



AUGUST, 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 August 2023, Kasese Health Center (KHC) saw **2003** clients at (OPD). Only **49** patients were seen during weekends and nights. The total number of patients seen in August is **2052** (KHC OPD). MOC in Kasese catchments areas saw **630**. Kasungu (Bowe) Outreach clinic saw **2650** clients. MOC's total number of patients seen is **3280**. The total number of patients seen in August 2023 is **5332** (Dowa: **2682 (50.3%)** & Kasungu **2650 (49.7%)**).

The Laboratory department tested **1434** for Malaria, out of which **273** were positive, representing a **19%** positivity rate. In Dowa, **750** patients were tested and **62(8%)** were positive cases; in Kasungu, **684** patients were tested and **211(31%)** were positive.

The Maternity department admitted **34** mothers and referred **23**. A total of **36** babies were born at the facility and **2** were born in transit (BBAs). Out of **36** babies, **17** had complications (**8** Weight < 2.5 Kgs Prematurity: **3**, Asphyxia: **4**, Sepsis: **1**, and Still Birth Macerated: **1**). The total Maternity attendance was **57 (34 admissions and 23 referrals)**.

The HTS department tested **246** clients, of which **1** was positive, representing **0.4%**.

The total number of patients seen at the eye clinic by an outsourced clinician is **42** and **6** were booked for surgery.

The MOC team managed to conduct all **22** 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	Jul	Aug	Total
OPD Static	1755	1680	2385	1978	2301	2584	2040	2003	16726
Bowe MOC	2481	3188	3005	3523	4373	4218	2931	2650	26369
Kasese MOC	667	489	803	876	723	864	743	630	5795
Nights/Holidays	44	46	40	56	58	64	93	49	450
Total	4947	5403	6233	6433	7455	7730	5807	5332	49340

Table 1: Monthly OPD And Outreach Clinic Attendance

Figure 1 below shows the total OCA patient attendance in 2023

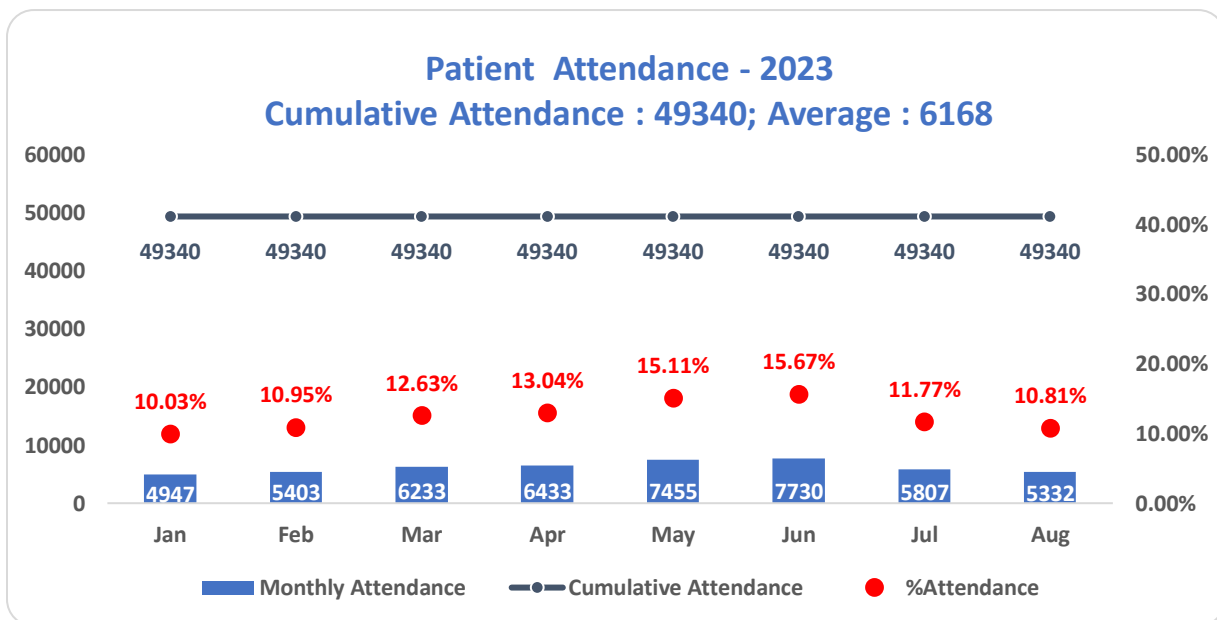


Figure 1: OCA Patient Attendance – 2023.

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

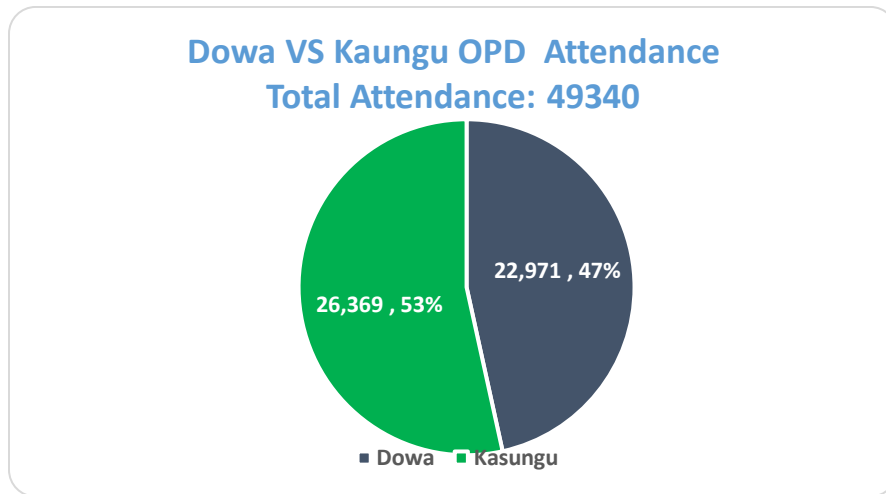


Figure 2: Dowa vs Kasungu (2023).

