



MAY, 2023

# 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 May 2023, Kasese Health Center (KHC) saw **2301** clients at (OPD). Only **58** patients were seen during weekends and nights. The total number of patients seen in May is **2359** (KHC OPD). MOC in Kasese catchment areas saw **723**. Kasungu (Bowe) Outreach clinic saw **4373** clients. MOC's total number of patients seen is **5096**. The total number of patients seen in May 2023 is **7455** (Dowa: **3082 (41%)** & Kasungu **4373 (59%)**).

The Laboratory department tested **3241** for Malaria, out of which **1493** were positive, representing a **54%** positivity rate. In Dowa, **935** patients were tested and **281(30%)** were positive cases; in Kasungu, **2306** patients were tested and **1467(64%)** were positive.

The Maternity department admitted **28** mothers and referred **13**. A total of **25** babies were born at the facility and **3** were born in transit (BBAs). Out of **28** babies, **4** had complications (Prematurity: **1** and Asphyxia: **3**). The total Maternity attendance was **41** (**28** admissions and **13** referrals).

The HTS department tested **202** clients, of which **3** were positive, representing **1%**.

The total number of patients seen at the eye clinic by an outsourced clinician is **36** and **6** were booked for surgery.

The MOC team managed to conduct all **20** scheduled visits in the month representing **100%**

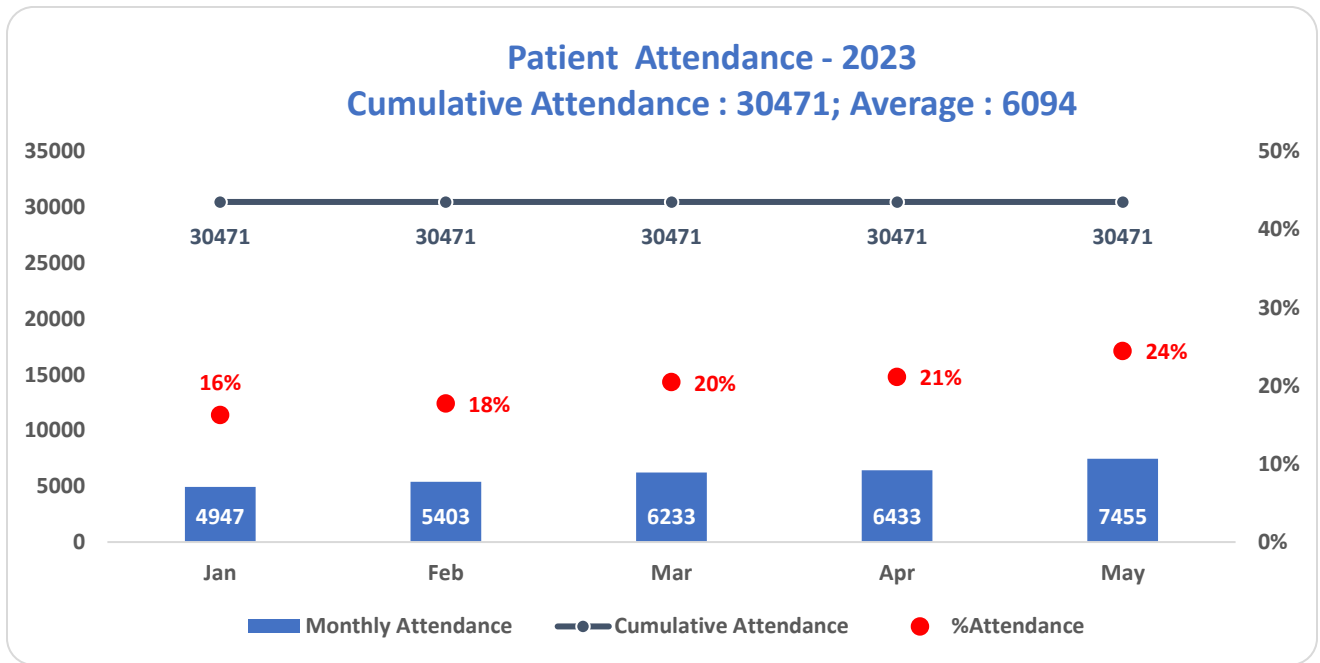
## Monthly Patients Attendance

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

Months (2023)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
OPD Static	1755	1680	2385	1978	2301	<b>10099</b>
Bowe MOC	2481	3188	3005	3523	4373	<b>16570</b>
Kasese MOC	667	489	803	876	723	<b>3558</b>
Nights/Holidays	44	46	40	56	58	<b>244</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4947</b>	<b>5403</b>	<b>6233</b>	<b>6433</b>	<b>7455</b>	<b>30471</b>

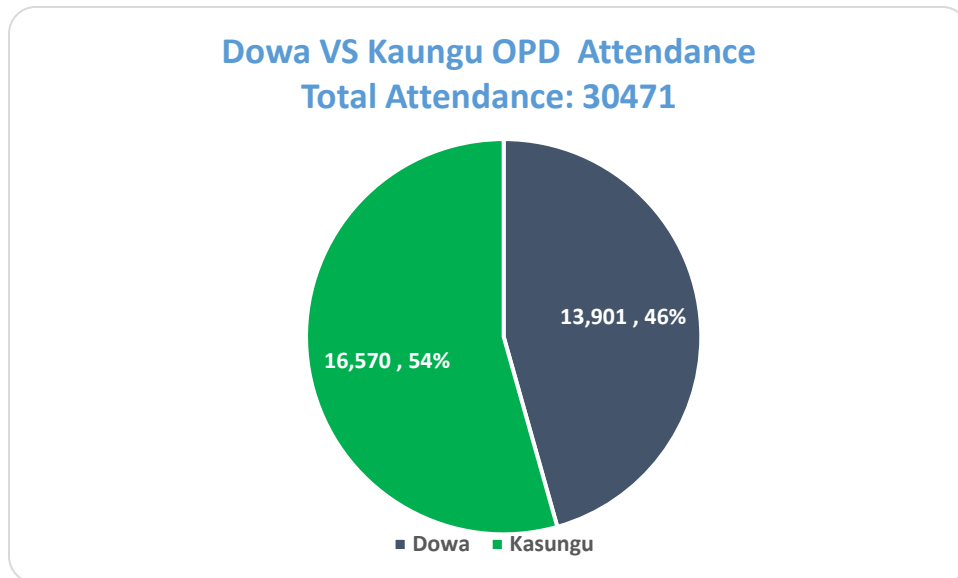
**Table 1: Total monthly patients seen at Dowa and Kasungu (2023).**

Figure 1 below shows the total OCA patient attendance in 2023



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

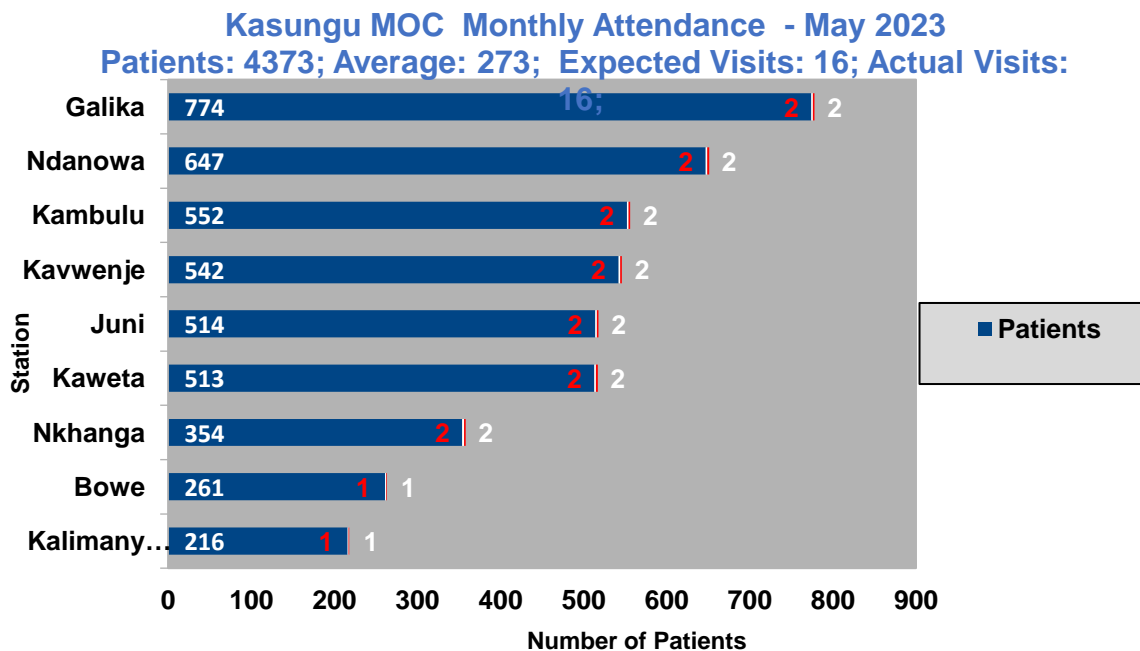
Figure 2 below shows the cumulative patient attendance for OCA healthcare program in 2023



