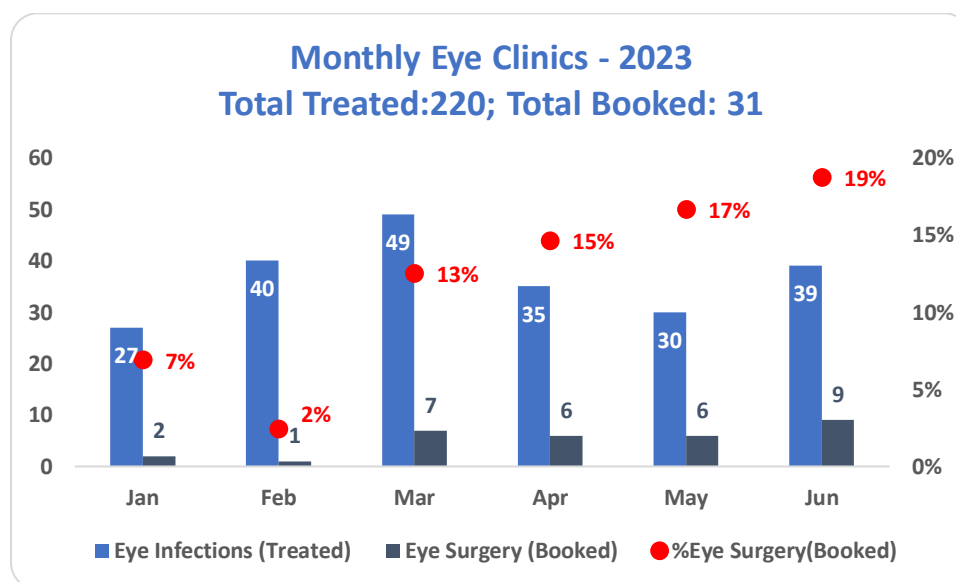
The outsource eye specialist continues to provide service in Kasese Health Center and operation is done at Kasungu District Hospital.

Table 12 below shows the total number of clients treated for eye infections and those booked for surgery.

Month (2023)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
<b>Eye Infections (Treated)</b>	27	40	49	35	30	39
<b>Eye Surgery (Booked)</b>	2	1	7	6	6	9
<b>Total Seen</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>48</b>

**Table 12: Monthly Eye Clinic Table - 2023.**

Figure 9 below shows the 2023 Monthly Eye Clinics.



**Figure 9 Monthly Eye Clinics - 2023.**

## Malaria Report

Table 13 below shows Malaria tests for June 2023 (Dowa and Kasungu)

	Total Tested	Positives	Negatives	Positivity Rate
<b>Under 5</b>	<b>1084</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>5 Years and Over</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>848</b>	<b>1160</b>	<b>42%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3092</b>	<b>1241</b>	<b>1851</b>	<b>40%</b>

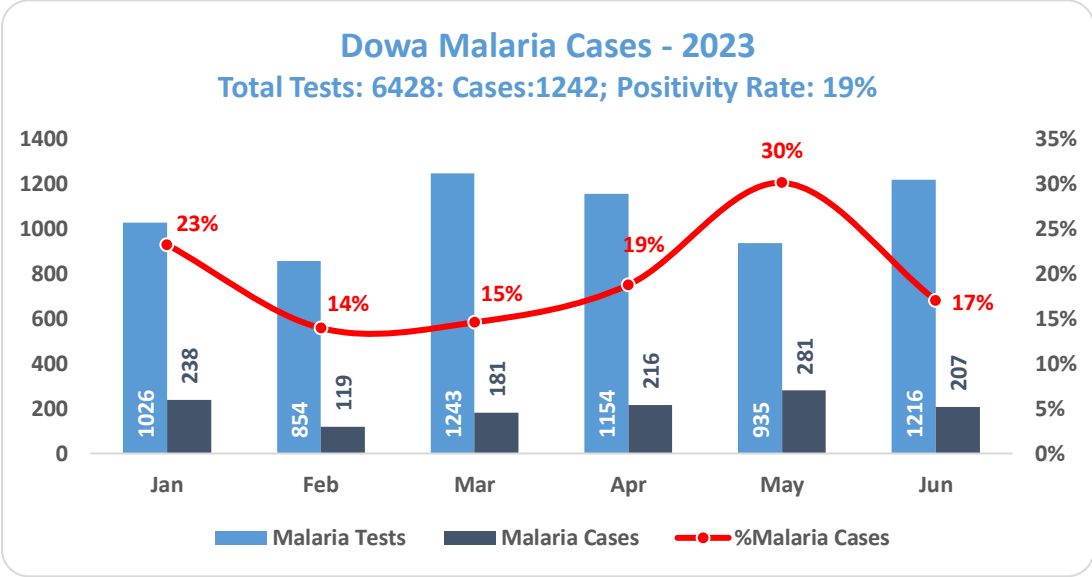
**Table 13: Total Malaria Tests (June 2023).**

Table 14 below shows the total Malaria Cases (MRDT's Positive), LA Issued and Dispensed (OCA Clinics)

2023	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
<b>Suspected Malaria Cases</b>	1854	1498	2209	2740	3241	3092
<b>Suspected Cases Tested MRDT</b>	1854	1498	2209	2740	3241	3092
<b>Confirmed Malaria Cases</b>	508	354	635	996	1748	1241
<b>New Malaria Cases Registered</b>	508	361	651	996	1778	1245
<b>LA Dispensed</b>	503	361	651	995	1748	1245
<b>LA Issued</b>	120	600	940	1020	2877	520

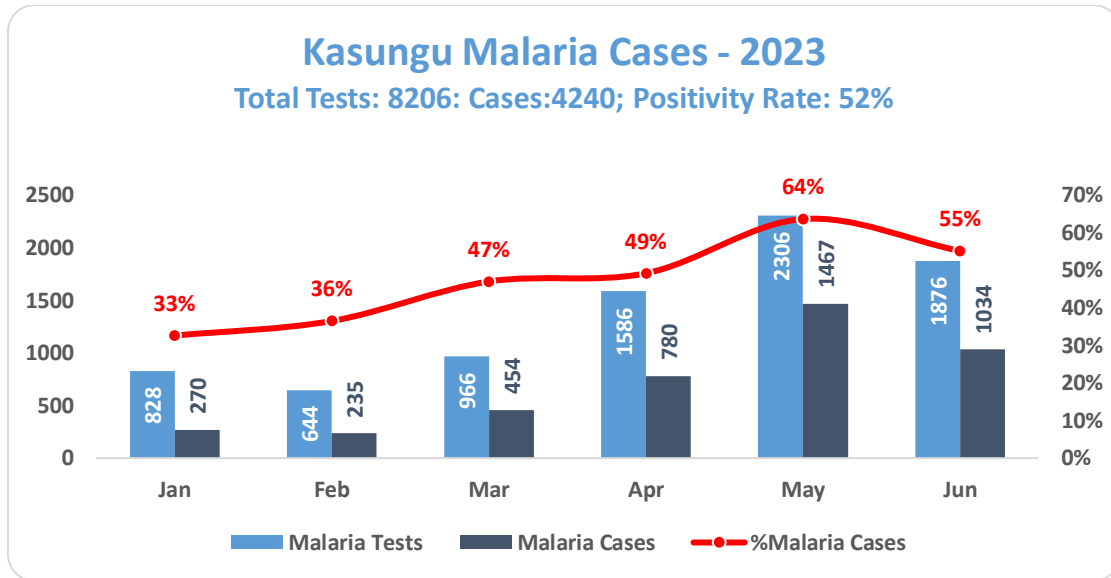
**Table 14: Total Malaria Cases, LA Issued and Dispensed Table.**