OCA MOC Updates

Figure 3 below shows the Kasungu patient attendance for August 2023

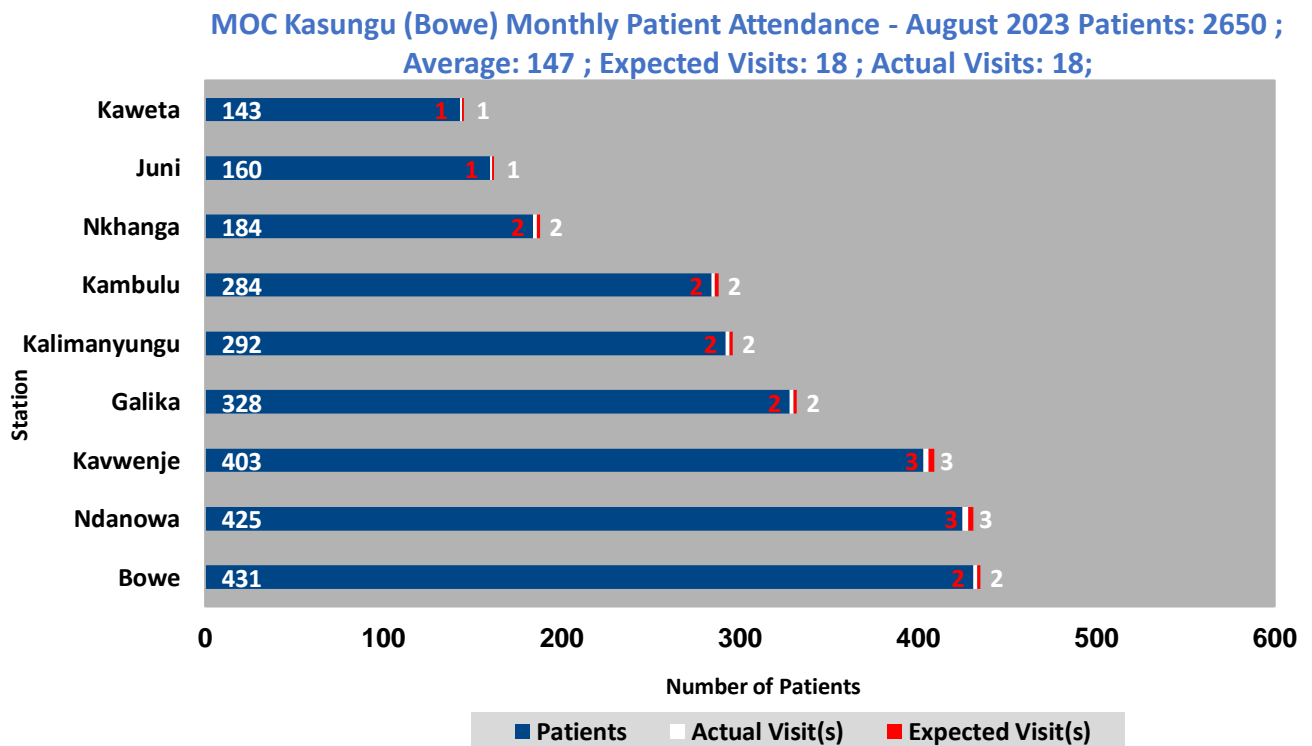


Figure 3: Kasungu Patient Attendance – August 2023

Figure 4 below shows the Dowa patient attendance for August 2023

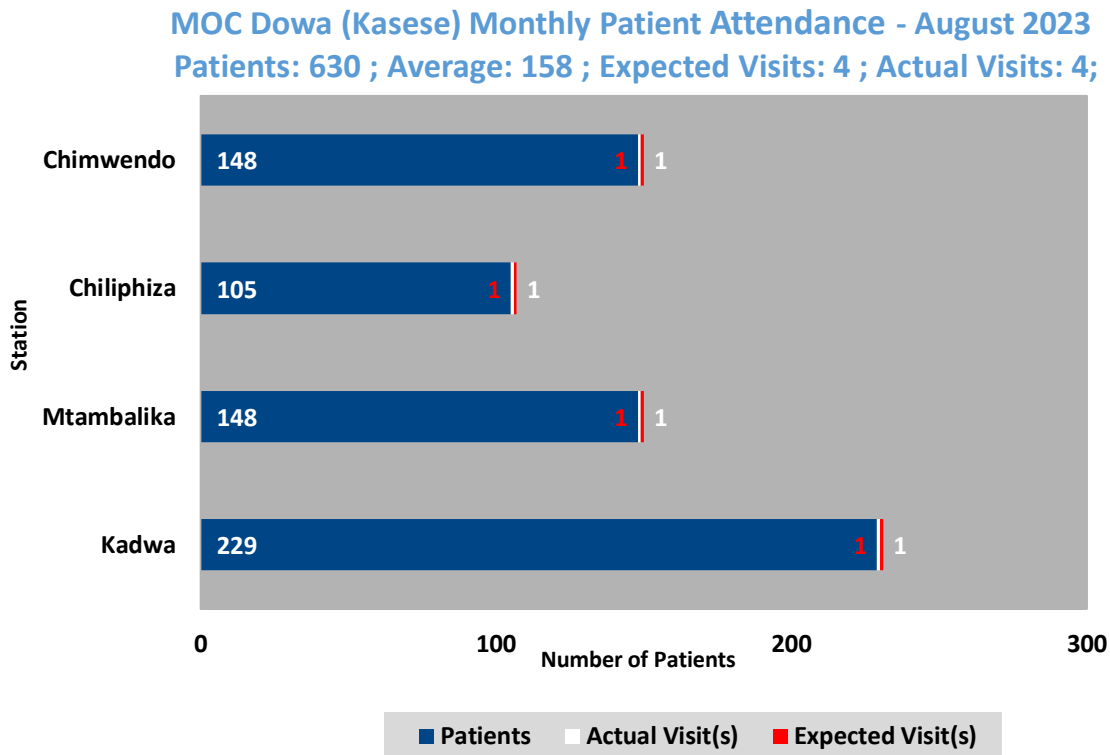


Figure 4: Dowa Patient Attendance – August 2023.

COVID -19 Situation Updates

The COVID-19 situation in the country remains low and in August 2023, **2** tests 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
August Tests	0	2	2
August Positives	0	1	1

Table 2: COVID-19 Cumulative Data

4.2 COVID 19 Vaccine (Pfizer) – KHC Static.

Table 3 below shows Vaccine Doses Administered in 2023

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

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

Vaccine Type	Male	Female	Total
Johnson & Johnson (J & J)	0	0	0
B/F	414	646	1060
Booster	0	0	0
Total	414	646	1060

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

Dose	Male	Female	Total
1st Dose	0	0	0
2nd Dose	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0

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

4.5 COVID 19 Vaccine Status – KHC Static

Table 6 below shows Vaccine Status in August 2023

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

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

Reproductive and Family Planning Health

Maternal and New-born Health Care

Months	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Total
Admissions	38	44	36	30	28	28	47	34	285
Referrals	13	8	14	15	13	23	12	23	121
New Babies	38	44	36	30	28	28	47	36	287
Alive Babies	38	44	35	29	28	28	46	35	283
Facility Deliveries	33	36	32	29	25	26	44	34	259

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	Jul	Aug	Total
Weight <2500g	2	1	7	3	0	7	4	8	32
Prematurity	4	7	1	1	1	1	1	3	19
Asphyxia	1	1	0	1	3	1	2	4	13
Sepsis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Still Birth Fresh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Still Birth Macerated	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	3

Neonatal Death	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Total	7	9	9	6	4	9	8	17	69

Table 8; Newborns with complications – 2023

Figure 5 below shows the total newborns complications for 2023.

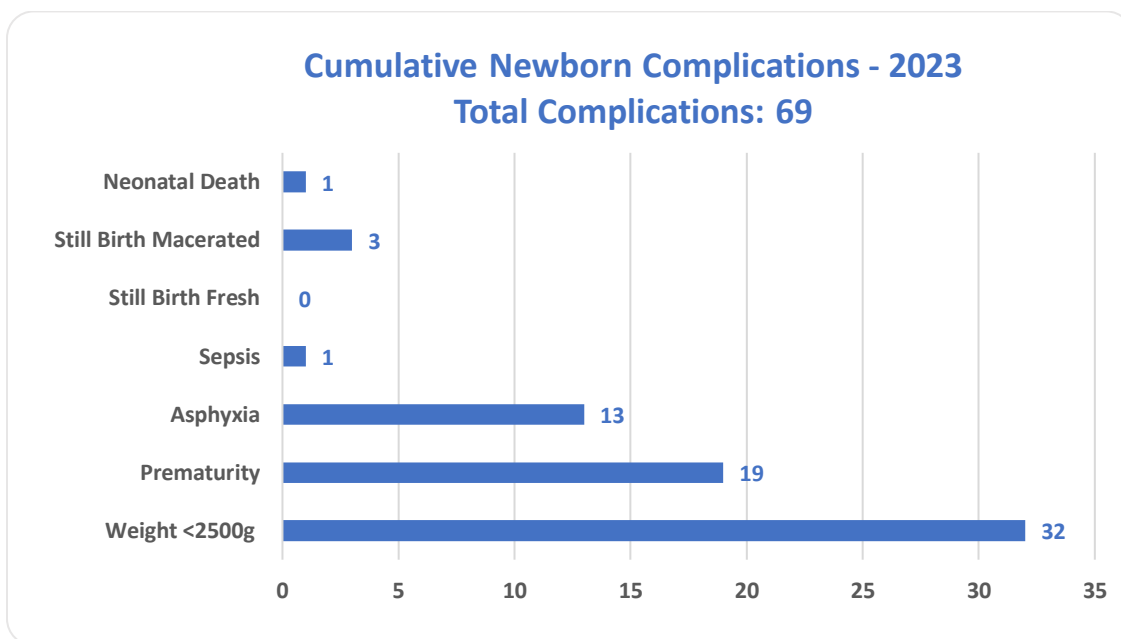


Figure 5: Newborns Complications – 2023

Figure 6 below shows the total monthly Maternity attendance.