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

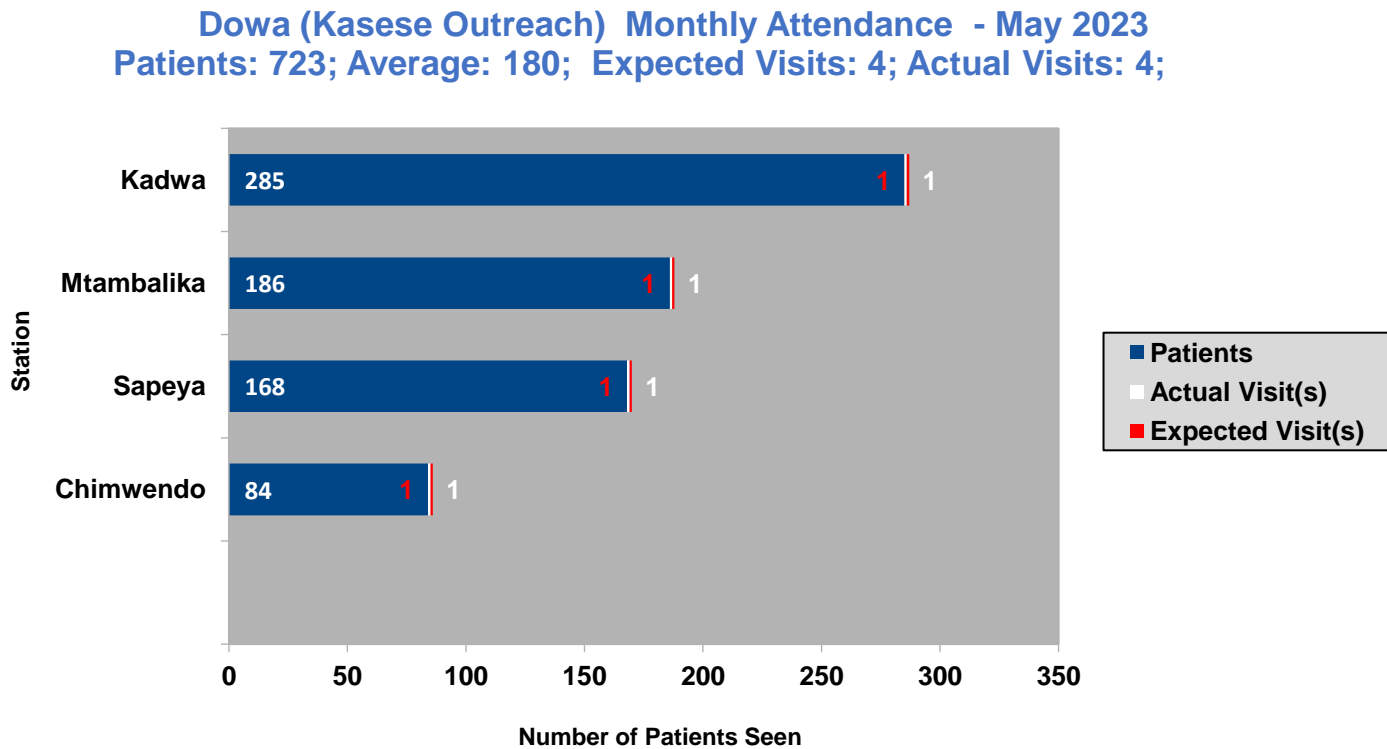
### OCA MOC Updates

Figure 3 below shows the Kasungu patient attendance for May 2023



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

Figure 4 below shows the Dowa patient attendance for May 2023



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

### COVID -19 Situation Updates

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

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

Table 2 below shows Cumulative COVID-19 Data.

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

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

**4.2 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)**

**4.3 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)**

**4.4 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)**

#### 4.5 COVID 19 Vaccine Status – KHC Static.

Table 6 below shows Vaccine Status in May 2023

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

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

### Reproductive and Family Planning Health

#### 5.1 Maternal and New-born Health Care

Months	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
Admissions	38	44	36	30	28	176
Referrals	13	8	14	15	13	63
New Babies	38	44	36	30	28	176
Alive Babies	38	44	35	29	28	174
Facility Deliveries	33	36	32	29	25	155

**Table 7: Maternity Data - 2023**

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

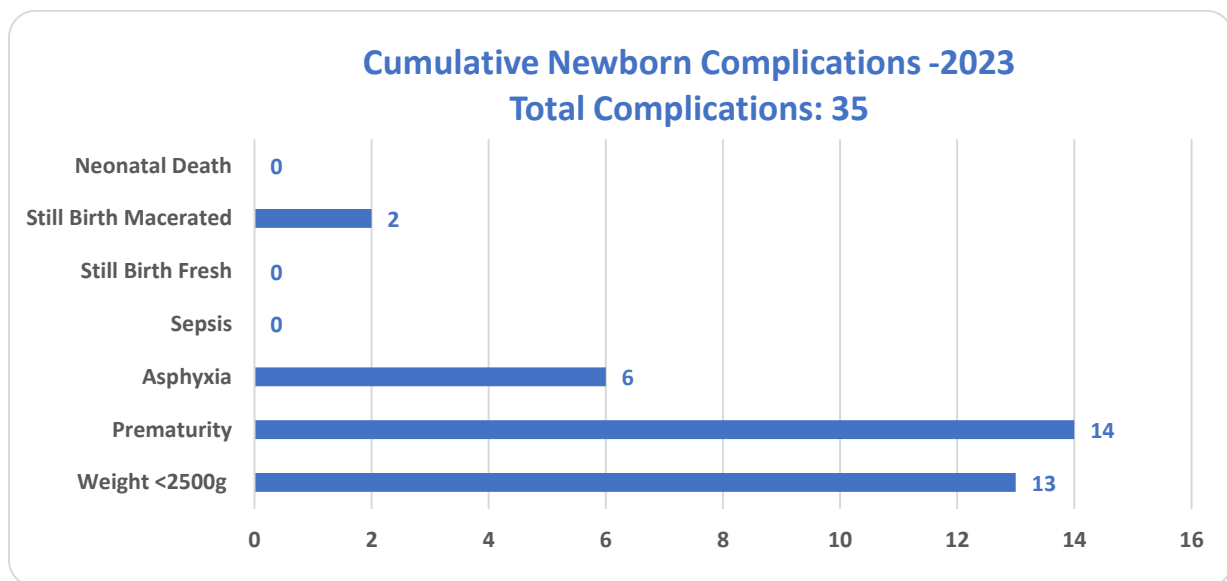
Months (2023)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
Weight <2500g	2	1	7	3	0	13
Prematurity	4	7	1	1	1	14
Asphyxia	1	1	0	1	3	6
Sepsis	0	0	0	0	0	0



<b>Still Birth Fresh</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Still Birth Macerated</b>	0	0	1	1	0	2
<b>Neonatal Death</b>	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>35</b>

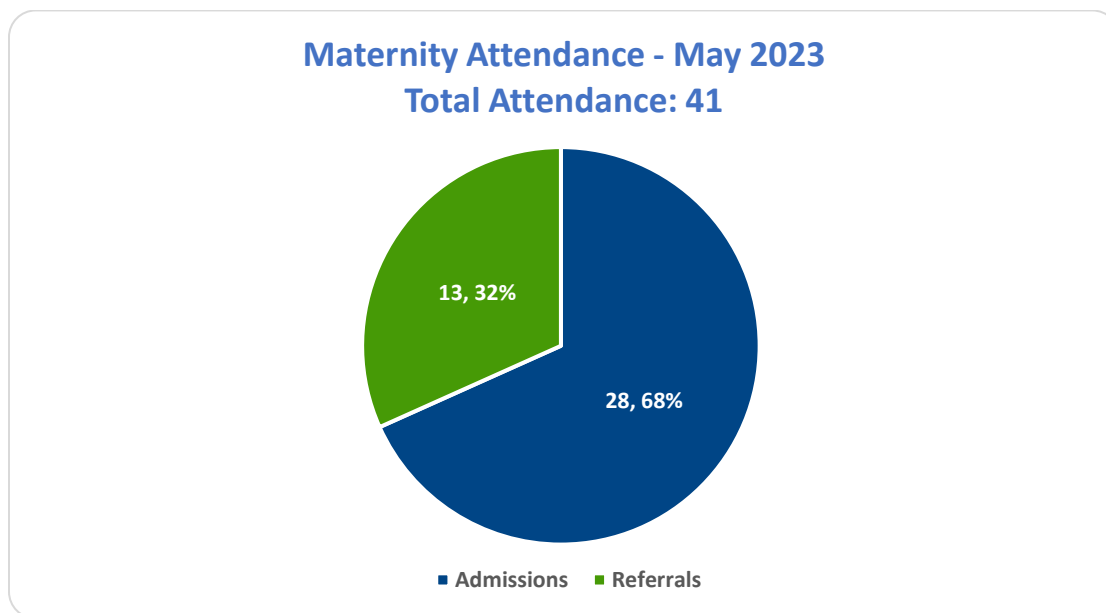
**Table 8: Newborns with complications – 2023**

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 (May 2023)**

Table 9 below shows the reason for the referrals

<b>Referral Reason</b>	<b>Referred</b>
Foetal Distress	<b>1</b>
Pre-eclampsia	<b>1</b>
Obstructed Prolonged Labour	<b>4</b>
Young Prim	<b>2</b>
Previous Bad Obstetric History	<b>1</b>
Malpresentation	<b>1</b>
Severe Malnutrition in pregnancy	<b>1</b>
Premature Labour	<b>2</b>

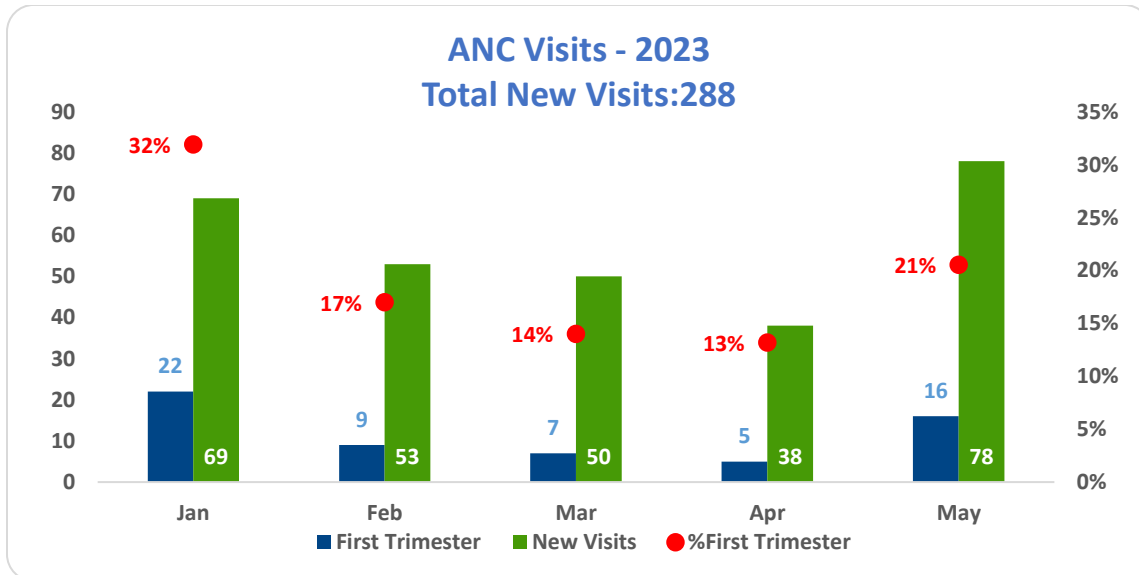
**Table 9: Referral Reasons - May 2023**

Table 10 below shows ANC attendance.