Figure 10 shows the total OCA Clinics Malaria tests (Dowa, 2023)



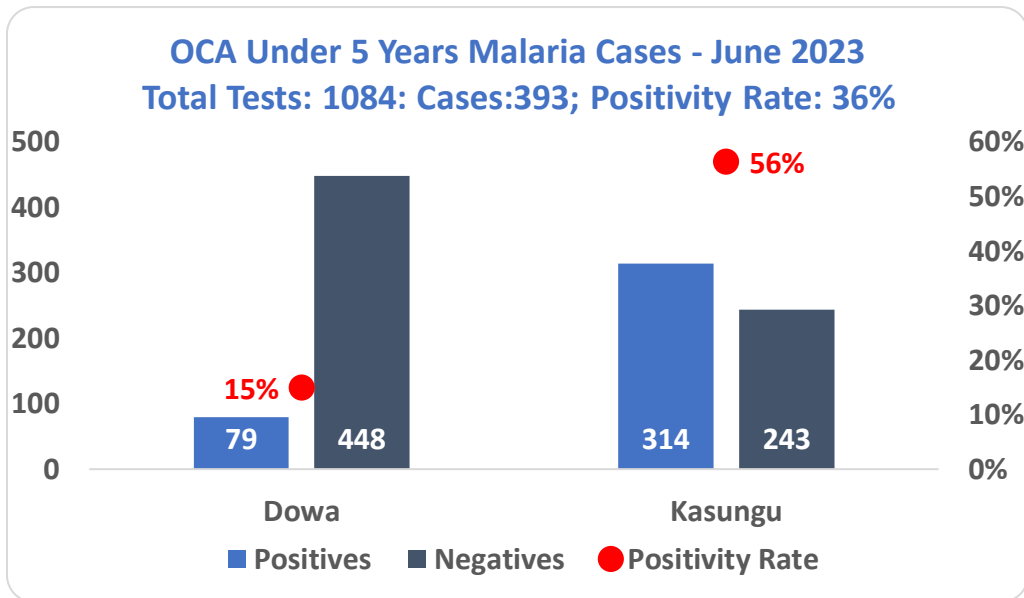
**Figure 10: OCA Clinics Malaria tests (Dowa, 2023).**

Figure 10 shows the total OCA Clinics Malaria tests (Kasungu, 2023)



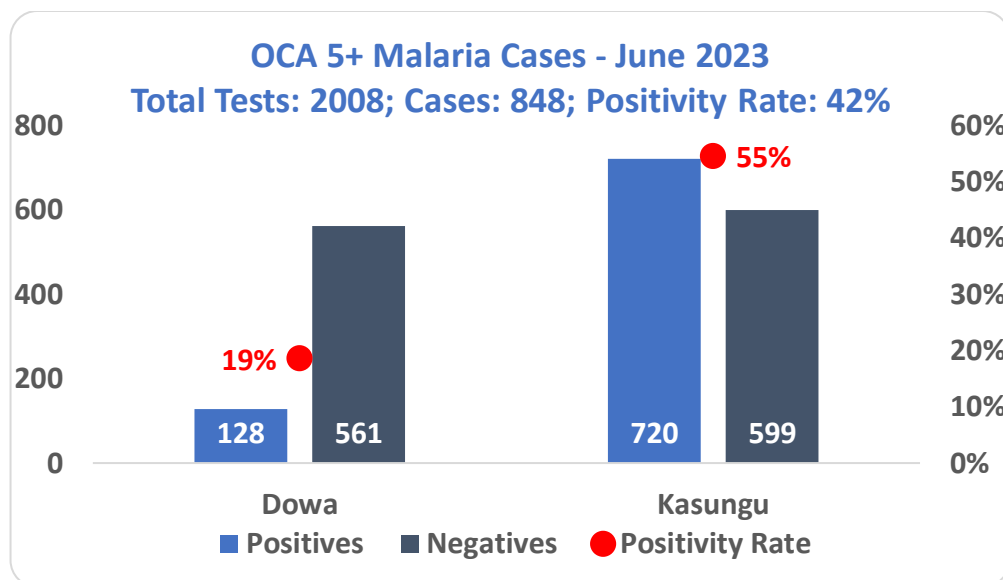
**Figure 11: OCA Clinics Malaria tests (Kasungu, 2023).**

Figure 12 shows the total OCA Clinics under 5 Years of Malaria tests



**Figure 12: OCA Clinics, Under 5 Years Malaria tests (June 2023).**

Figure 13 shows the total OCA Clinics 5 Years and Over Malaria tests



**Figure 13: OCA Clinics, 5+ Malaria tests (June 2023).**

### HIV Testing Services (HTS)

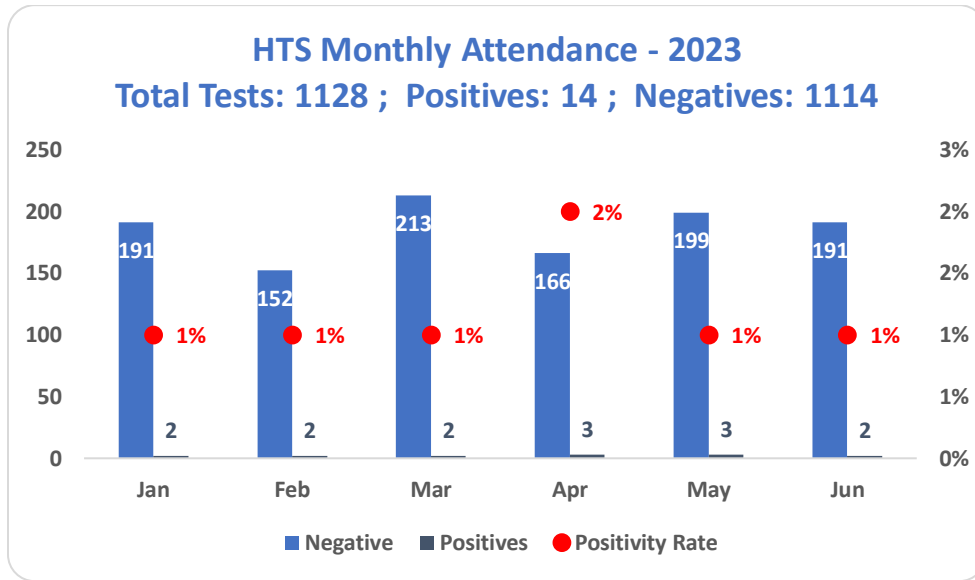
Months	Total Tested	Positives	Positivity Rate
January	193	2	1%
February	154	2	1%
March	215	2	1%
April	169	3	2%
May	202	3	1%
June	193	2	1%

**Table 15: HTC Monthly Data 2023**

Kasese catchment area positivity rate remains to be low, this could indicate that people adhere to HIV/AIDS preventive measures.