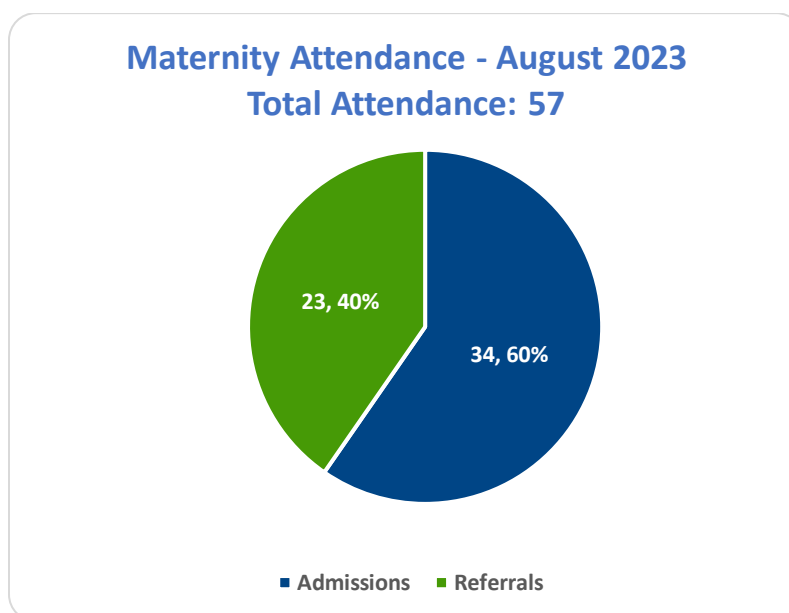


Figure 6: Admissions and Referrals (August 2023)

Table 9 below shows the reason for the referrals

Referral Reason	Referred
Antepartum Haemorrhage	1
Obstructed Prolonged Labour	3
Pre-eclampsia	1
Young Primigravida	4
Premature Labour	1
Breech Presentation	1
Premature Prolonged Rapture of Membranes (Pre-prom)	1
CPD	2
Foetal Distress	3
Failed Vacuum Extraction	1
Big Fundus	1

Known Asthmatic	1
Short Primigravida	1
Post Dates	2
Total	23

Table 9: Referral Reasons - August 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
July	78	9
August	95	22

Table 10: ANC Attendance – 2023

Figure 7 below shows 2023 Monthly ANC Visits.

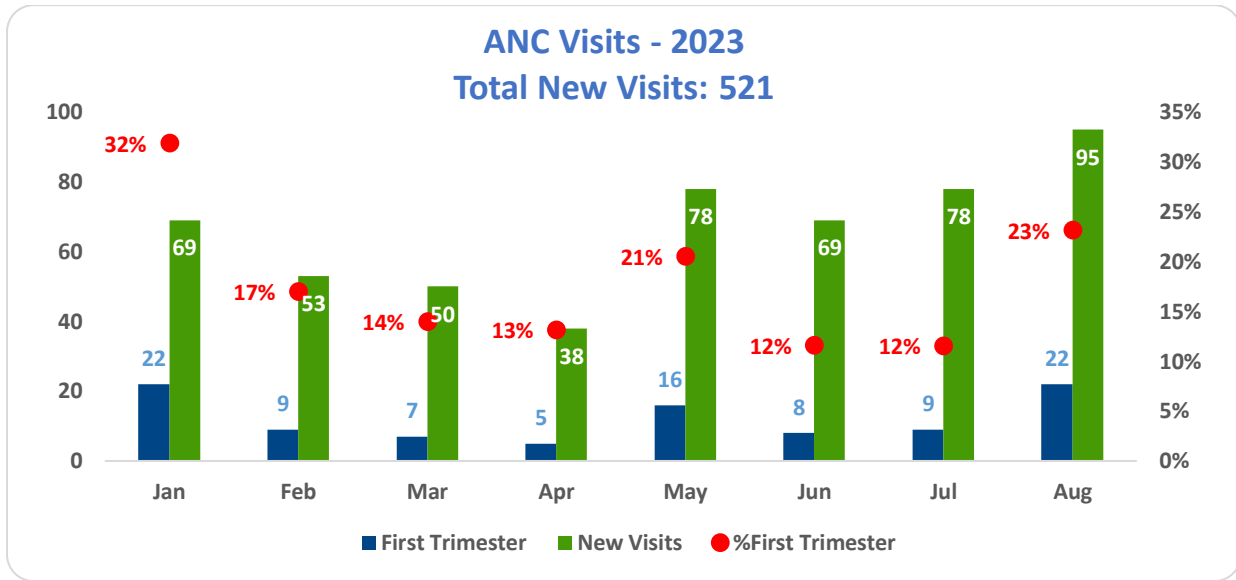


Figure 7: Monthly ANC Visits - 2023.

5.2 Cervical Cancer Control Clinic Report

Table 11 below shows the 2023 Monthly Cervical Cancer Screening.

Months	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Total	21	30	44	14	0	0	16	64
VIA Positive	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	3

Table 11: Monthly Cervical Cancer Screening 2023

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.

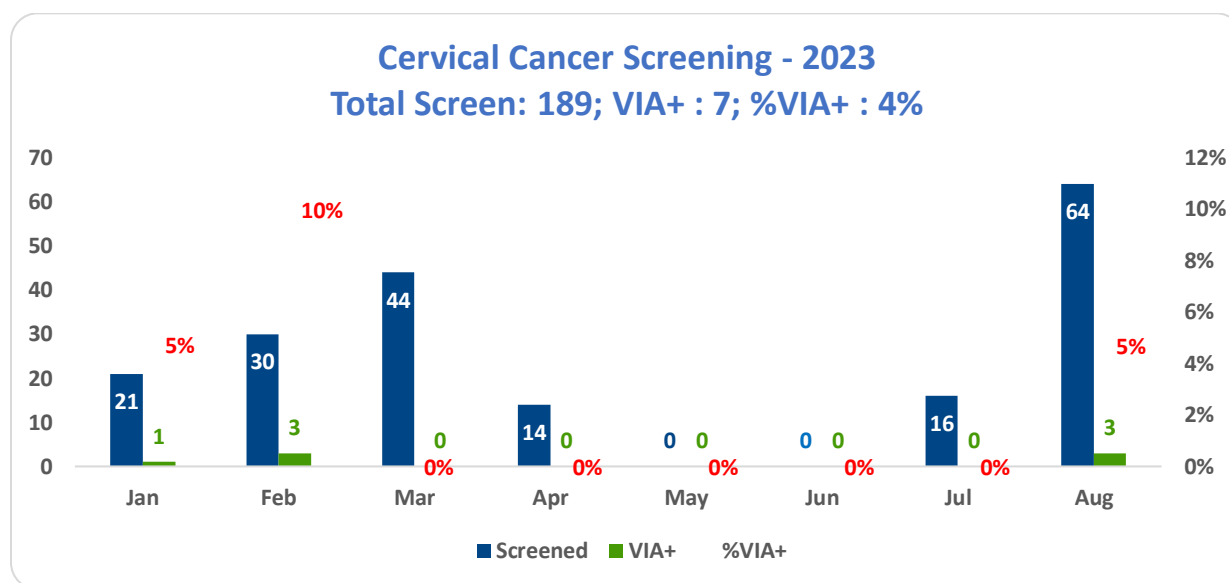


Figure 8; Cervical Cancer Screening - 2023.

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.

Month (2023)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Eye Infections (Treated)	27	40	49	35	30	39	27	36
Eye Surgery (Booked)	2	1	7	6	6	9	3	6
Total Seen	29	41	56	41	36	48	30	42

Table 12: Monthly Eye Clinic Table - 2023.

Figure 9 below shows the 2023 Monthly Eye Clinics.