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

**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.

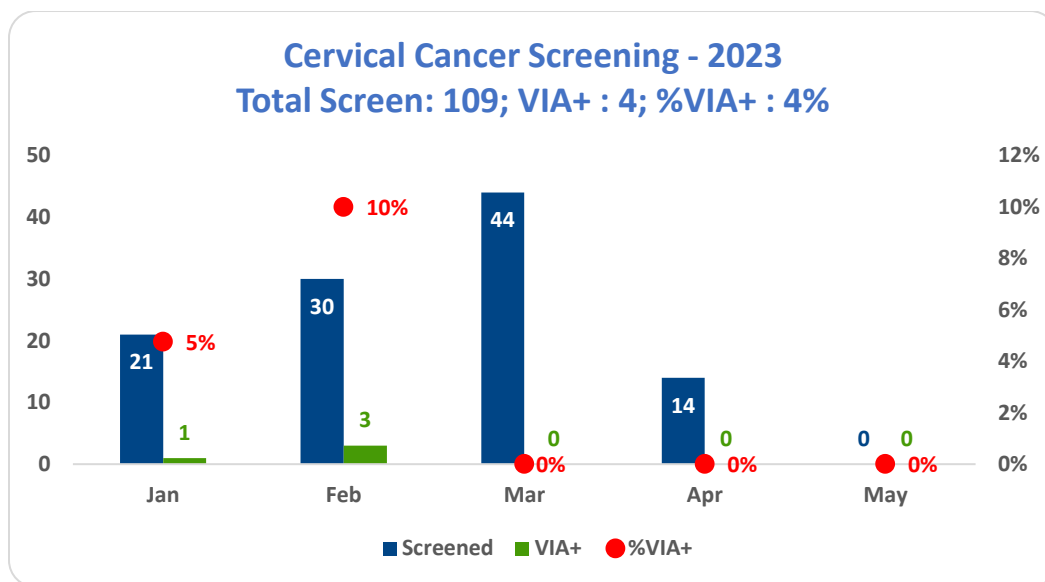
Months	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
<b>Total</b>	21	30	44	14	0

<b>VIA Positive</b>	1	3	0	0	0
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**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

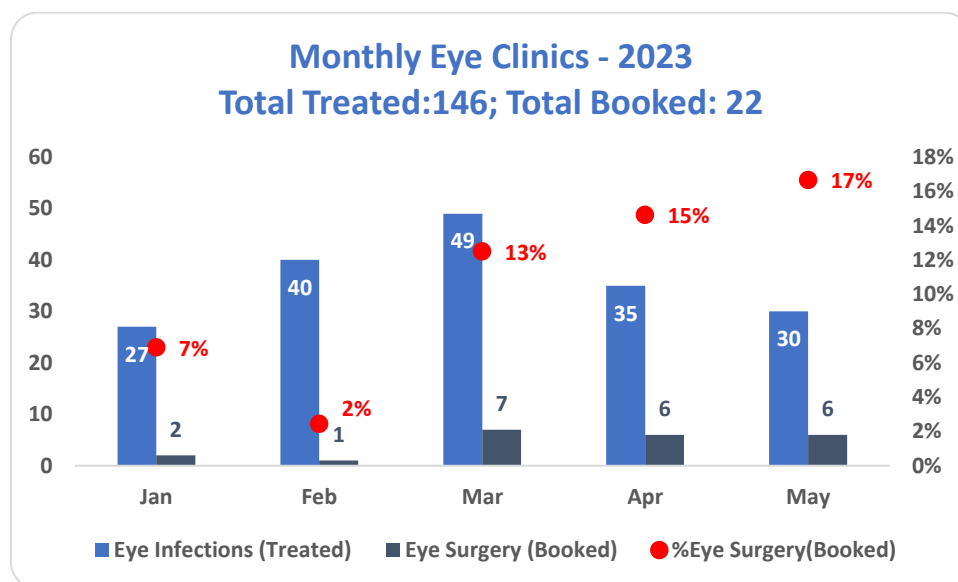
The outsourced eye specialist continues to provide service in Kasese Health Center and operation is done at Kasungu District Hospital.

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

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

	Total Tested	Positives	Negatives	Positivity Rate
<b>Under 5</b>	<b>989</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>46%</b>
<b>5 Years and Over</b>	<b>2252</b>	<b>1297</b>	<b>955</b>	<b>64%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3241</b>	<b>1748</b>	<b>1493</b>	<b>54%</b>

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

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

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

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

The Health Center observed a slight increase in malaria cases despite the following timely interventions, including the distribution of insect-treated nets and their usage education in the community.

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

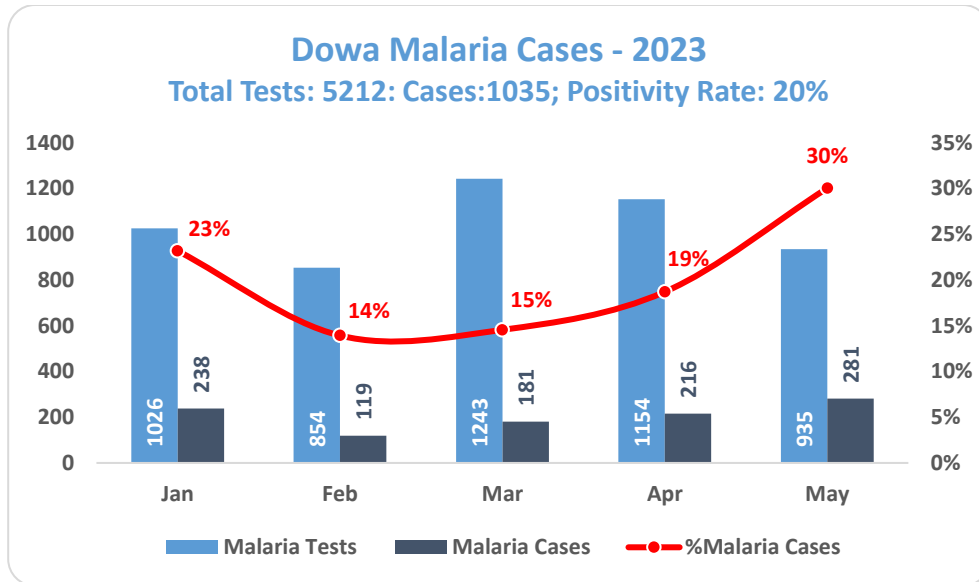
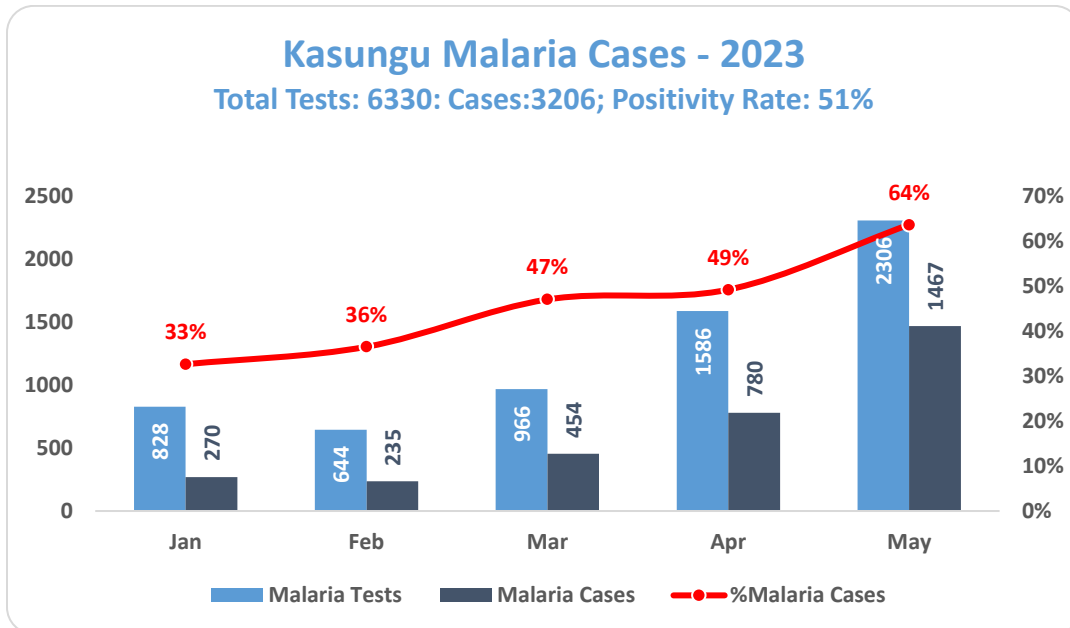
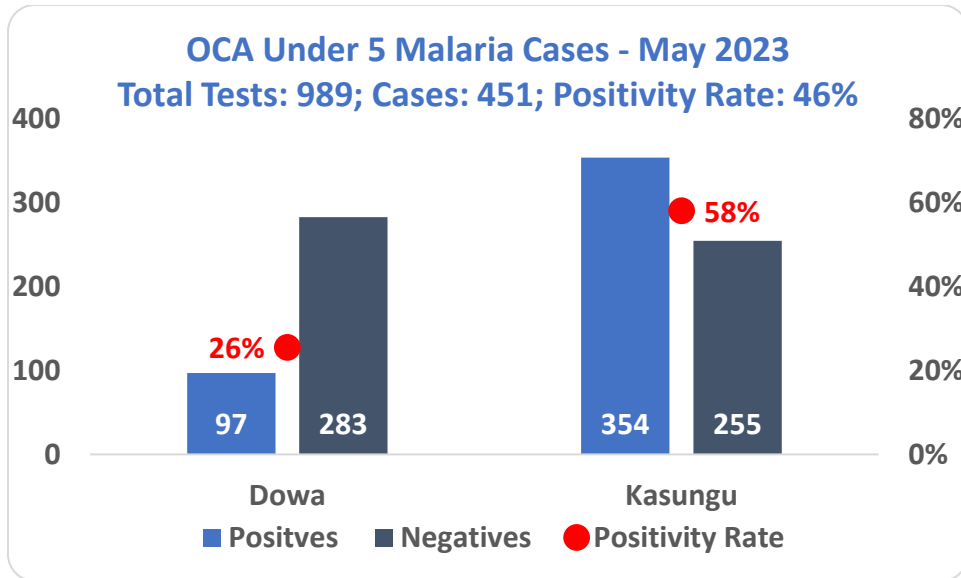