Figure 14 below shows HTS' Monthly Attendance



**Figure 14: HTS Monthly Tests – 2023**

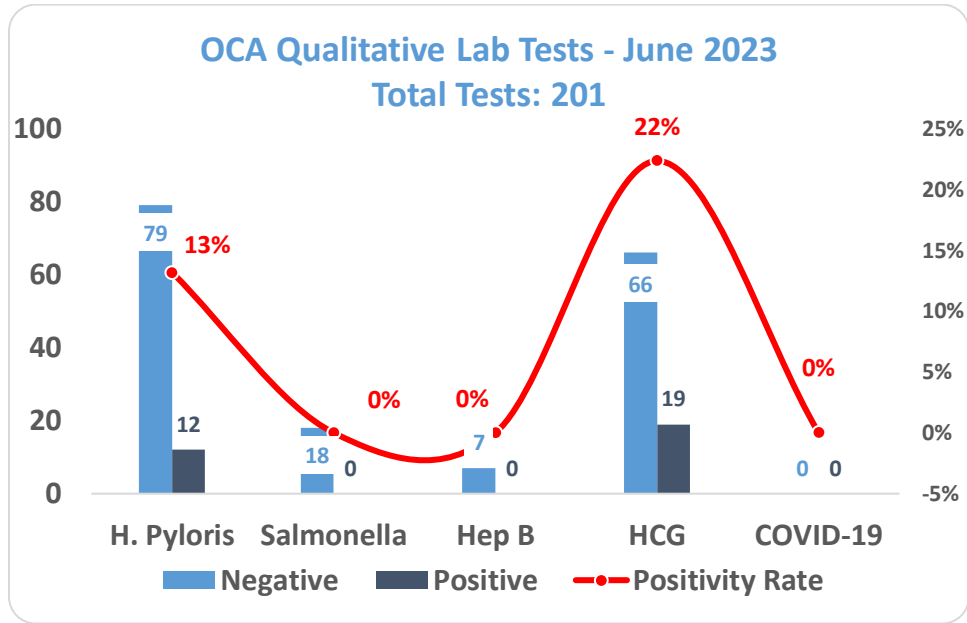
### Laboratory Services

Table 16 below shows qualitative Laboratory tests conducted in 2023.

	H. Pyloris		Salmonella		Hep B		HCG		COVID 19	
	Total	Pos	Total	Pos	Total	Pos	Total	Pos	Total	Pos
<b>June</b>	79	2	18	0	7	0	66	19	0	0

**Table 16: Qualitative Lab Tests Data Table for OCA Clinics - June 2023.**

Figure 15 below shows qualitative lab tests – June 2023



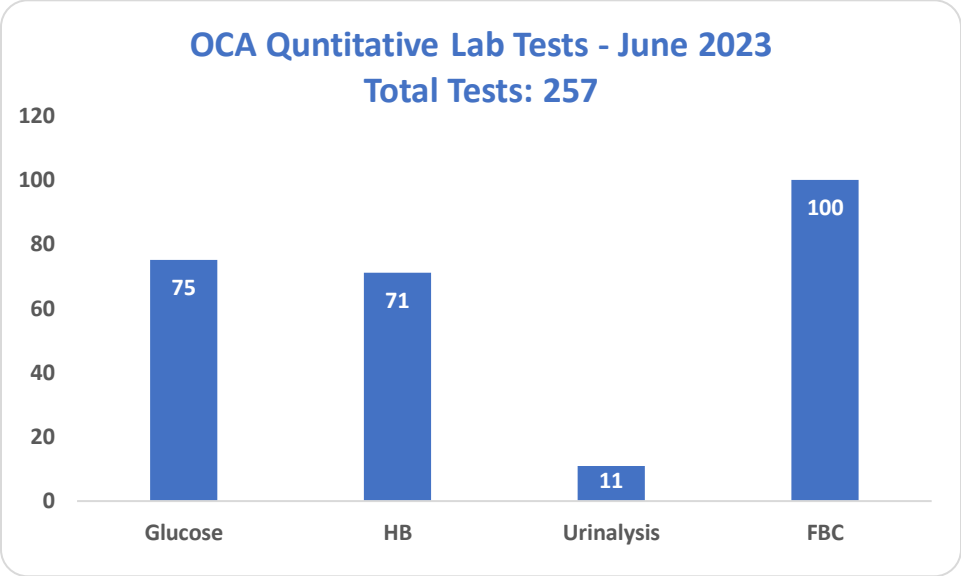
**Figure 15: Qualitative Lab Tests – 2023.**

Table 17 below shows OCA clinics quantitative Laboratory tests conducted in 2023.

	Glucose	HB	Urinalysis	FBC
<b>Jan</b>	172	192	23	95
<b>Feb</b>	100	137	33	133
<b>Mar</b>	118	110	16	191
<b>Apr</b>	140	60	17	126
<b>May</b>	51	162	21	106
<b>Jun</b>	75	71	11	100
<b>Total</b>	656	732	121	751