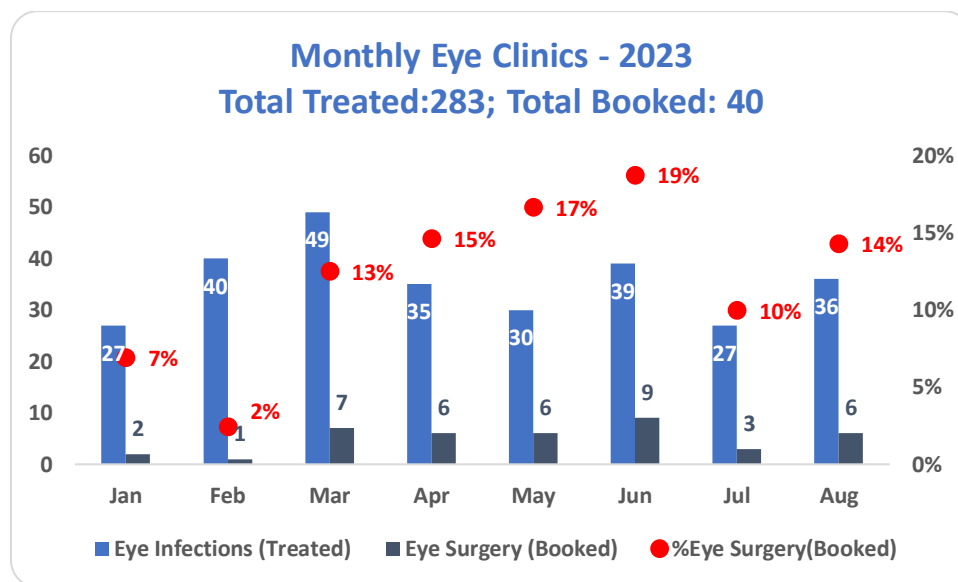


Figure 9: Monthly Eye Clinics - 2023.

7. Malaria Report.

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

	Total Tested	Positives	Negatives	Positivity Rate
Under 5	577	102	475	18%
5 Years and Over	857	171	686	20%
Total	1434	273	1161	19%

Table 13: Total Malaria Tests (August 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	Jul	Aug
Suspected Malaria Cases	1854	1498	2209	2740	3241	3092	2099	1434
Suspected Cases Tested MRDT	1854	1498	2209	2740	3241	3092	2099	1434

Confirmed Malaria Cases	508	354	635	996	1748	1241	542	258
New Malaria Cases Registered	508	361	651	996	1778	1245	548	273
LA Dispensed	503	361	651	995	1748	1245	548	273
LA Issued	120	600	940	1020	2877	520	150	120

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

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

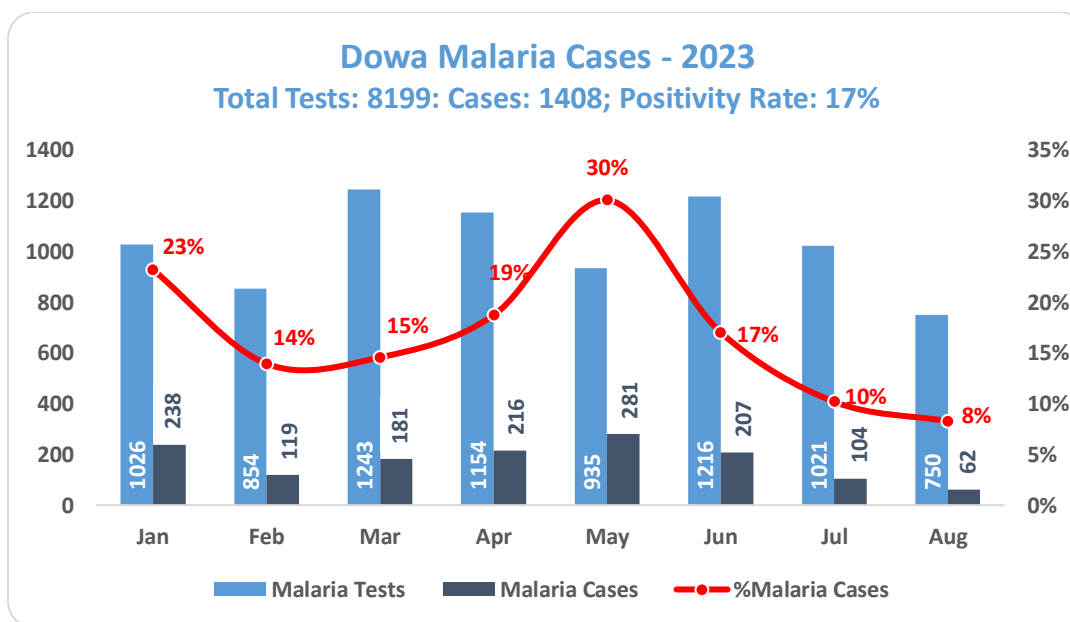


Figure 10: OCA Clinics Malaria tests (Dowa, 2023).

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

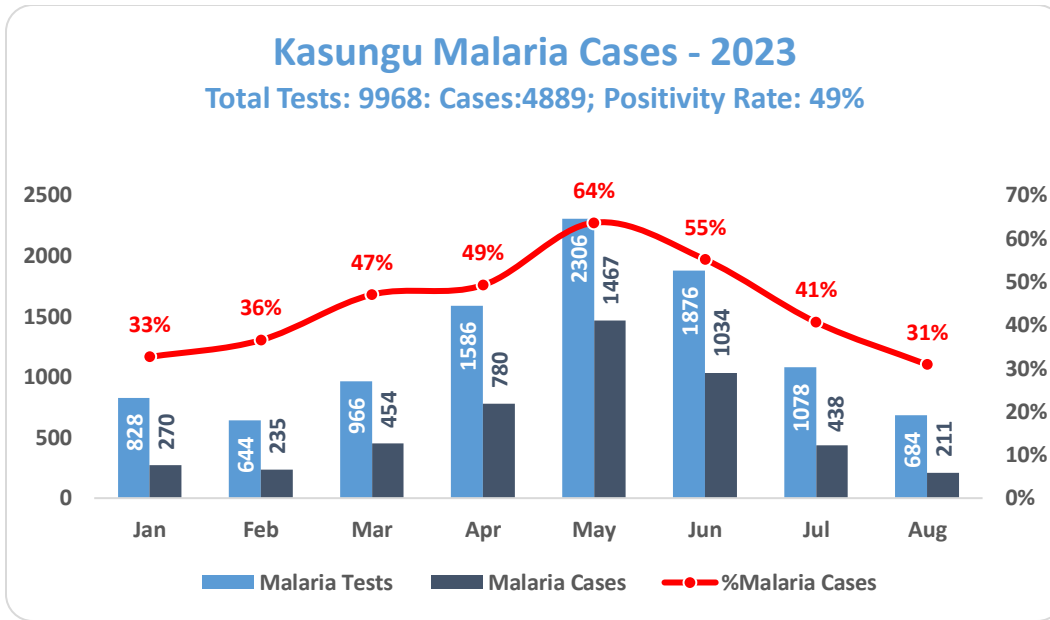


Figure 11: OCA Clinics Malaria tests (Kasungu, 2023).

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

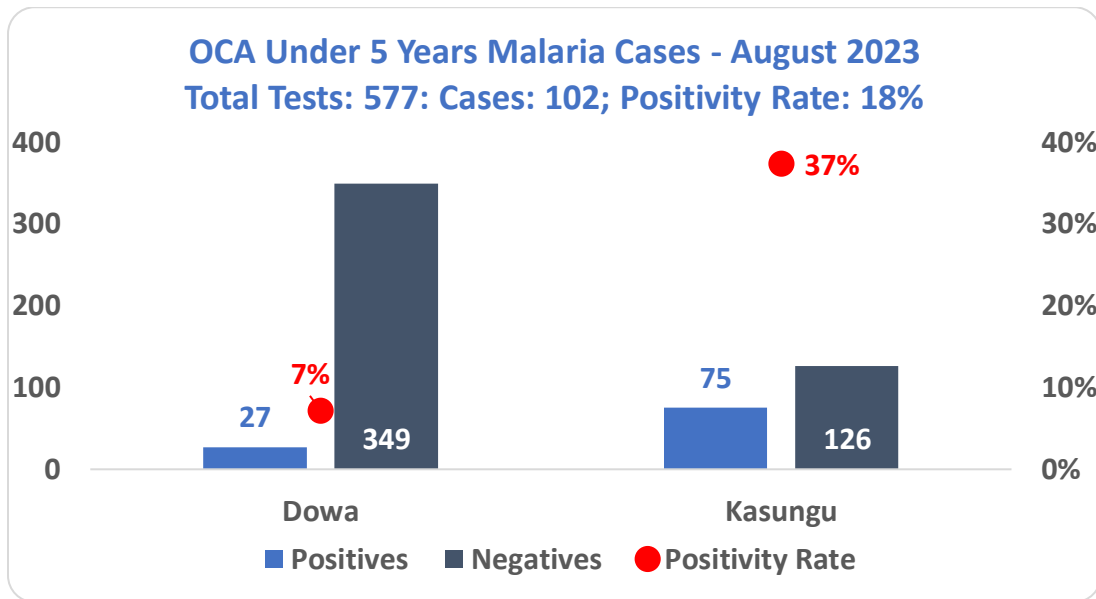


Figure 12; OCA Clinics, Under 5 Years Malaria tests (August 2023)