Figure 11 shows the total OCA Clinics Malaria tests (Kasungu, 2023)



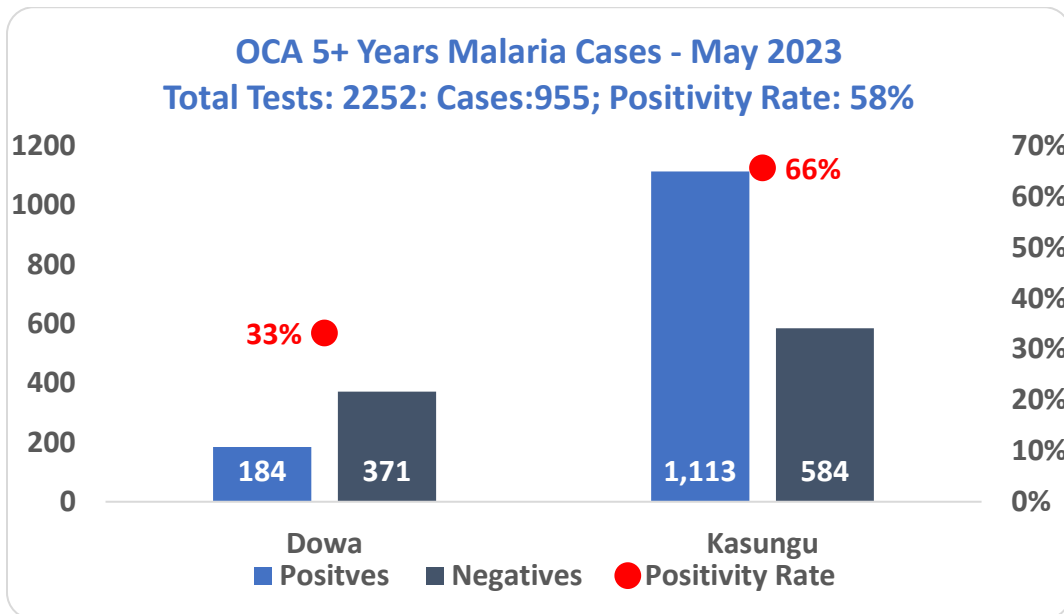
**Figure 11: OCA Clinics Malaria tests (Kasungu, 2023).**

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



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

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



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

**HIV Testing Services (HTS)**

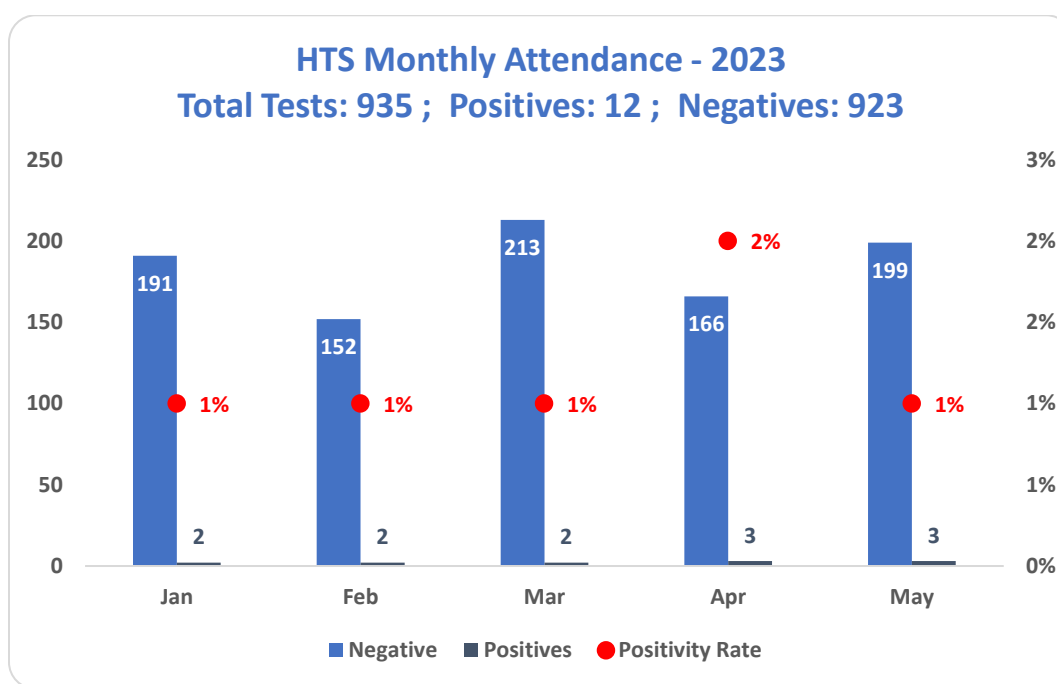


Months	Total Tested	Positives	Positivity Rate
January	193	2	1%
February	154	2	1%
March	215	2	1%
April	169	3	2%
May	202	3	1%

**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**

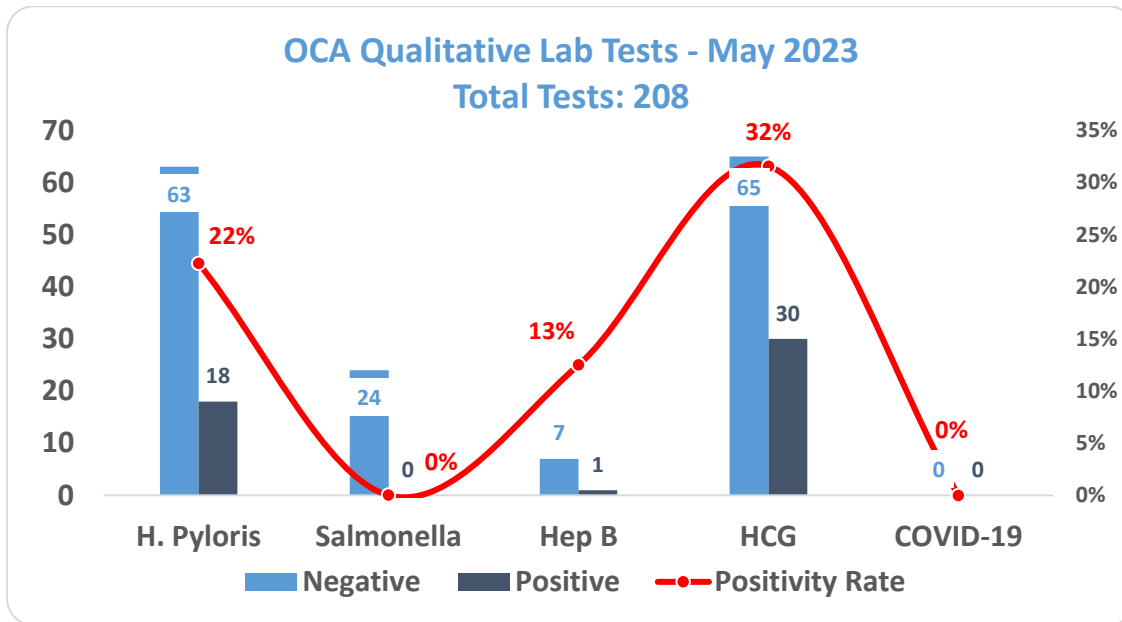
## 9. Laboratory Services.

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
May	81	1	24	0	8	1	65	30	0	0
		8								

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

Figure 15 below shows qualitative lab tests – May 2023



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

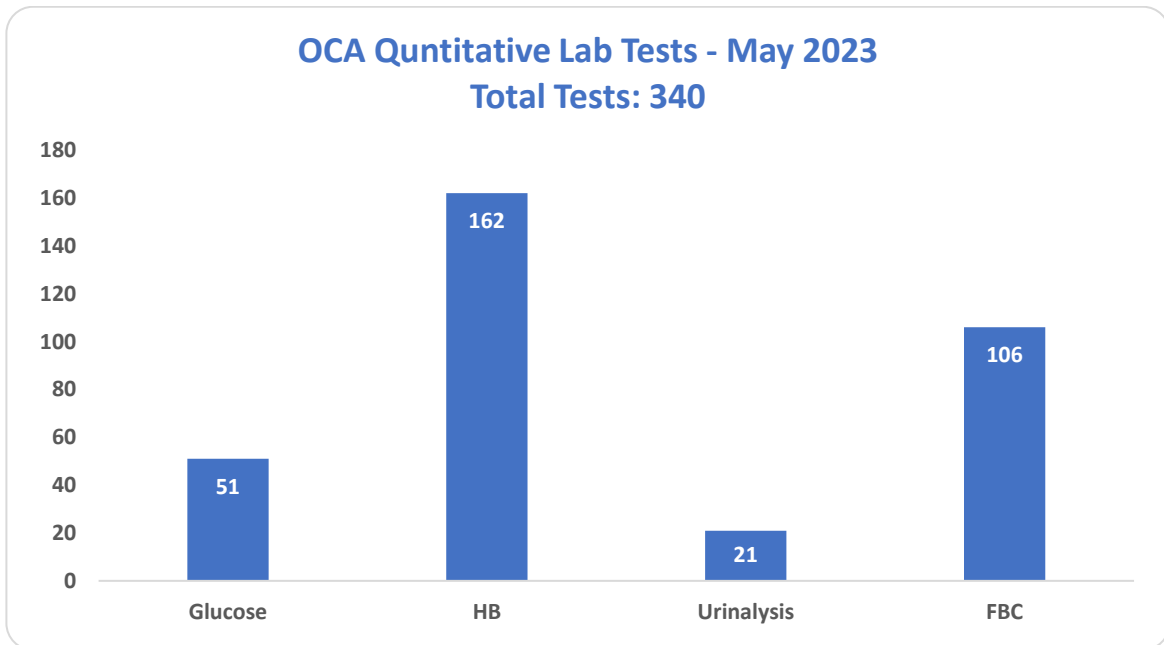
Table 17 below shows OCA clinics quantitative Laboratory tests conducted in 2023.