**Table 17: Quantitative Lab Tests Data Table for OCA Clinics.**

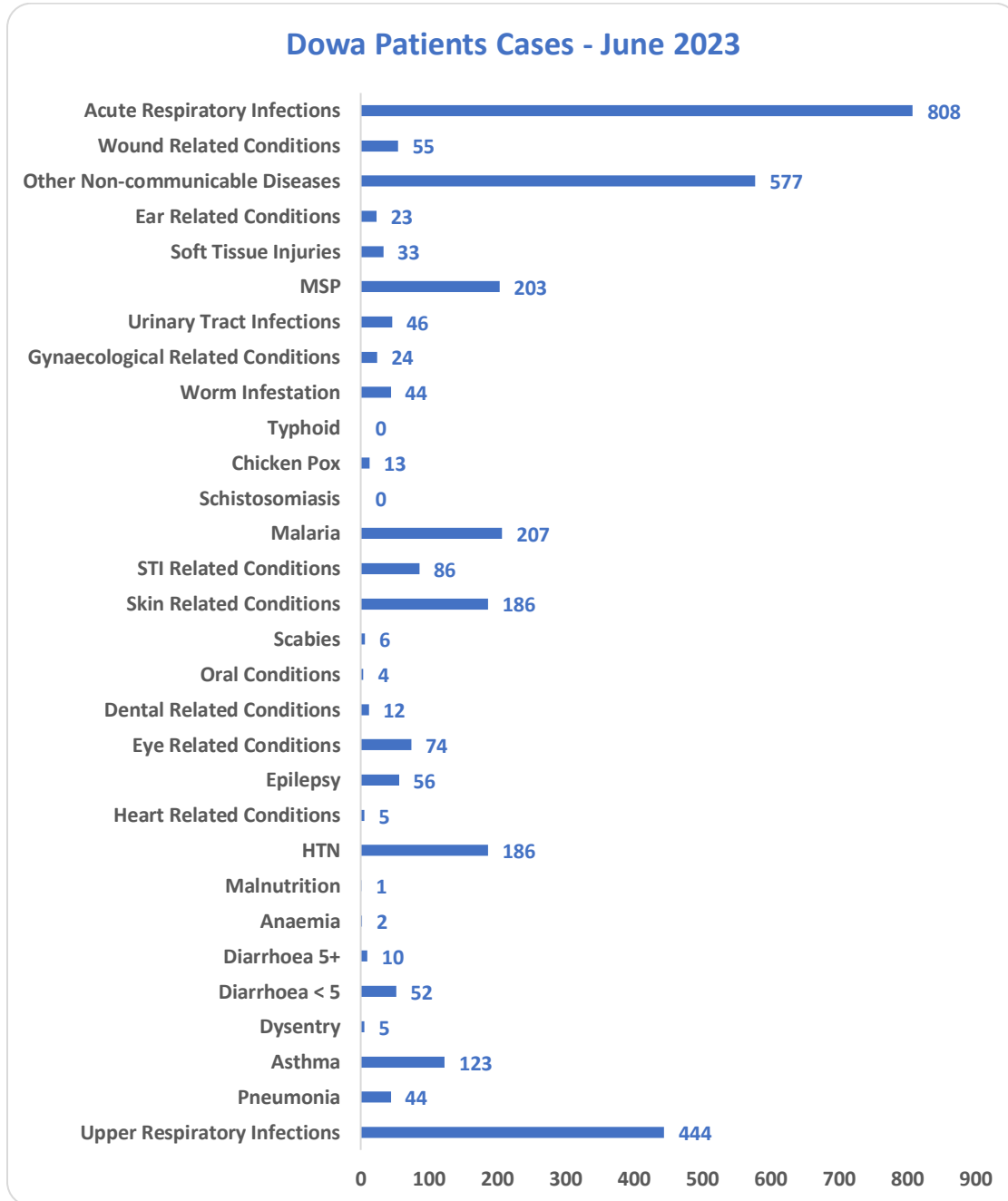
Figure 16 shows quantitative lab tests for the year 2023



**Figure 16: Quantitative Lab Tests – 2023.**

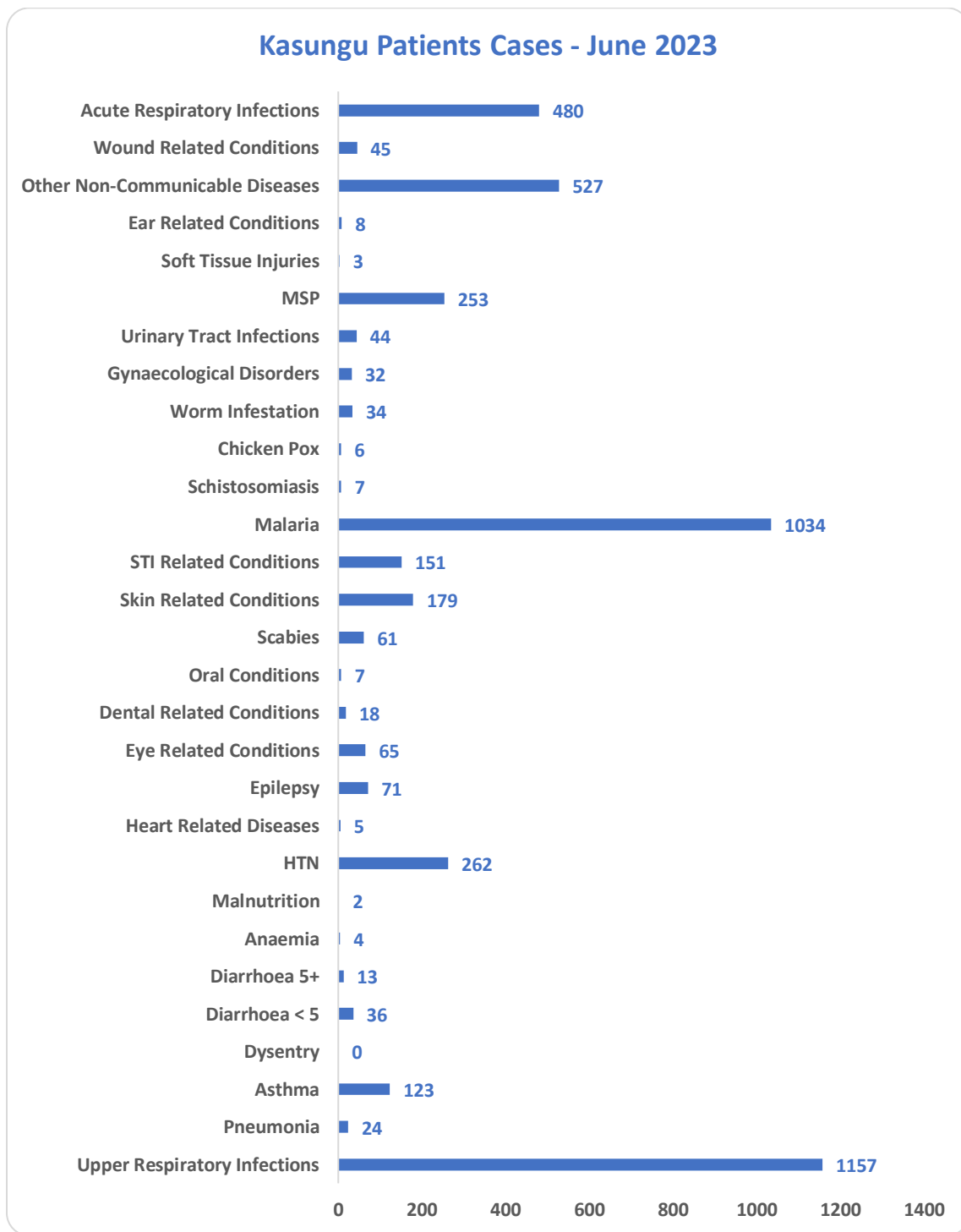
## Disease Group Trends

Figure 17 below shows Dowa disease occurrences for June 2023



**Figure 17: Dowa Disease Occurrences (June 2023).**

Figure 18 below shows Kasungu disease occurrences for June 2023.