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

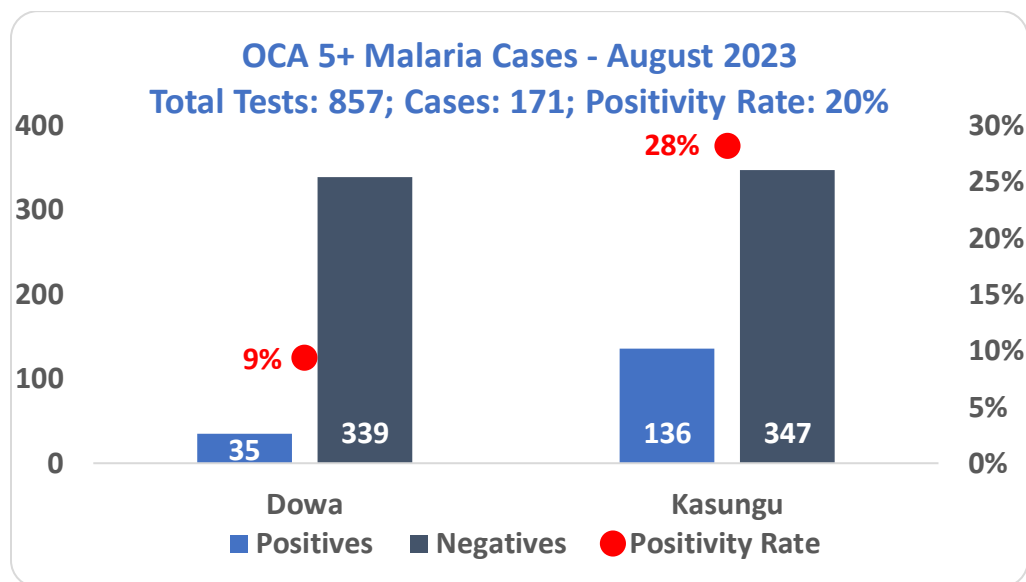


Figure 13; OCA Clinics, 5+ Malaria tests (August 2023)

HIV Testing Services (HTS)

Months	Total Tested	Positives	Positivity Rate
January	193	2	1.04%
February	154	2	1.30%
March	215	2	0.93%
April	169	3	1.78%
May	202	3	1.49%
June	193	2	1.04%
July	190	3	1.58%
August	246	1	0.41%

Table 15; HTS 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

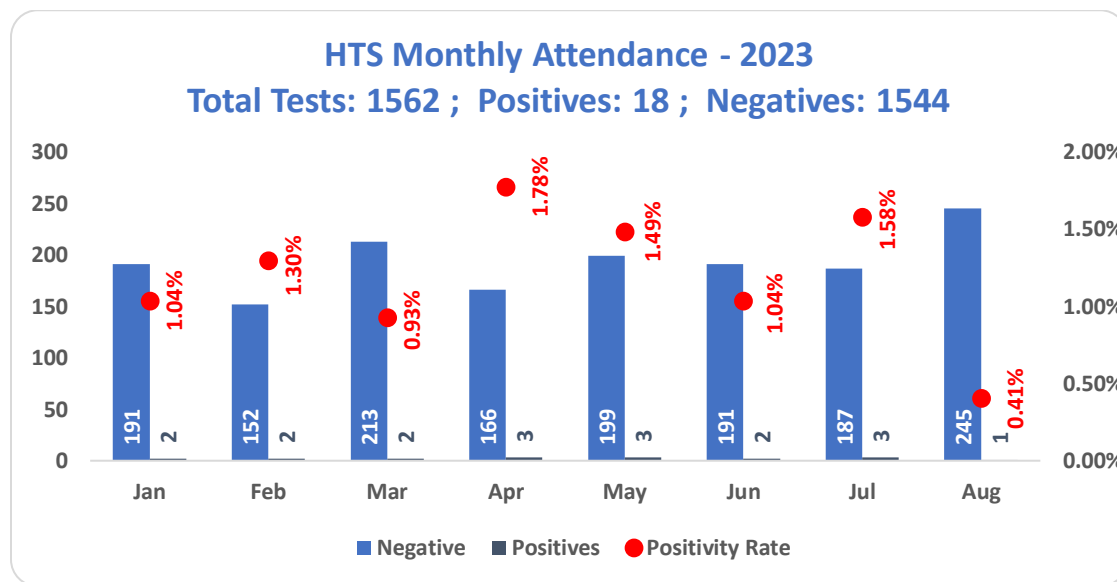


Figure 14; HTS Monthly Tests – 2023

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
August	99	34	9	1	4	0	77	39	2	1

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

Figure 15 below shows qualitative lab tests – August 2023

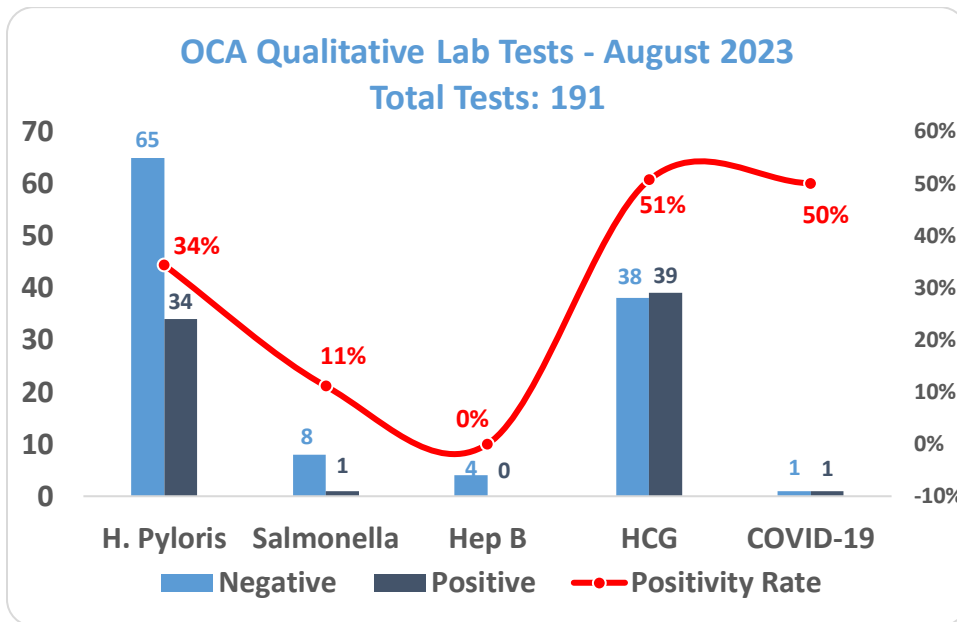


Figure 15; Qualitative Lab Tests – 2023.

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

	Glucose	HB	Urinalysis	FBC
Jan	172	192	23	95
Feb	100	137	33	133
Mar	118	110	16	191
Apr	140	60	17	126
May	51	162	21	106
Jun	75	71	11	100
Jul	52	48	4	108
Aug	95	48	13	150
Total	803	828	138	1009

Table 17; Quantitative Lab Tests Data Table for OCA Clinics.