	Glucose	HB	Urinalysis	FBC
Jan	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>Total</b>	581	661	110	651

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

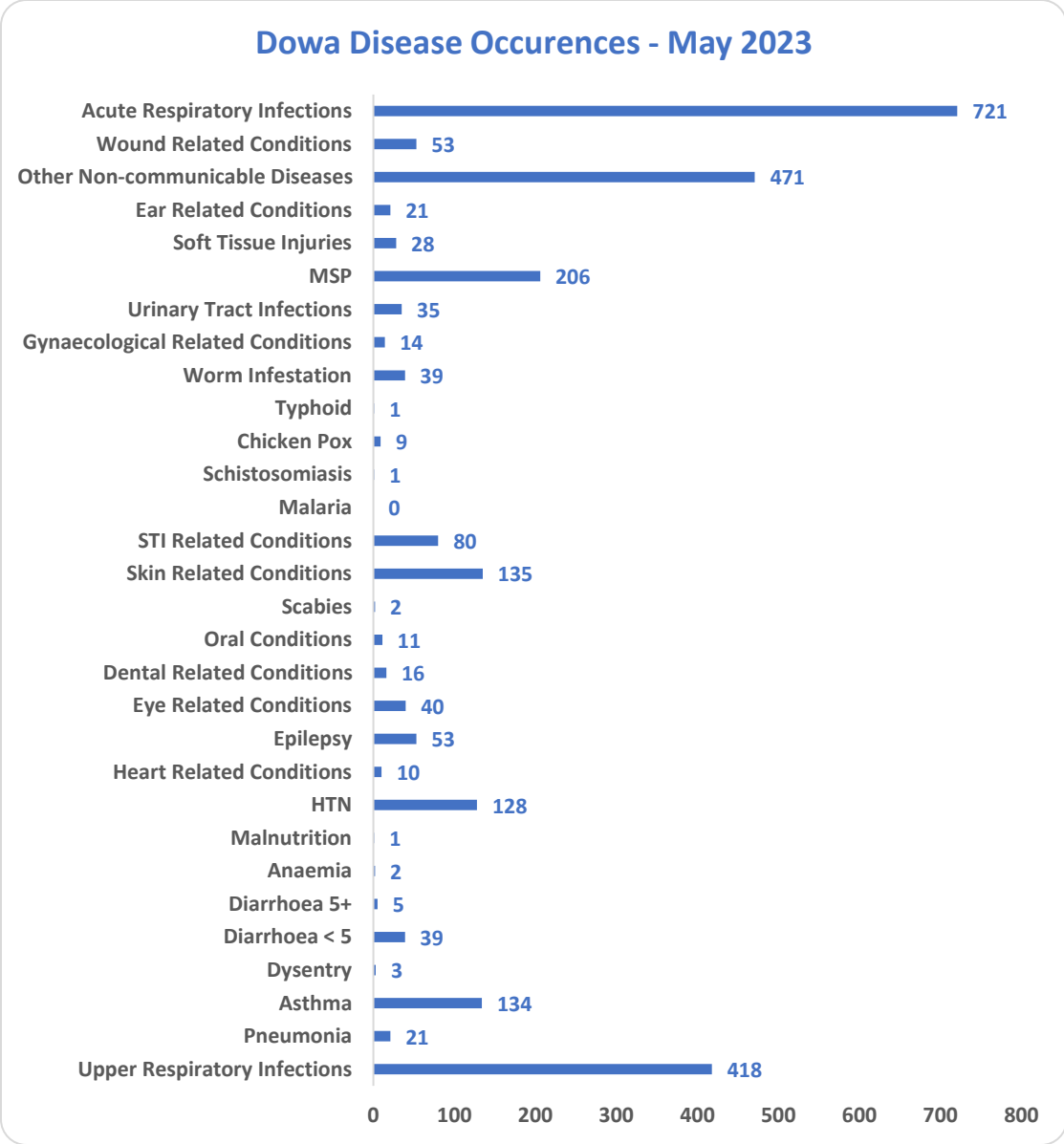
Figure 16 shows quantitative lab tests for the year 2023



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

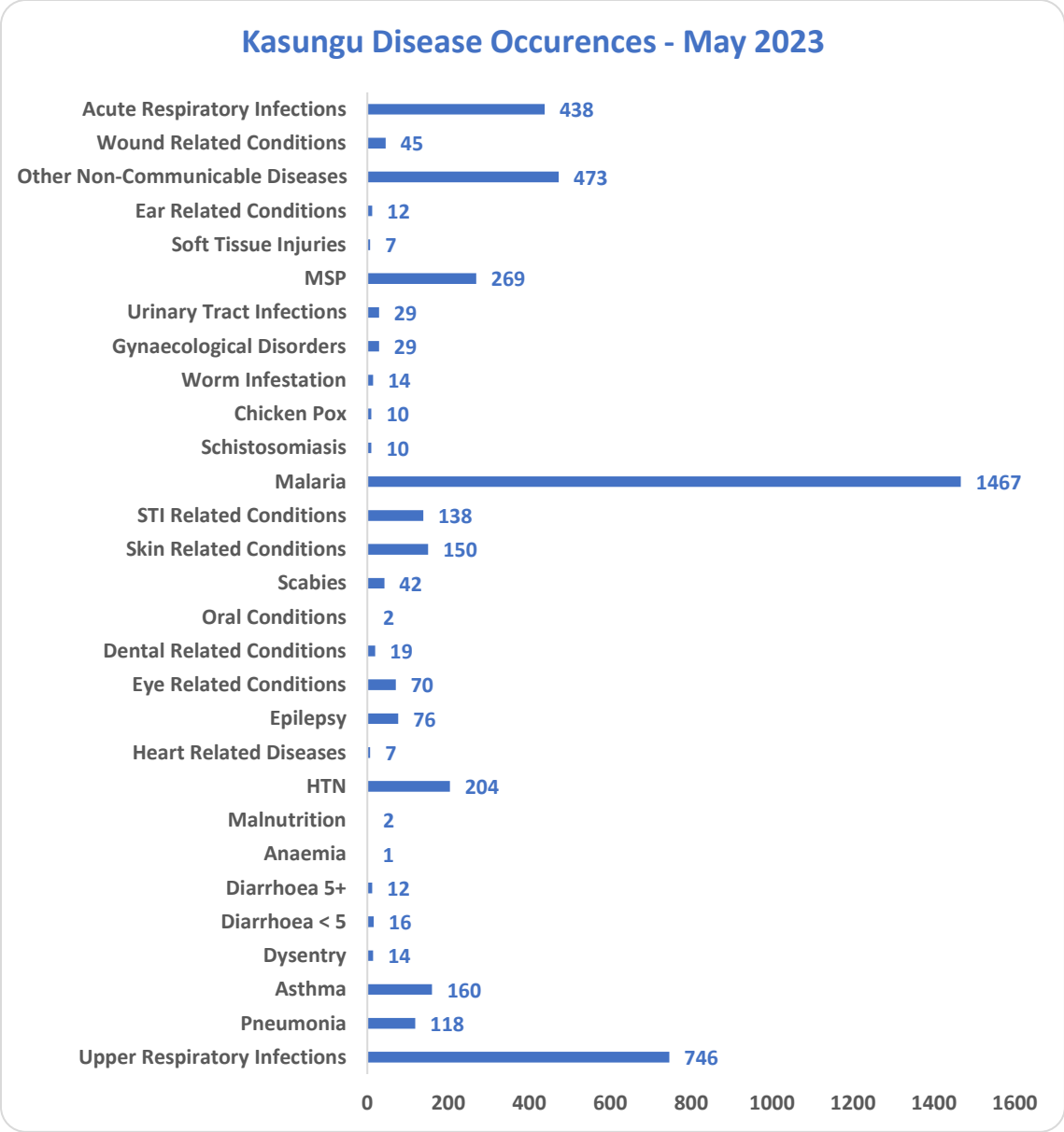
**10. Disease Group Trends.**

Figure 17 below shows Dowa disease occurrences for May 2023



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

Figure 18 below shows Kasungu disease occurrences for May 2023.



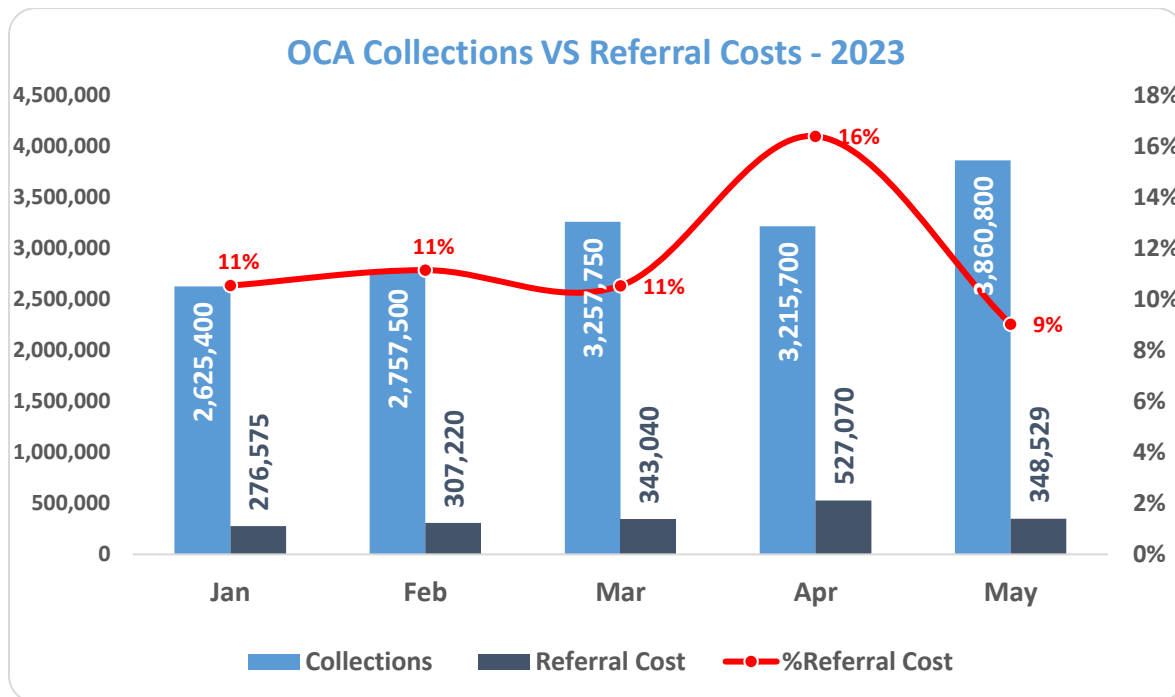
**Figure 18: Kasungu Disease Occurrences (May 2023).**