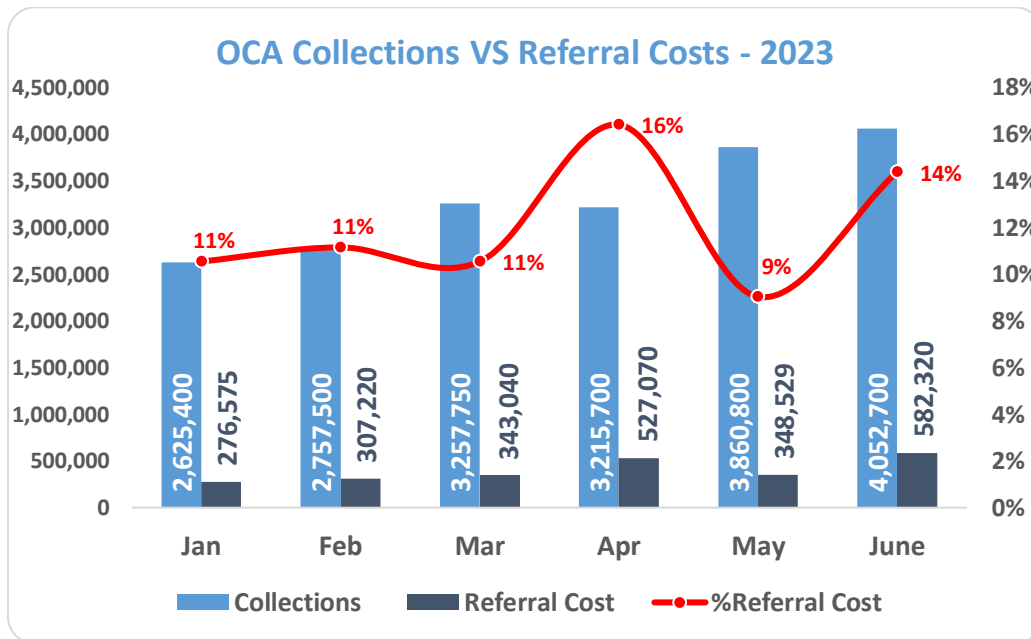
**Figure 18: Kasungu Disease Occurrences (June 2023).**

## Healthcare Finance and Administration

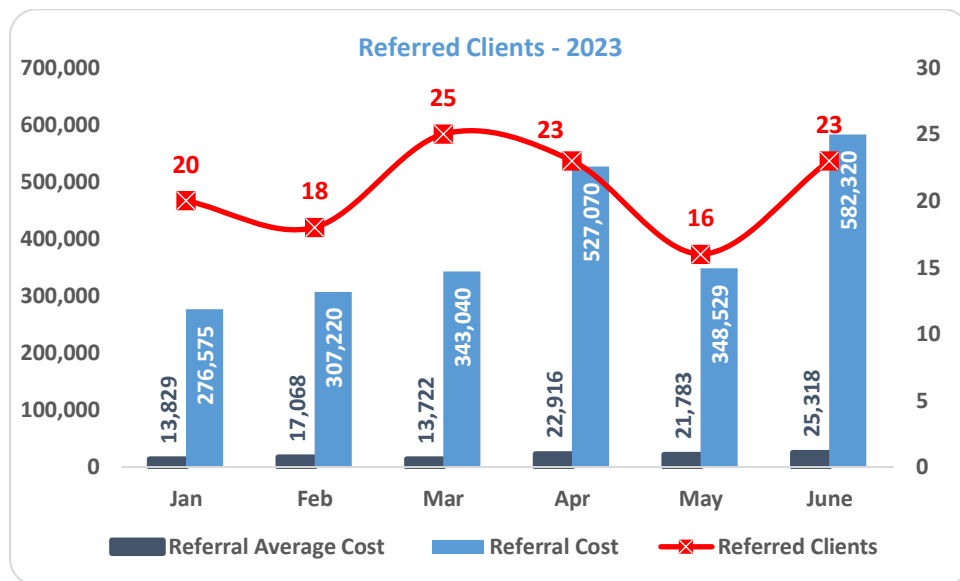
Table 18 shows the clinic finance table for 2023.

2023	Collection	Referrals	Clients	Referral Cost	Average
	n			Cost	
January	MK 2,625,400	MK 276,575	20	MK 13,829	
February	MK 2,757,500	MK 307,220	18	MK 17,068	
March	MK 3,257,750	MK 343,040	25	MK 13,722	
April	MK 3,215,700	MK 527,070	23	MK 22,916	
May	MK 3,860,800	MK 348,529	16	MK 21,783	
June	MK 4,052,700	MK 582,320	23	MK 25,318	

**Table 18: Clinic Finances – 2023.**



**Figure 19: OCA Collections VS Referrals - 2023.**



**Figure 20: OCA Referred Clients - 2023.**

## Achievements and Challenges

### Success Highlights

i. Data interpretation.

- The healthcare program (static and outreach Clinics) continues to register a steady increase in the number of outpatients' attendance since January 2023, from **4947** In January to **7730** in June, this means there is good coverage and accessible healthcare in our community and a change in social behaviour in the Kasese catchment community (health seeking behaviour) a key characteristic of good services delivery.
- There is an increase in the number of eye cataract cases booked for surgery and subsequent operations from **13%** in March to **19%** in June 2023.
- There is a reduction in referral cases from **25%** seen in March to **16%** in May, partly due to the end of the malaria epidemic season, which this year was from April to June. A shift from the routine season of January to April rainy season.
- The Health Center continues to assist the destitute with bus fare and hospital bill payments, as seen from Table 18, the average monthly referral cost is **MK 19,078**

- ii. There is a good collaboration between MOC and Health Centres. We are working within Kasungu in terms of Malaria supplies and data management.

### **Challenge Highlights**

- i. Data interpretation.
  - The five leading health care problems in both clinics (static and outreach) are upper and lower respiratory tract infections (laryngitis, pharyngitis, sinusitis pneumonia, bronchitis etc.), malaria, non-communicable disease which includes hypertension and musculoskeletal pains.
  - Compared to the static clinic located in Dowa District, the Mobile Outreach Clinic in Kasungu District continues to see a high percentage of malaria positivity rate, for example, **17%** and **55%** in the month of June 2023 respectively.
  - In a bid to provide comprehensive primary healthcare services, the dental clinic is yet to be provided at Kasese Health Center.