Figure 16 shows quantitative lab tests for the year 2023

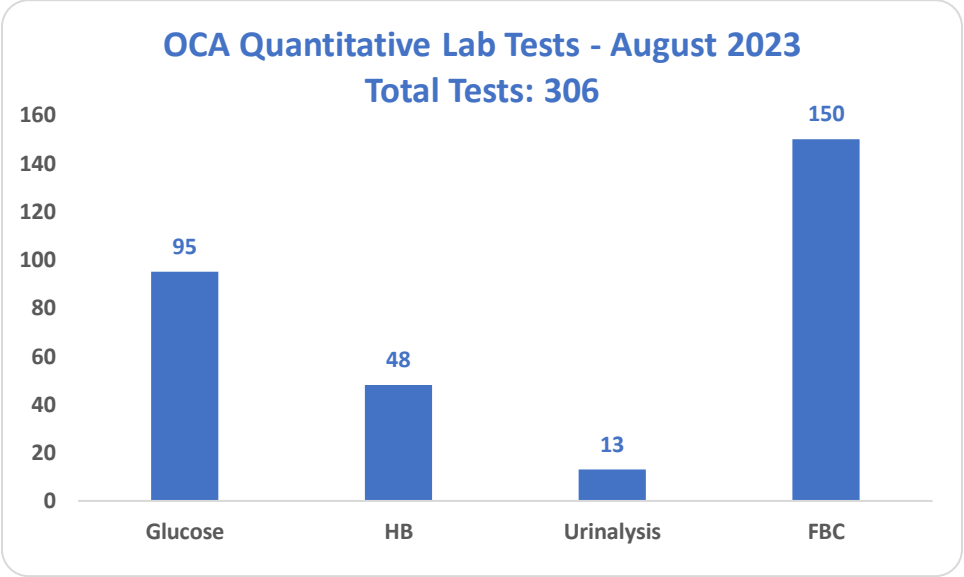


Figure 16; Quantitative Lab Tests – 2023.

Disease Group Trends

Figure 17 below shows Dowa disease occurrences for August 2023

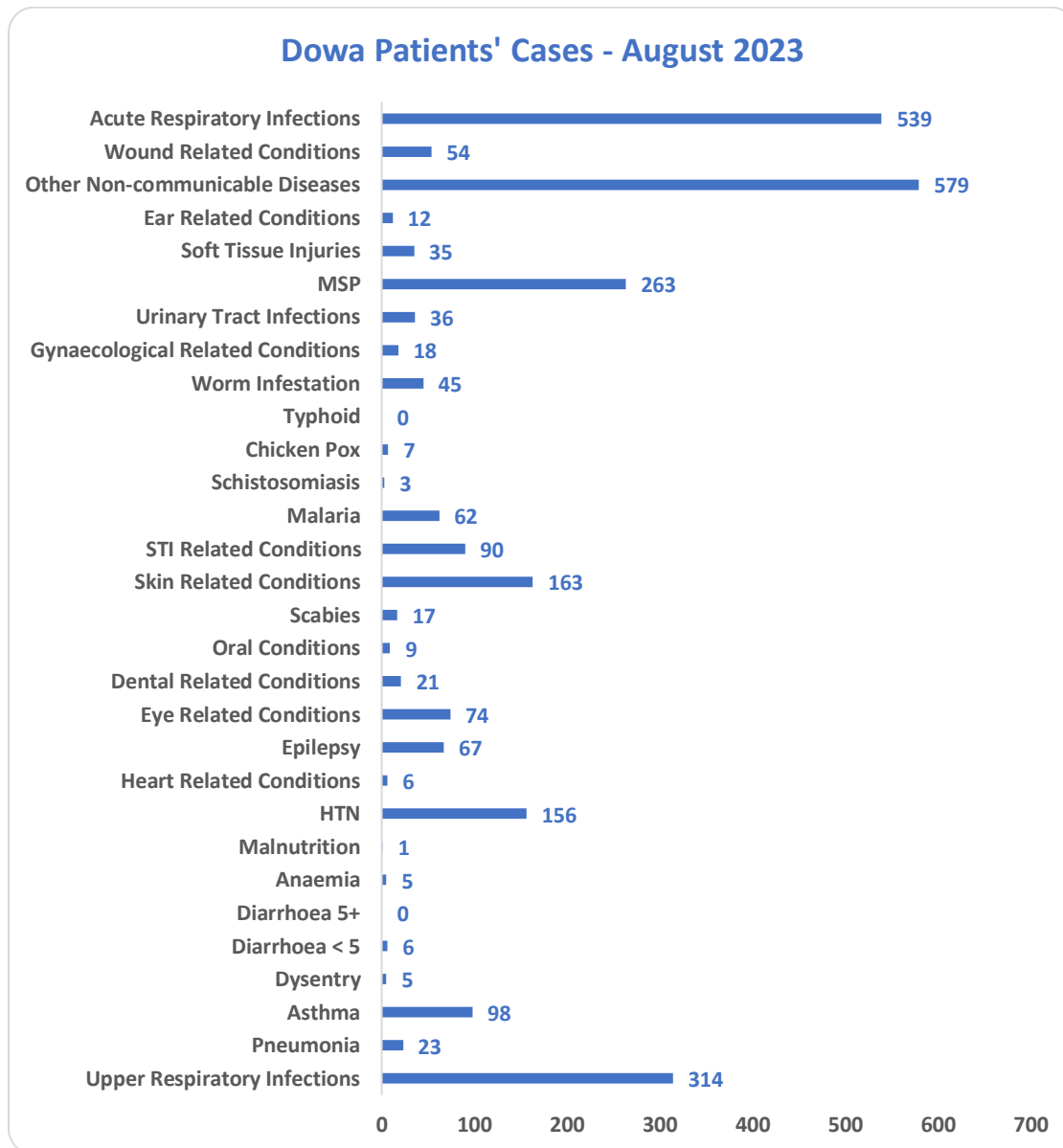


Figure 17: Dowa Disease Occurrences (August 2023).

Figure 18 below shows Kasungu disease occurrences for August 2023.