**B. Healthcare Finance and Administration**

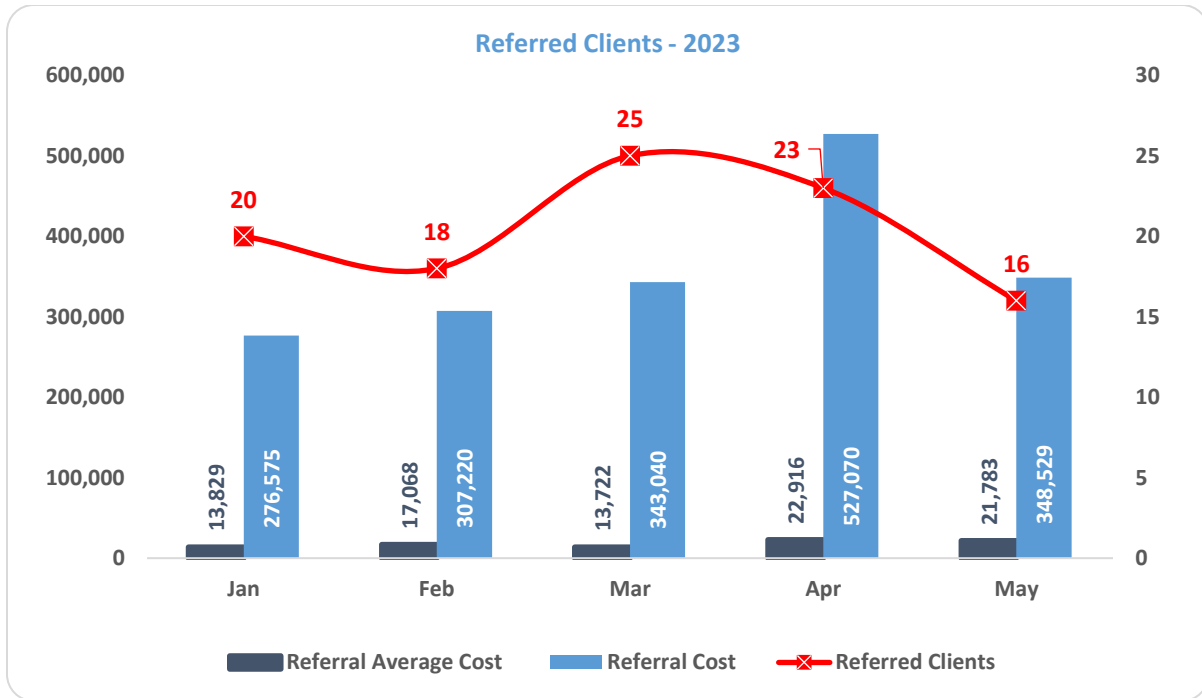
Table 18 shows the clinic finance table for 2023.

2023	Collection	Referrals	Clients	Referral Cost	Average
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	

**Table 18: Clinic Finances – 2023.**



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



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

## C. Achievements and Challenges

### 1. Success Highlights

#### i. Data interpretation.

- There is a sharp increase in the number of prenatal attendance in comparison with other months.
- There is a decreasing number of premature babies since January 2023.

#### ii. Continuous Professional Development.

- The following staff attended a 3-day training in Quality Improvement which was organized by the Ministry of Health through Dowa District Health Office; Bett, Patricia, Princess, Linda, and Gosten.
- Linda Phiri and Treaser Banda attended a training on Postpartum Hemorrhage (PPH).

#### iii. HIV care.

- The Health Centre received a supervisor from the Ministry of Health (MOH) who came to activate the HIV testing site to start 3 test algorithms, using triple test that is, HIV Bioline, Determine and



Unigold. Also, testing Syphilis and Hepatitis testing at the same time, especially pregnant women. They provided a smartphone for scanning the report forms and for using them to remit the reports.

- iv. Malaria medicine and test kits.
  - The Health Centre has stopped using anti-malarial medicine to MOC which is meant for Dowa District. Henceforth, the MOC team will be getting anti-malarial from Kasungu District at the nearest Government Health Centre.
- v. The Health Centre continues to administer COVID-19 vaccines.
- vi. The Health Centre continues to assist the destitute patients with bus fare and hospital bills payment after being referred for secondary treatment.
- vii. There is good communication between MOC and MOH staff in Kasungu
- viii. The maternity building renovations are progressing well.

## **2 Challenge Highlights**

- i. Data interpretation.
  - From the malaria graph above, there is a steady increase in malaria positivity rate from 15% in March to 30% in the month of May in Kasese health centre. While in Kasungu mobile outreach Clinics the increase is seen from February 2023 until May 2023.
  - There is an increase in maternity referrals in the month of May and the leading reason is Obstructed Prolong Labour (OPL).
  - There is a sharp increase in the number of asphyxia babies in this reporting month, most of them are due to mothers taking traditional medicine to precipitate labour.
  - There were no women screened for cervical cancer because there was a delay in procuring new reagents.
- ii. MOC trailer is still under maintenance.
- iii. MOC team is lobbying for pharmacy personnel.

## **Appendices**

## Appendix A: May 2023 MOC Schedule

MAY 2023 OUTREACH CLINIC SCHEDULE					
DATE	DAY	STATION	DISTRICT	ACTIVITY	TIME
1	Monday	Labour Day		Labour Day	
2	Tuesday	Nkhanga	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am - 3:00pm
3	Wednesday	Kavwenje	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am - 3:00pm
4	Thursday	Kaweta	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am - 3:00pm
5	Friday	Mtambalika	Dowa	Outreach clinic	08:00am - 4:00pm
6	Saturday	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend
7	Sunday	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend
8	Monday	Kambulu	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am - 3:00pm
9	Tuesday	Juni	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am - 3:00pm
10	Wednesday	Kantophole	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am - 3:00pm
11	Thursday	Losito	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am - 3:00pm
12	Friday	Kadwa	Dowa	Outreach clinic	08:00am - 4:00pm
13	Saturday	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend
14	Sunday	Kamuzu Day		Kamuzu Day	
15	Monday	Kamuzu day off		Kamuzu Day off	

16	Tuesday	Galika	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am 3:00pm	-
17	Wednesday	Ndanowa	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am 3:00pm	-
18	Thursday	Chisuwe	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am 3:00pm	-
19	Friday	Sapeya	Dowa	Outreach clinic	08:00am 4:00pm	-
20	Saturday	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend	
21	Sunday	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend	
22	Monday	Kalimanyungu	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am 3:00pm	-
23	Tuesday	Miyowe	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am 3:00pm	-
24	Wednesday	Kaweta	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am 3:00pm	-
25	Thursday	Bowe	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am 3:00pm	-
26	Friday	Chimwendo	Dowa	Outreach clinic	08:00am 4:00pm	-
27	Saturday	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend	
28	Sunday	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend	
29	Monday	Juni	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am 3:00pm	-
30	Tuesday	Galika	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am 3:00pm	-
31	Wednesday	Preparation day		Preparation Day		

# Water and Sanitation Program



*improved sanitation slabs*

## **Executive Summary**

The WASH program is excited about the progress made in 2023 so far in the promotion of access to WASH services in the Kasese catchment. More importantly, for the WASH program the month of May signifies the beginning of the borehole drilling season which brings hope to the communities with limited access to potable water. The just ended month was among the busiest months for the WASH program due to several major activities which were implemented. Therefore, this write-up provides an overview of major activities which were conducted by the WASH program in May.

## **Summary Of Monthly Achievements**

In May the following milestones were achieved;

- Supported **34** water point repairs (Service/preventive: **28**; repairs: **5**; Rehabilitated:**1**)
- Conducted refresher water point committee training for Kansale WPC
- Drilled **2** boreholes in Jimu and Nguluwe
- Trained **10** sanitation entrepreneurs in corbelled latrine construction and pit latrine slab casting

- Conducted sensitization campaigns for **6** VDCs in Chikwawe I, Chikwangula, Makombwa I, Makombwa II, Inje and Kachila

## **DETAILED NARRATION OF MONTHLY ACHIEVEMENTS**

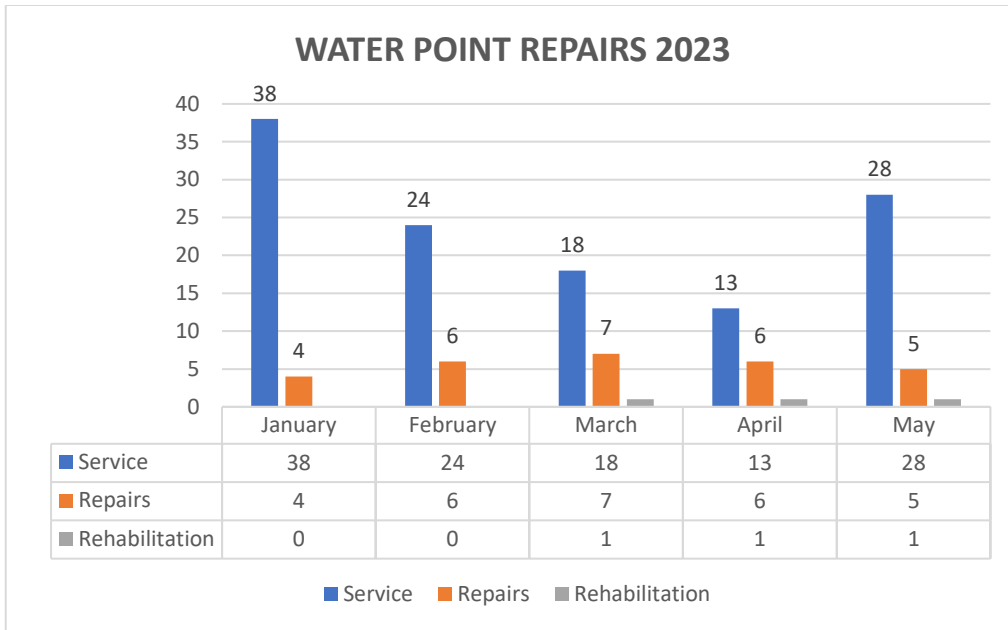
The WASH program carried out the following key activities in April 2023.