## Appendices

### Appendix A: June 2023 MOC Schedule

<b>JUNE 2023 OUTREACH CLINIC SCHEDULE</b>					
<b>DATE</b>	<b>DAY</b>	<b>STATION</b>	<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>TIME</b>
1	Thursday	Kavwenje	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am - 3:00pm
2	Friday	Kadwa	Dowa	Outreach clinic	08:00am - 4:00pm
3	Saturday	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend
4	Sunday	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend
5	Monday	Nkhangwa	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am - 3:00pm
6	Tuesday	Kambulu	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am - 3:00pm
7	Wednesday	Lisito	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am - 3:00pm
8	Thursday	Kantomphole	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am - 3:00pm
9	Friday	Chiliphiza	Dowa	Outreach clinic	08:00am - 4:00pm
10	Saturday	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend
11	Sunday	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend
12	Monday	Galika	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am - 3:00pm
13	Tuesday	Chisuwe	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am - 3:00pm
14	Wednesday	Bowe	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am - 3:00pm
15	Thursday	Juni	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am - 3:00pm
16	Friday	Chimwendo	Dowa	Outreach clinic	08:00am - 4:00pm
17	Saturday	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend
18	Sunday	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend
19	Monday	Kaweta	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am - 3:00pm
20	Tuesday	Miyowe	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am - 3:00pm
21	Wednesday	Kalimanyungu	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am - 3:00pm

22	Thursday	Ndanowa	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am - 3:00pm
23	Friday	Mtambalika	Dowa	Outreach clinic	08:00am - 4:00pm
24	Saturday	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend
25	Sunday	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend
26	Monday	Kavwenje	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am - 3:00pm
27	Tuesday	Juni	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am - 3:00pm
28	Wednesday	Bowe	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am - 3:00pm
29	Thursday	Galika	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am - 3:00pm
30	Friday	Preparation day		Preparation day	Preparation day

# Water and Sanitation Program



## Executive Summary

Half way through 2023 the WASH program has made significant progress in the promotion of access to WASH services in Kasese catchment area. A number of targets were set earlier in the year inline with key implementation areas such as water supply, community sanitation, school sanitation as well as Operation and maintenance of water points. Therefore this report provides an outline of key monthly achievements in line with these key implementation areas specifically for the month of June in 2023. Furthermore, this report provides a cumulative update of some of the routine activities in 2023 so far.

## Summary Of Monthly Achievements

In June the following milestones were achieved;

- Supported **27** water point repairs (Service/preventive: **19**; major repairs:**8**;) )
- Drilled 1 borehole at Nambola school
- Conducted Community Based Managment (CBM) training for new Jimu Water Point Committee (WPC)
- Attended District Coordinating Team (DCT) Meeting in Dowa
- Distributed sanitation materials to 8 schools from Katalima zone

## Detailed Narration Of Monthly Achievements

The WASH program carried out the following key activities in June 2023.

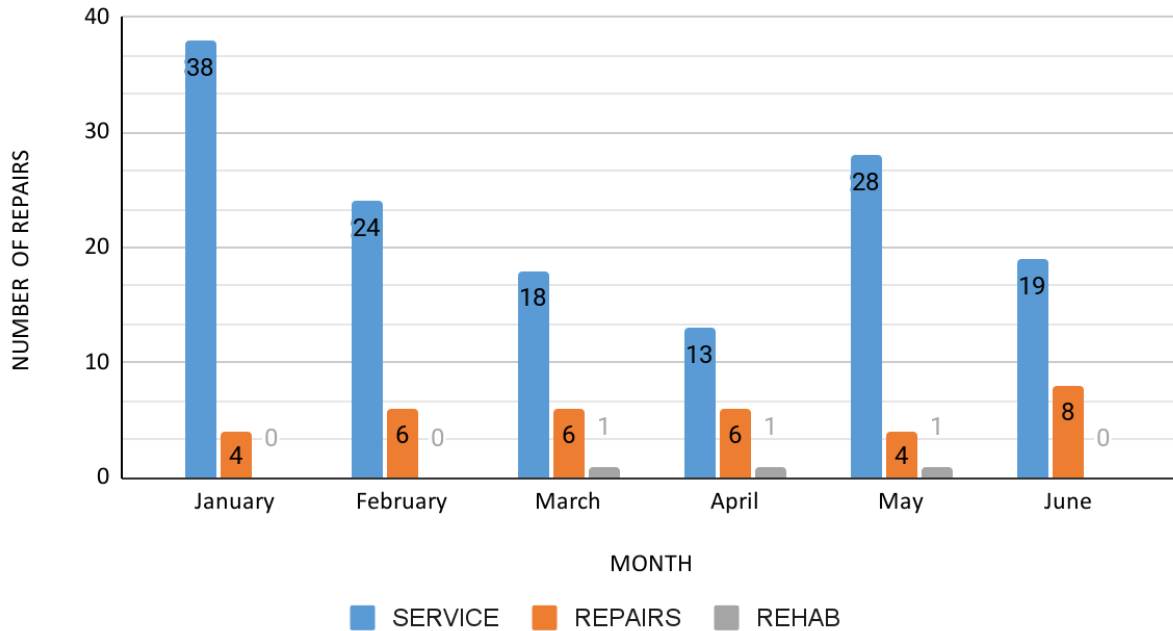
### 1. Water point repairs and rehabilitations



*In the picture, an Area Mechanic repairing the raising main of borehole in Mazinga village during the month*

In order to improve functionality of water points in Kasese the WASH program conducts water point repairs which include preventive and corrective/major maintenance. In June, the WASH program repaired a total of 27 water points (Service/preventive: 19; major repairs: 8). So far in 2023 the WASH program has conducted 37 major repairs. Similarly, 140 preventive maintenances out of the annual targeted 300 have been conducted. Recent data (end of June 2023) on operation and maintenance of water points indicates that 96% of water points are functional in Kasese catchment. Kasese catchment has 319 water points out of which 307 are functional. So far in 2023, approximately MK 1,764,600.00 (\$1800) has been spent by OCA on major repairs. On the other hand, MK 1,208,500.00 (\$1300) has been spent on preventive maintenances by water point committees. On average, K 8,000.00 (\$8) is being spent on preventive maintenance per borehole compared to K 50,000.00 (\$50).

## WATER POINT REPAIRS 2023



## 2. Community Based Management (CBM) training for Water Point Committees (WPCs)

To empower communities towards sustainable operation and maintenance of water points the WASH program conducts Community Based Management (CBM) training for new water points drilled by OCA. During these training communities are trained in minor maintenance of water points, fundraising towards maintenance of water points, community mobilization and water point sanitation. In June, the WASH program trained 1 waterpoint committee for a newly drilled borehole in Jimu village. The training was attended by 11 water point committee members out of which 6 were men and 5 were women. The training was facilitated through collaborative efforts between the OCA WASH program and the government department of water for Dowa. Jimu borehole was drilled in May 2023 by Orant Charities with funding from Orant Charities USA. Currently, the water point is supplying water to approximately 36 households.



*Practical session during CBM training for Jimu WPC*

### **3. Borehole drilling**



*Newly drilled well at Nambola School before handover*

In an effort to increase access to potable water for people around Kasese catchment the WASH program drills wells in areas with limited access to water. In 2023 the WASH program plans to drill 16 wells in Kasese catchment. The WASH program started the borehole drilling exercise for 2023 in May. In June the WASH program drilled 1 well at Nambola school with support from Denton County Brewery who are partners with Orant Charities USA. Nambola borehole is expected to supply water to a population of approximately **400** people (teachers and learners). Before OCA intervention learners and teachers from Nambola were accessing water from neighbouring villages which was at a distance and was a major inconvenience for learners. So far in 2023 the WASH program has drilled a total of 3 wells out of the annual target of 16.