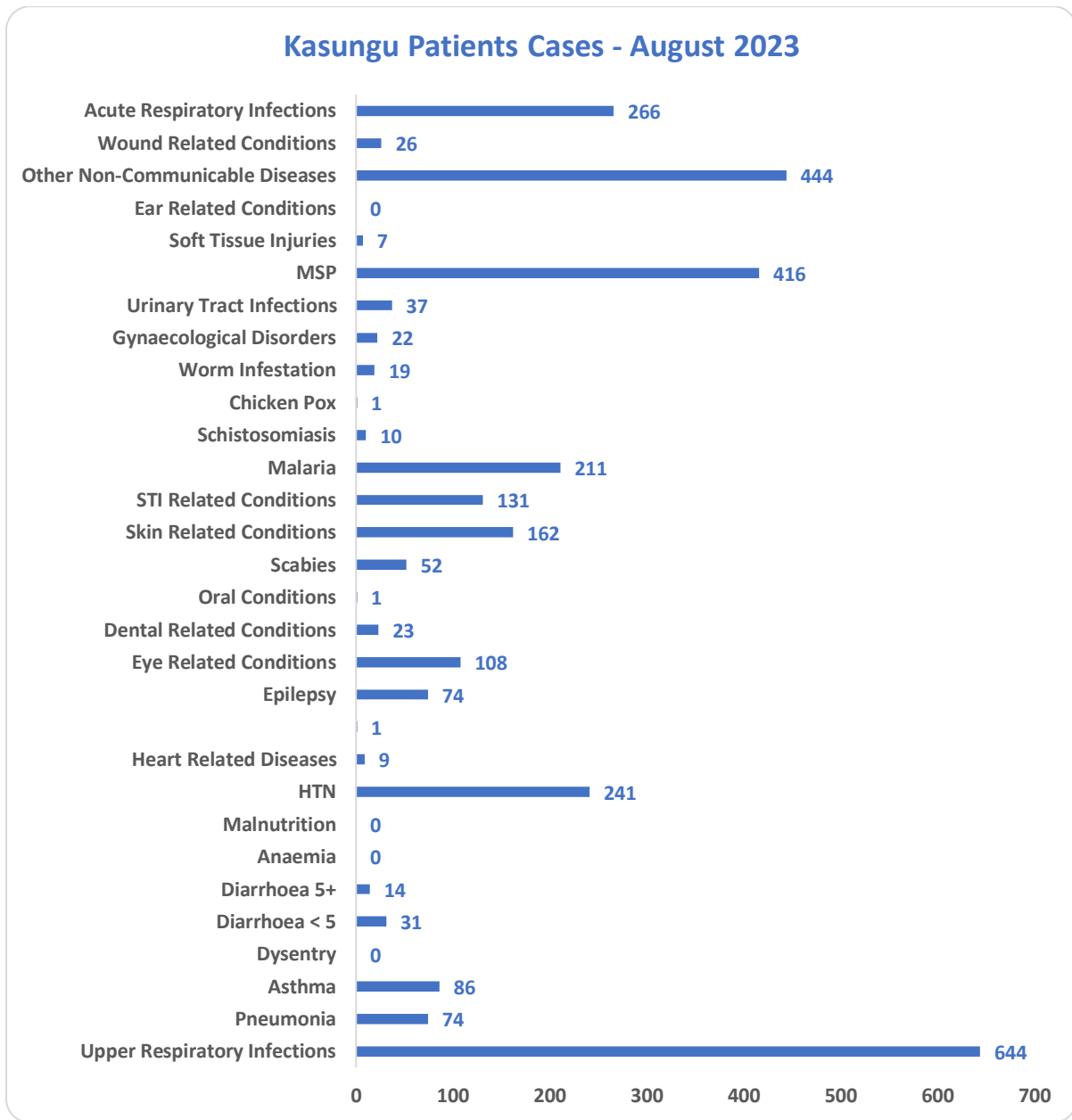


Figure 18: Kasungu Disease Occurrences (August 2023)

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	
June	MK 4,052,700	MK 582,320	23	MK 25,318	
July	MK 3,049,700	MK 307,050	15	MK 20,470	
August	MK 2,904,550	MK 550,985	23	MK 23,956	

Table 18: Clinic Finances – 2023

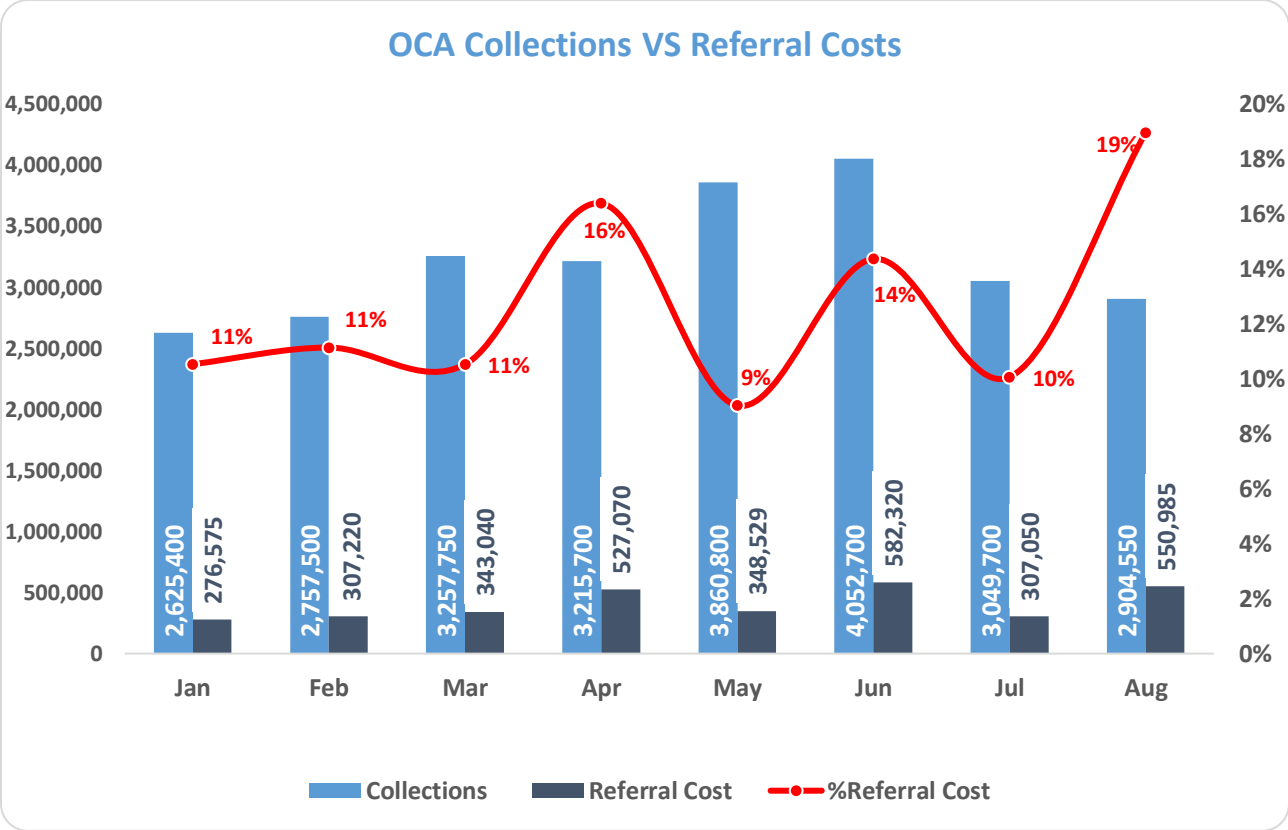


Figure 19: OCA Collections VS Referrals - 2023.

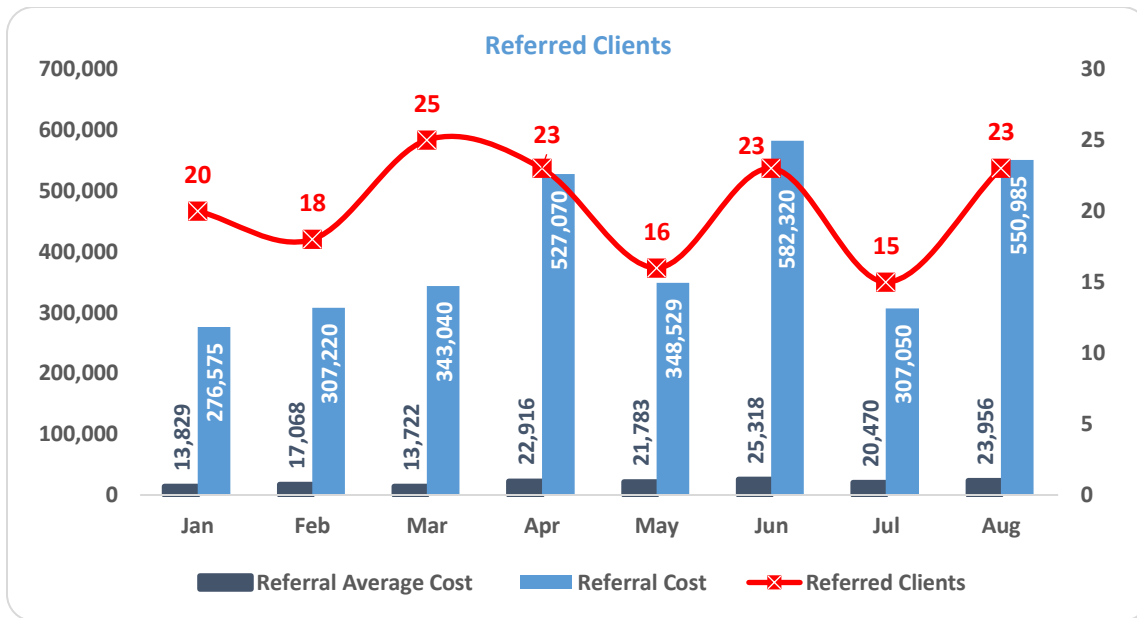


Figure 20: OCA Referred Clients - 2023.

Achievements and Challenges

1. Success Highlights

- According to figure 10 and 11 there is a decline in Malaria cases both in Kasungu and Dowa
- There is increase in antenatal attendance which may be attributed by nonfinancial attached of Chitenje upon registering ANC with the clinic.

2. Challenges

- In accordance to figure 5: The most common neonatal complication at the health centre is underweight less than 2500g followed by prematurity and asphyxia.
- The healthy centre registered a case of covid-19 during the month of August – 2023
- The number of deliveries in maternity has not been changed since the introduction of nonfinancial as seen from the table 7 however we expect to see the increase in deliveries in few months to come.