### **Water point repairs and rehabilitations**



*Afridev pump Area mechanic repairing raising main for a borehole in Mazinga village during the month*

Statistics in the sub-Saharan region indicate that 1 in 4 hand pumps are non-functional at a given time. Sustainable Operation and Maintenance (O & M) of hand pumps is key in dealing with this persistent challenge. Water point repairs are a key component of O&M which has the potential to improve the sustainability of rural water supply services. The OCA WASH program in collaboration with Area Mechanics conducts water point repairs for all boreholes/hand pumps within the Kasese catchment. In May, the WASH program repaired a total of **34** water points (Service/preventive: **26**; Repairs: **5**; Rehab: **1**). So far in 2023 the WASH program has conducted **26** major repairs, **121** preventive maintenances and **4** rehabilitations. The annual target for the WASH program is to conduct a maximum of 50 major repairs and a minimum of 300 preventive maintenances.



*Graph showing water point repairs conducted by the WASH program from January to May 2023*

### **Refresher Water Point Committee (WPC) training**

To ensure that communities have up-to-date skills in the management of their water points, the WASH program conducts refresher trainings for water point committees (WPC). In May, the WASH program conducted a refresher training for Kansale WPC. The Kansale borehole was rehabilitated by OCA some years back and some of the committee members were not trained. So far in 2023, the WASH program has trained 6 WPCs (3 WPCs from 2022 and 3 refresher training).



*Practical session during refresher training for Kansale WPC*

## Borehole Drilling and Construction



*Left – A new borehole donated by OCA in Nguluwe village, Right- A new borehole donated by OCA in Jimu village*

The month of May is the beginning of the borehole drilling season for the WASH program. In May the WASH program drilled 2 boreholes in Nguluwe and Jimu village. The borehole in Jimu village is expected to support approximately 300 people. Similarly, the borehole in Nguluwe village is expected to support approximately 200 people. Before the OCA intervention both the people in Jimu and Nguluwe village were accessing water from a borehole which was far away in a nearby village which made some community members to walk long distance, put much stress on that one borehole and in the end, others relied on unprotected shallow wells for their source of water. Currently, both the boreholes in Jimu and Nguluwe villages are in use.

### **Village Development Committees (VDCs) Sensitization Campaigns**

In late April the WASH program started conducting VDC sensitization campaigns. The campaign aimed to mobilize communities towards the new sanitation marketing project in which entrepreneurs are expected to be trained in corbelled latrine construction and pit latrine slab casting. As a continuation of the sensitization campaigns in May, the WASH program visited 6 VDCs from Chikwawe 2, Chikwangula, Makombwa 1, Makombwa 2, Inje and Kachila.

As an outcome during the VDCs sensitization campaigns community members nominated 1 person from their VDC to be trained in Corbelled latrine construction

and pit latrine casting. Following the campaigns, a total of 10 people were nominated for sanitation training. Once trained the 10 people will be selling pit latrine slabs and constructing corbelled latrines at an agreed price with the communities.



*A section of participants during the VDC meeting for Chikwangula and Chikwawe 2*

### **Sanitation Entrepreneurs training**

Sanitation Entrepreneurs are individuals either trained or untrained who invest in solutions for sanitation problems by offering different sanitation products and services at an appropriate price thereby promoting access to sanitation. In the context of the OCA WASH program sanitation entrepreneurs will be responsible for the construction of corbelled latrines and casting pit latrines which will be sold to the communities at an appropriate price agreed with the communities. Corbelled latrines herein referred to as **Mwamuna Apumule (A man should rest)** in Chichewa are a low-cost design of pit latrines which have a dorm-shaped brick-lined substructure and use mud as mortar but are durable and can last on average 7 years without collapsing. Similarly, a Pit latrine slab is a platform usually made of concrete which is placed over a vault/ pit with a drop hole into which a user excretes.

During the month the WASH program trained a total of 10 sanitation entrepreneurs from 10 VDCs from around the Kasese catchment namely; Kachila, Chikwawe 2,



Makombwa 1, Makombwa 2, Inje, Nambela 1, Nambela 2, Bweya, Joseni and Chikwangula. The training was conducted for 5 days from the 29<sup>th</sup> of May to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2023 at the OCA campus. The training was facilitated by OCA WASH program staff in collaboration with two facilitators from CCAP Smart in Mzuzu. Apart from the 10 entrepreneurs also in attendance during the training were the 17 Health Surveillance Assistants (HSAs) from Kasese Health Centre and Water Monitoring Assistant (WMA) from the Dowa district water office. Some of the key topics offered during the training included practical lessons in the construction of corbelled latrines and pit latrine slabs such as dorm shaped-round slabs, flat-round slabs as well as rectangular flat slabs. During the training, participants were also trained in sanitation marketing which is key in fostering demand for sanitation materials. Following the training the 10 trained sanitation entrepreneurs were issued with certificates of attendance.

The sanitation Entrepreneurs' training was a response to the demand from communities around Kasese on the need for low-cost technologies to promote sanitation in the area. Furthermore, the training was also conducted in response to the low coverage in terms of access to sanitation services and compared to water access in the Kasese area. This was more substantiated by the data from Kasese health center environmental health department which indicated that access to sanitation is at 50% while access to water is at 94% in the catchment.



*Left above- Early stages in the lining process of a corbelled latrine, Right above- Final stages in the lining process of a corbelled latrine*



**Left above** – Finalized corbelled latrine substructure construction pending construction of the superstructure,

**Right above** – Construction of a flat rectangular latrine during sanitation entrepreneurs' training



**Left above** – Classroom session during sanitation entrepreneurs' training. **Right above** – Sanitation entrepreneurs posing with certificates of attendance after the training



**Left above** – Early stages in the construction of a dorm-shaped pit latrine slab, **Right above** – Completed dorm-shaped pit latrine during the sanitation entrepreneurs' training

## **Lessons Learnt**

- There is a lot to be done in the promotion of sanitation for the WASH program considering the low coverage of sanitation services in the Kasese catchment.
- Sanitation entrepreneurs have the potential of assisting in improving access to sanitation through the provision of affordable sanitation services in the Kasese catchment.

## **Conclusion**

The month of May was exciting, especially with the beginning of the drilling season and the training of newly introduced sanitation entrepreneurs. The WASH program is geared up for June with the impending mission visit by the Orant Charities USA team who are always an inspiration for the OCA team in Malawi.

# Agriculture and Business

## Agriculture

### Introduction

Malawi's economy depends much on farming and OCA supports smallholder farmers to improve their economic status and reduce hunger problems. OCA's 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 agricultural expertise. Some of the activities conducted during reporting month have been outlined below.

### OCA Farm club

Mwayiwathu is a farm club under the OCA agriculture department and is in its second year working with OCA as a farm club. During the production year of 2022-2023, Mwayiwathu cultivated crops such as Maize, Soya, and groundnuts. Currently, Mwayiwathu has finalized harvesting whereby the produced products are ready for market. Marketing activity is underway whereby other buyers have been consulted for discussion for better price offers. The production season faced some challenges such as a prolonged rainy season which resulted in the rotting of crops on the farm and diseases which attacked soya resulting in low yields. Despite these challenges, farmers will still make a profit from the harvest. The crops have not been sold yet.

The table below shows the profit/loss for the Mwayiwathu farm club using the current Market prices.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Maize outcome</b>	<b>Soya outcome</b>	<b>G/nuts outcome</b>	<b>Total output</b>	<b>Total input (Loan)</b>	<b>Profit (+)/ Loss(-)</b>
Daniel Lingison	587,500	184,250	-	771,750	324,800	446,950
Labson Kambwita	988,500	143,000	-	1,131,500	325,600	805,900
Elias Gidion	570,000	91,850	-	661,850	368,560	293,290
Monica Banda	821,500	151,250	-	972,750	343,600	629,150
Feleyi Jestar	552,500	83,050	-	635,550	379,600	255,950
Teleza Banda	1,019,500	141,900	-	1,161,400	337,600	823,800
Regina Phiri	1,062,000	-	666,000	1,728,000	446,960	1,281,040
Aaron Chiwale	1,039,500	-	558,000	1,597,500	434,320	1,163,180
Dumancy Mtengowamina	620,000	-	324,000	944,000	504,760	439,240
Lyness Nkhungu	612,000	-	594,000	1,206,000	467,800	738,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,873,000</b>	<b>795,300</b>	<b>2,142,000</b>	<b>10,810,300</b>	<b>3,933,600</b>	<b>6,876,700</b>

### **OCA Farm production**

OCA cultivated Maize, Soya, and Groundnuts on the newly bought land. During the reporting month, harvesting has been a major activity taking place. Harvesting occurred with special attention to minimize postharvest losses. The farm faced challenges during the production period such as erosion due to heavy rains the area received. Other challenges such as disease and rotting of the crops also affected the quantity harvested. Despite the challenges faced during the production period, OCA is expecting profit from the quantity harvested.

The table below shows the profit/loss for OCA production.

Description	Quantity (bags)	total kgs	unit price	total output
Maize	562	28,100	500	14,050,000
g/nuts	7	21	6,000	126,000
Soya	5	300	550	165,000
Demo harvest	21	1,050	700	735,000
				<b>15,076,000</b>

Total input = Mk 8, 638,000

Profit/loss= Total output – Total input

= Mk15,076,000 – Mk 8, 638,000

**=Mk 6,438,000**

As the produce is being taken to the warehouse, treating from weevil attack is more important as weevils can easily damage and cause losses to already harvested produce. Weevils can cause 90% damage to already harvested produce if not handled properly. Fumigation was done during the reporting period especially Maize since it is susceptible to weevil’s attack.



*Treating farm produce from weevil attack*

## **Irrigation Projects**

### **Irrigation Water solar pump support**

OCA promotes year-round farming where apart from rain-fed farming, it also encourages smallholder farmers in irrigation farming through the provision of extension services, farm inputs, and equipment. OCA encourages the use of environmentally friendly equipment in farming through the provision of solar water pump equipment. During the reporting period, OCA supported the Tchale irrigation club with a water solar pump to relieve the club from the use of manual watering canes in irrigating crops. Tchale has 26 members in total and 60 percent of the members are female. For the last year, the club



was using watering canes to irrigate the field which resulted in a small area being cultivated. This year with the support of a powerful solar pump, Tchale has increased land for farming from 1 acre to 4 acres. The support of Solar pumps will also help the club to be able in cultivating 3 times per year hence more profits being attained.