### **4. District Coordination Team (DCT) Meeting**



*A section of stakeholders during DCT meeting in Dowa during the month*

To promote stakeholder coordination the WASH program attends coordination meetings at both community and district level. In June the WASH program was invited to attend the DCT meeting in Dowa. The main agenda for the DCT meeting was to review a new proposed project by United Purpose. During the meeting it was revealed that the new project was a cholera intervention in areas which were heavily hit by the disease earlier in the year. It further revealed that the project will be implemented with funding from UNICEF and will target approximately 30, 000 people. Some of the major interventions in the project include; 20 borehole rehabilitations, water quality monitoring, distribution of sanitation materials and community sensitization on sanitation. Upon understanding of the new project the stakeholders endorsed the project to be implemented in Dowa. During the meeting it was agreed that United Purpose should link up with the district water office and health department on the catchment of this new project.

### **5. Distribution of sanitation materials**

In March 2023, the WASH program started the distribution of sanitation materials in schools to promote sanitation. In June the WASH program delivered sanitation materials to 8 schools. So far under this initiative the WASH program has distributed sanitation materials to 13 out of the targeted 14 institutions. Schools that have already received sanitation materials include; Katalima, Chiwira, Chinguwi, Nambola, Mdinga, Bweya, Ngala, Kalikulu, Katsuka, Kamongo, Niagara, Chilinkholi, Madzo and Nambola. Each school has been provided with three 50L buckets with hand washing taps, three 20L buckets, 6 mops, 6 squeezers, and 6 brushes.



*Handover of sanitation materials are Katsuka primary during the month*

## **Conclusion**

The month of June marks the end of the first half 2023 and the WASH program is satisfied with progress made so far. Among the key interventions in this period, the WASH program has started borehole drilling, trained sanitation entrepreneurs, conducted refresher training for WPCs, conducted a significant number of preventive and corrective maintenance of water points and more importantly engaged most of the relevant stakeholders in program implementation. In view of the achievements, the WASH program is well positioned for the second half of 2023.



# Agriculture and Business

## Agriculture



### Executive Summary

Malawi's economy depends much on farming and OCA supports smallholder farmers to improve their economic status and reduce hunger problems. Its main focus in farming is equipping farmers with the knowledge of sustainable methods of farming. OCA supports smallholder farmers in both irrigation and rainfed farming through the provision of farm inputs microloans and agriculture expertise. Some of the activities conducted during the reporting month have been explained below.

### Irrigation Projects

#### Fertilizer application

Irrigation clubs of Chigona, Tchale, and Tidalilane are cultivating Maize whereby during the reporting period were engaged in top-dressing fertilizer application. The most recommended top-dressing fertilizer in Maize production is UREA hence farmers were encouraged to use this type of fertilizer. OCA supported these irrigation clubs with UREA fertilizer and other agricultural expertise to promote commercial farming. With the aim of reducing the cost of production, farmers were advised to keep practicing using manure, which can reduce the amount of fertilizer applied and improve the texture of the soil.



*Well-fertilized maize crops*

### **Pest and disease control**

Maize production is highly affected by fall armyworms, which reduces crop quality, resulting in a low harvest quantity. The irrigation clubs of Chigona, Madula, and Tidalilane were highly affected by the fall armyworms where OCA supported these irrigation clubs with pesticides and expertise on the application of pesticides. Farmers in these clubs were also trained in the use of traditional ways of controlling these fall armyworms. The use of traditional methods of controlling fall armyworms will reduce the cost of production while attaining high quality and quantity produce.



*Maize crop being attacked with fall armyworm*

## **Pruning and Sucker Removal**

Suckers in tomato production have negative impacts on the harvest. Suckers in tomato production have to be controlled for bumper harvest and quality tomato production. Suckers removal in tomatoes was done to maximize the efficiency of photosynthesis and minimize the risk of pests and disease. Farmers were advised to conduct pruning using knives to reduce problems of wounds to the plant which can also be regarded as entry points of pests and disease.



*Pruning and sucker removal*

## **Staking/mulching**

Tomatoes in irrigation clubs of Madzimayela, Ndalusa, Kasangadzi, and Matchedza are in a fruiting stage where staking is recommended to ensure cleaner and healthier tomato fruits are harvested. Tomato fruits have to be controlled from going off the ground or soil and have to be hoarded up the ground to avoid pests and diseases from penetrating into tomato fruits. The materials used for staking are steaks which are readily available to the community and it is cheaper. Mulching is also recommended which will provide a better place for tomato fruits to rest on. Staked/mulched tomatoes have some advantages as they can be easily sprayed with chemicals to prevent the fruits from pests and diseases attack.

## **Irrigation demonstration plots**

With support from the agriculture partners, two irrigation demonstrations have been set to be held in OCA irrigation clubs. The partners to support these irrigation demonstration sites are Bayer and plant catalyst. Bayer company is showcasing the best maize varieties for irrigation farming which will help smallholder farmers to realize the best maize seeds for commercial production. Plant catalysts encourage a reduction in the use of fertilizers hence it will train farmers on ways they can follow to reduce the use of fertilizers in crop production. These partners will provide farm inputs required for these demonstration sites. The irrigation clubs to conduct these demonstrations are Mvunguti and Chigona.

## **Farm club Progress**

Mwayiwathu farm club has finalized harvesting in the second year of working with OCA hence Marketing is taking place. Mwayiwathu cultivated crops such as Maize, Soya, and groundnuts in the 2022-2023 growing season where OCA is training these farmers in commercial farming. Farmers are encouraged to sell their produce as a club where they can get better bargaining prices. Currently, the exercise for marketing is underway and other buyers have been already consulted to negotiate for better prices.

## **Agro-ecological demonstration farm**

OCA Agro-ecology farm has started taking shape where some other activities such as hole digging and manure application have started taking place. The system will involve the use of manure only to save the purpose of providing nutrients for plant growth. Manure also improves soil organic matter and tilth which is a physical condition that makes soil suitable for growing crops. The project has several advantages to the community as it teaches smallholder farmers how to cultivate their crops without the use of synthetic chemicals which have negative effects on the health of human beings after consumption hence promoting the consumption of chemical-free foods. It will also equip farmers with knowledge of how to integrate several crops within the same piece of land.



*Mixing of manure with topsoil in progress*

### **Conclusion**

As smallholder farmers mostly face the challenge of how to control the cost of production for them to make better profits, OCA agriculture is working with smallholder farmers by promoting the use of manure and integration of several crops within the same piece of land. In order to keep smallholder farmers well covered in the hunger problem, it also encourages smallholder farmers to participate in irrigation farming which comes immediately after the rainy season.

# Business and Financial Empowerment Microloans (FEM)

## Executive Summary

In pursuit of women's economic empowerment, OCA through the financially empowering microloan program, continues to empower women entrepreneurs with business microloans and financial literacy. In the reporting month of June, a number of interventions such as monitoring visits, training and Village savings and loan group meetings were implemented which contributed to the realization of women's economic empowerment. Below, is a narration of the interventions carried out.