#### *Installation of Solar water pump*

### **Irrigation Farm Inputs support**

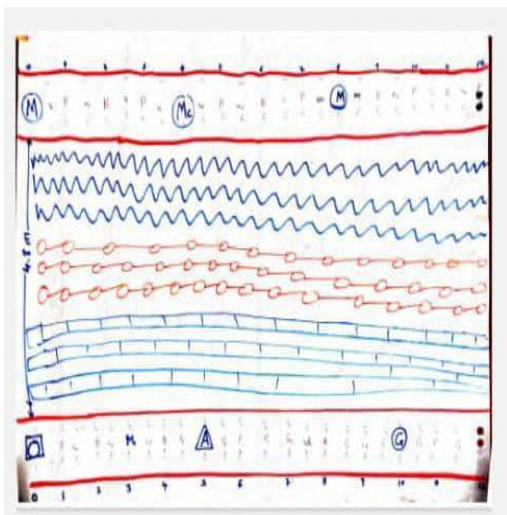
Irrigation clubs such as Ndalusa, Chigona, Matchedza, and Tidalile were involved in activities such as Manure, fertilizer, and pesticide application which will help in boosting harvest percentage. Other clubs such as Mvunguti and Madula were involved in the advanced sowing and planting process. This process is more useful as it helps the plant to sprout vigorously hence good crop stand can be achieved.



*Tomato plants treated from pests and disease attack*

### **Agroforestry and agroecology**

Agroecology is a system of farming that increases yields while reducing environmental impacts. Agroforestry and agroecology are similar to permaculture since both are aimed at reducing environmental impacts. The system which is being designed at OCA is focusing at nutrition especially antenatal mothers and under-five children. The plants to be planted are more available to the communities hence the adoption of the system will not be more challenging for smallholder farmers. The selected plants to be integrated into the system are fruit trees, vegetables, pest-repellant, nitrogen fixers, and medicinal plants. The site will also be used as a learning site for the community and other stakeholders.



Simbol	Plant name	ukuran
ME	Mucadama	
MO	Mango	
O	Orange	
A	Alvocado	
Eu	Eucalyptus	
B	Banana	
P	Ponpelo	
G	Guava	
GI	Glyricidia	
MO	Moringa	
S	Sem Samaan	
Ce	leucaena	
Tf	Triphasia	
Tu	Turmeric	
Pu	Pineapple	
Pp	Pigion Pea	
J	Jinger	
Ch	Chilli	
Co	Castor oil	
MM	Tomato	
o-o-o	Onion	
□-□-□	Egg Plant	

*Below is the sketch design for the agroforestry and agroecology system to be implanted*



# Business and Financial Empowerment Microloans (FEM)

## Introduction

For quite some years now, The FEM program has been empowering women entrepreneurs with business Microloans. These microloans have been very beneficial in improving the livelihoods of not just the women but their families as well. Through the ears, we have seen women being able to put a roof on their heads, provide school fees and buy other essentials for their



children and most importantly being able to eat throughout the month. To realize this dream, the program conducted a number of activities that contributed in ensuring that the microloans taken are being put to the right use. In the month of May, the Fem program had;

## Sensitization meetings

In collaboration with the WASH and Education Support Program, a sensitization campaign with Makombwa 1 and 2, Inje and Kachira VDCs were conducted. The aim of the campaign was to make local stakeholders aware of our initiatives.



*Makombwa 1 & 2(Left), Inje and Kachira (right) VDCs*

These meetings also create room for us to be coordinating with local stakeholders and strengthen our working relationship hence making it easier for us to implement solutions in the communities.

### **Monitoring visits**

Routine monitoring visits were done to encourage women entrepreneurs so that they practice good business ethics in their day to day running of the business. During the monitoring visits, we also get the chance to assess revenues and profits made for the month. The cumulative revenues recorded for the month were MWK7,236,900 whereas the cumulative profits were MWK206,769.

### **Feedback sessions**

In wrapping up the December, 2022 to May 2023 loan period, it was deemed necessary to sit down with all the three groups of women and assess the just ended loan period. These review meetings help us identify the successes and challenges we encountered and lessons learnt which assists us in mapping the way forward. Some of the successes, challenges and lessons learnt recorded were as follows;

#### ***Successes documented during the loan period***

- Being able to feed their families
- Paying school fees for their children
- Paying house rent
- Buying livestock and household utensils
- Business continuity

#### **Things recorded that helped them survive during the loan period**

- The business classes that were given have proven to be helpful in managing their businesses
- Being in the VS& L groups has given them a platform where they can save money for repayment

## **Challenges that made the groups have problems in repaying the loan**

- Failure to keep track of business resources
- Failure to set good prices for commodities
- Reckless spending of money
- Poor planning before taking the loans
- Effects of heavy rains on crops such as soya

## **Lessons learnt**

- Always keep business records as it helps them assess whether they are making profits or not. Again, the records will assist them make major decisions pertaining to their businesses.
- Take loans that are equivalent to their businesses

## **Proposed business ideas to supplement the knitting project**

- Revive the soap making business
- Cloth embroidery
- Rain fed agriculture



*Tikondane Group during feedback group discussions*

## Refresher Training

A Combined three-day training for Tikondane and Tiyanjane FEM groups was facilitated. The training was centred on two topics and thus bookkeeping and basic marketing concepts. The main aim of the training was to help the women have an understanding of keeping and recording business transactions and



also to be able to calculate and differentiate profits and revenues in businesses. These topics are crucial in helping the women have a general understanding of their businesses and be able to make crucial decisions pertaining to their businesses.



In the picture above, FEM women role play pouring water in tumblers while blind-folded signifying that without seeing where they are going with their businesses, they can lose out their resources. Therefore, proper planning, being visionary and good record keeping is important.

# Education Support Program



## Introduction

Education is the single most powerful tool to break the poverty cycle and provide students with a brighter future. At Orant we create a supportive environment as well as the resources to help students with their studies. We ensure that every opportunity is given to the students in our program to complete schooling to the best of their ability.

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

## Meetings with Village Development Committee (VDC)

Orant Charities Africa Education Support program together with the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Financial Empowerment Microloan (FEM) programs conducted a sensitization campaign meeting with VDC for Kachira, Makombwa 1 and 2 and Inje section within Kasese catchment area. It was a joint meeting in order to cut out some costs but the three programs had different agendas.



The aim of the meeting for the education program was to remind one another on the support the education program is providing to needy and deserving students within the catchment area. Thus tuition and other school supplies like Hardcover, pens, e.t.c. The committee (s) were also told of the introduction of the OCA University program called “**Orant Ulemu Scholarship**”. The initial plan of the scholarship is to assist students who were previously assisted by Orant in Secondary school. We noted a gap in students’ academic life that after graduating secondary school they were failing to progress in the university due to lack of tuition and support. However, students which were not previously sponsored by Orant can also benefit from the Ulemu scholarship even though the chances of getting the scholarship are slim.

In addition to that, the community was also informed of the addition of boys into the program. Currently, 15 percent of the total number of Orant sponsored students are boys. Our program does not completely leave out boys. Especially those who are in dire need of our support. We understand that boys are also caught in the cycle of poverty. The choice to sponsor a boy means the end of this devastating cycle. And the beginning of a new life for him and his family.



Left: Meeting with Makombwa 1 and Inje VDC, Right: Meeting with Makombwa 2 and Kachira VDC

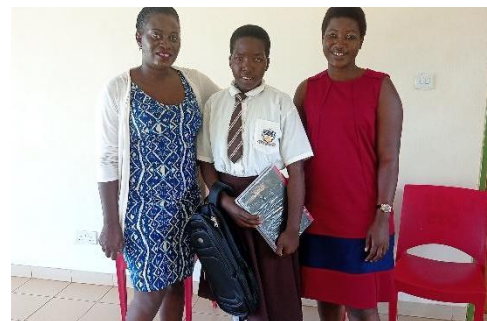
Lastly, the meeting was also to initiate the community to advocate for poor girls to have access to education since the community is the nearest body to girls and girls are parts of the society. They have the responsibility to support and advocate for the girls.

## School Visits and the provision of Supplies

We know that successfully supporting students means investing in all aspects of their life, providing both financial and social support, and working to change the context of their exclusion. This is the reason why OCA not only pays school fees, but provides other essentials, such as uniforms, books, sanitary protection e.t.c. The OCA education program visited sponsored students in their respective schools. Seven schools were visited during the reporting period; Madisi, Natola, St. Chavala, Tchawale, Chayamba, Kasungu and Loyola Secondary schools. The aim of the visits was to monitor students' academic performance, encourage them to work extra hard in school and also to provide them with material and moral support. A total of 25 students were supported with school supplies by the OCA Education program, and the supplies which were given to them includes; School Uniforms, School bags, Hardcovers, Pens, Pencils, Sanitary pads and many more.



Students from Madisi Sec.school(left) and Tchawale CDSS(right) after receiving School supplies from OCA



Pictures of OCA staff with students from St. Chavara(left) and Loyola (right) Secondary school



Kasungu sec. school (right) and Chamkango CDSS (left) students showing off their supplies given by OCA

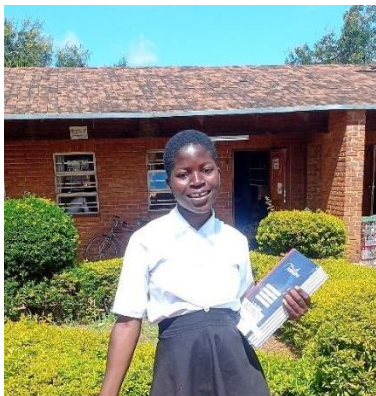
About 85 percent of students are impacted daily with not having the proper supplies they



need to be successful in the classroom. Students cannot be successful unless they are properly equipped with school supplies. Studies have proven that when students have their own school supplies, their grades and classroom behavior improve and they become more excited about school and learning. The lack of school supplies plays a vital role in a child's development socially, physically and mentally.

### **Junior Certificate of Education (JCE) Exams**

In the month of May 2023, OCA had students who sat for the Junior Certificate of Education (JCE) exams. JCE is written when students are in form two and a certificate is obtained. Out of the 110 secondary school students which OCA is sponsoring this year, 31 students have written JCE and they are from various schools; One each from Chayamba,



Chamkango, Likuni girls, St. Chavara, Nkhatabay boys, and St. Peters Secondary school. Two from Nkhamenya, 3 from Tchawale, 5 from Lilongwe girls, 4 from Madisi, 6 from Ngara and 3 from Dzenza secondary schools. OCA is expecting good results from these students because they are all hard working and are performing very well.

A JCE student from Chayamba sec. school ready for exams