## Refresher business training

A two-day refresher training with the Takondwa FEM group from the Kachigamba section was conducted. The training was on bookkeeping and basic marketing concepts. The aim of the training was to remind the women on how they can record and keep business transactions and help them with good marketing practices as they were having difficulties in marketing and distribution of their products and services. The training came as a recommendation after noting the challenges the women were having in recording business transactions. Failure to keep track of business transactions may result in miscalculation of profits hence making wrong decisions that may affect their businesses.



*Takondwa FEM group women during refresher training session*

## **Monitoring visits**

In the just ended month of June, visits to individual businesses were carried out with the aim of assessing total business value. Before disbursing microloans, it is necessary to know the status of individual businesses so that we may assist the women entrepreneurs accordingly. Additionally, the assessment will help us have an understanding how the businesses are faring, if there is business growth and if they can still survive on their own without the microloans.



**Group monitoring visits** were also done to assist the women entrepreneurs in coming up with budgets for the microloans. Budgeting helps the women entrepreneurs determine how much they can afford to borrow and repay within the specified period of time. Again it helps them to be in a position to plan in advance so that when they get the loan, they should spend it accordingly.

## **VSL meetings**

The women entrepreneurs continued to convene for their village savings and loan group meetings. These meetings have proven to be beneficial as it is through these meetings that the women entrepreneurs are able to share business experiences as well as personal troubles that affect them on a daily basis. Again the VSL fund that they keep as a group helps them in tough times. During the first loan period, Tiyanjane FEM group had one defaulter. With the funds raised from the VSL group in one of their Friday meetings, the women entrepreneurs were able to help their fellow member to clear off the loan so that the group can access fresh microloans.

During one of the VSL meetings, the women entrepreneurs were joined by Lynda Baumgartner, Jo Ann Graham, and other visitors from the United States of America. The visitors wanted to learn from women entrepreneurs about their experiences in the FEM program. The visitors also used the meeting as an opportunity to encourage the women entrepreneurs to be vigilant when doing their businesses so that they escape the woes of poverty and become self-reliant.



*Tikondane FEM women during "Bank nkhonde" session*

### **Knitting/ Crochet project**

The women entrepreneurs received donations in the form of yarn and other knitting/ crocheting materials and books which had been donated by well wishers from the United States of America. These materials were brought and delivered to the women entrepreneurs by our US board member Lynda Baumgartner and Knitting/ crocheting champion Jo Ann Graham. The women's knitting and crocheting expertise continues to grow as they have more resources at their disposal.



*Tiyanjane (L) and Tikondane (R) FEM members with Jo Ann*



# Education Support Program

## Executive Summary

A quality education is the best pathway out of poverty. By providing tuition to students, we can ensure OCA's students have the opportunity to thrive in the classroom. Investing in our students now will strengthen the foundation of education and self-sufficiency for Malawian students for years to come, enabling opportunities for youth to lift themselves and their families out of poverty, build successful careers, and become role models in their communities.

The following activities were conducted by the OCA education program in the month of June, 2023.

## School visits and the provision of supplies

The OCA education program visited sponsored students in their respective schools. Four schools were visited during the reporting period; Dowa, Lilongwe girls, Likuni girls and Nkhamenya girls secondary schools. The aim of the visits was to monitor students' academic performance, encourage them to work extra hard in school, and to provide them with material and moral support. A total of 50 students from these 4 schools were also supported with school supplies by the OCA Education program. The supplies which were given to them includes; School bags, Hardcovers, Pens, Pencils, sanitary pads, Buckets and many more.



Nkhamenya girls (left) and Dowa (right) sec. school students after receiving supplies from OCA



*OCA handing over Hardcover and sanitary pads to students at Likuni girls secondary school*

## **Mentorship**

Mentorship helps to shape a student's behaviour and also instill enough discipline in them. Proper guidance helps them achieve their goals and how to do things in the best possible way. In the reporting month, students were visited for mentorship by the OCA education program and visitors from Orant Charities USA including the Executive Director and some Board members. Mn'dinga Primary school, Ngala and Tchawale Community Day Secondary Schools (CDSS) were the schools which were visited for encouragement, support and progress. The visitors were warmly welcomed by the students and the school authorities. They had a wonderful interaction and the students were greatly inspired from what was shared with them.



*OCA At Ngala CDSS (right) and Mn;dinga primary school (left)*

The aim of visiting Mn'dinga and Ngala schools was to have an overview of how primary and secondary schools around Kasese catchment area operate. The visitors were greatly welcomed and had a wonderful time to interact and share stories with students in two classes; standard 5

and form 3. The reason for experiencing this was to know the English speaking and understanding level among primary and secondary students within Kasese.



*OC Executive director and a visitor from US encouraging students at Tchawale CDSS*

## **Library visits**

During the same period, the education program together with visitors from the US also had Library visits to Salima (cool runnings) and Madisi secondary school. OCA is planning on assisting Ngara secondary school with some books in the school's library and also on constructing a community Centre in the future where there will also be a library. The Libraries were visited in order to learn and have a great understanding on how they are being operated and see how best we can empower our local schools and institutions.



*OCA library visit to Salima (left) and Madisi secondary school (right)*

Since OCA is planning on assisting Ngala CDSS Library with some books, visiting the school's library was also done so that we understand their needs and be able to help them accordingly. We were informed that the school lacks some "Question and Model Answer Books" which are there to guide students especially during MSCE exam preparation and also these books help

students come up with good grades. It was then agreed that OCA will buy the books by the following month (July) and also that the Library should be opened even during school holidays in order to create a reading culture to students throughout the school year.



*Library visit at Ngala CDSS*

Additionally, The OCA education program accompanied Librarians from Ngala CDSS to Madisi secondary school Library. The reason for visiting was to learn how the Madisi Library is being operated since they are of the same secondary school category and also neighbouring schools. During the visit a lot of lessons were learnt and shared. Following the visit, the librarians from Ngala appreciated the support from Orant and Madisi Librarian. One of the things they adopted from Madisi is the Library check out system which they have started to implement.



*OCA Education personnels and Ngala Librarians at Madisi Sec. school Library*

## **Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE) Exams**

Out of the 110 secondary school students which OCA is sponsoring this year, 20 students sat for the MSCE exams and they are from 7 different schools. One each from Madisi, Natola, Chaminade, and Ludzi girls Secondary schools. Two from Lilongwe girls, 4 from Tchawale, and 10 from Nkhamenya girls secondary schools. These girls started their exams in June, 2023 and are graduating secondary school in July, 2023. The students were given Mathematical instruments, pens, pencils and Scientific calculators to be used during the exams. OCA is expecting good grades from these students because they are all hard working and have been performing very well throughout their studies.



*MSCE students from Nkhamenya girls (right) and Tchawale CDSS (left)*



*MSCE students from Lilongwe girls sec. school*