- The commonest reason for maternity referrals for hospital delivery are young primgravidas less than 17 years old followed by obstructed labour and fetal distress.

D. Way forward

There is a need to for retrospective investigation to establish the common causes of underweight, prematurity and asphyxia.

Appendices

Appendix A: August 2023 MOC Schedule

AUGUST 2023 OUTREACH CLINIC SCHEDULE					
DATE	DAY	STATION	DISTRICT	ACTIVITY	TIME
1	Tuesday	Nkhanga	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am - 3:00pm
2	Wednesday	Kavwenje	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am - 3:00pm
3	Thursday	Galika	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am - 3:00pm
4	Friday	Kadwa	Dowa	Outreach clinic	08:00am - 4:00pm
5	Saturday	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend
6	Sunday	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend
7	Monday	Kantomphole	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am - 3:00pm
8	Tuesday	Chisuwe	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am - 3:00pm
9	Wednesday	Bowe	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am - 3:00pm
10	Thursday	Kalimanyungu	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am - 3:00pm
11	Friday	Mtambalika	Dowa	Outreach clinic	08:00am - 4:00pm
12	Saturday	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend
13	Sunday	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend
14	Monday	Miyowe	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am - 3:00pm
15	Tuesday	Ndanowa	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am - 3:00pm
16	Wednesday	Juni	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am - 3:00pm

17	Thursday	Kaweta	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am - 3:00pm
18	Friday	Chiliphiza	Dowa	Outreach clinic	08:00am - 4:00pm
19	Saturday	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend
20	Sunday	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend
21	Monday	Kambulu	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am - 3:00pm
22	Tuesday	Kalimanyungu	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am - 3:00pm
23	Wednesday	Bowe	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am - 3:00pm
24	Thursday	Lisito	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am - 3:00pm
25	Friday	Chimwendo	Dowa	Outreach clinic	08:00am - 4:00pm
26	Saturday	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend
27	Sunday	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend	Weekend
29	Monday	Galika	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am - 3:00pm
29	Tuesday	Ndanowa	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am - 3:00pm
30	Wednesday	Kavwenje	Kasungu	Outreach clinic	09:00am - 3:00pm
31	Thursday	Preparation day		Preparation day	Preparation day

Water and Sanitation Program



Executive Summary

In August, the WASH program organized several activities in line with the overall program of promoting access to WASH services to the people of Kasese. These activities were implemented in coordination with different stakeholders.

Summary Of Monthly Achievements

The following milestones were achieved;

- Supported 21 water point repairs (Service/preventive: 17; major repairs: 4)
- Drilled 3 boreholes in Mzaka_Kanike, Kawele and Katundu villages
- Conducted a combined Community-Based Management (CBM) training for Madzo Water Point committee members
- Started construction of latrines at Kalikulu Primary School
- WESNET Media tour

Detailed Narration of Monthly Achievements

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

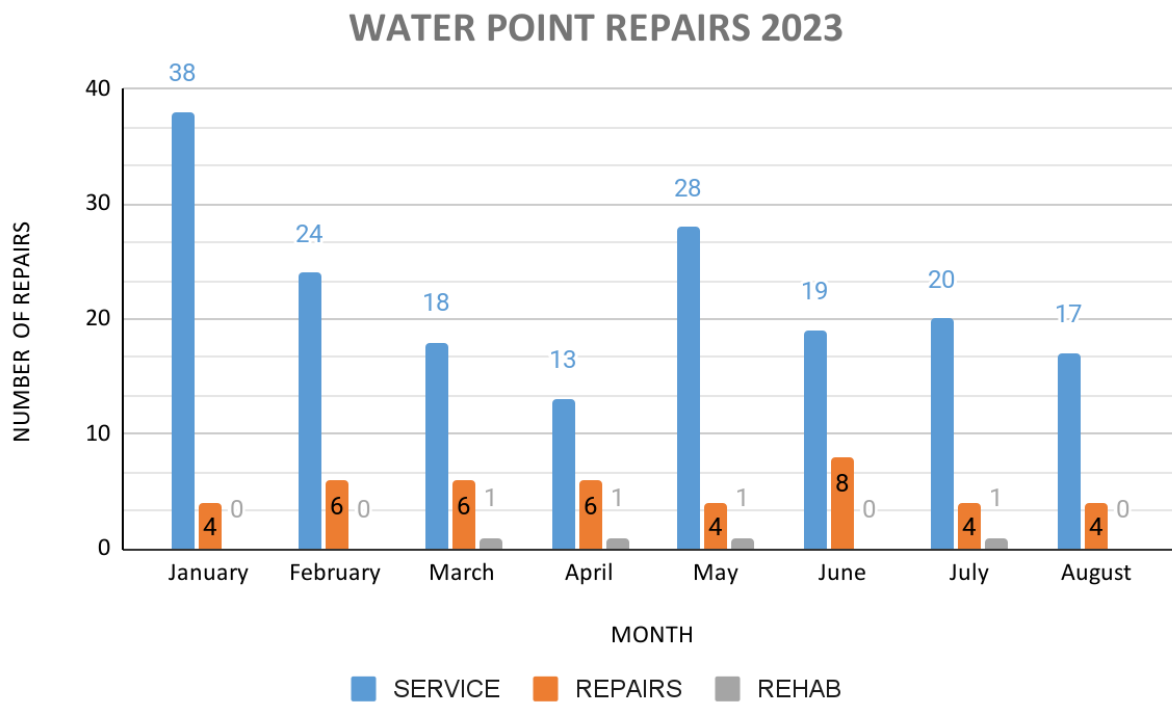
Water point repairs and rehabilitations

The WASH program repaired a total of 21 water points (Service/preventive: 17; major repairs: 4; Rehabilitation: 0). During the month, MK 181, 825.00 was spent by communities on preventive maintenance while MK 641, 520 was paid by OCA on major repairs of boreholes. From maintenance expenditure data it can be easily noted that major repairs require a lot of money to conduct hence OCA is promoting preventive maintenance to run away from costly major maintenance.



Area Mechanic repairing a pump in Mphongole village

Below is a graph showing the progress of water point maintenance for the WASH program;



Community-Based Management (CBM) training for Water Point Committees (WPCs)

With the aim of empowering communities to manage their own water facilities, the OCA WASH program conducts community-based management training for Water Point Committees (WPCs). The WASH program conducted CBM training for Madzo WPC.



Madzo school borehole was drilled with support from OCA in July 2023. During the training water point committees were trained in water point sanitation and minor repairs. In total a total of 12 participants attended the training. These included teachers, community members, the chief and the headteacher.

A practical Session during CBM training for Madzo WPC

Borehole drilling

To improve access to potable water for people around the Kasese catchment the WASH program drills wells in areas with limited access to water. In August the WASH program



drilled 3 wells in Mzaka Kanike, Katunundu and Kawele villages. Before OCA intervention the people from the villages were accessing water from unprotected shallow wells. So far in 2023, the WASH program has drilled 8 boreholes out of the annual target of 16 boreholes.

A newly constructed water point in Katunundu village

Latrine Construction at Kalikulu Primary School



Left - Damaged girls' latrines at Kalikulu, Right- Construction of new girls' latrines at Kalikulu in progress

In August, the WASH program began constructing latrines at Kalikulu Primary School. The latrines are being constructed as a response to the damaged latrines at school during the rainy season. Currently, the construction of the substructure for the latrines is in progress. The latrines are expected to be completed by the end of the month of September 2023. The latrines and a changing room are expected to support a total of **264** learners from the school. In total Kalikulu has an enrolment of **512** learners out of which 248 are boys and 264 are girls. During the needs assessment, it was noted that boys at Kalikulu have enough latrines hence OCA is constructing girls' latrines only. The latrines are being constructed through a collaborative effort between OCA and the school community for Kalikulu. The community from around the school has provided bricks, Sand and Quarry stone while OCA has provided labour and all other materials to complete the project.

Wesnet Field Visit



WESNET field visit to Kuliyani water point committee during the month

The Water and Environmental Sanitation Network (WESNET) visited the OCA WASH program to document some of the initiatives conducted in the year. WESNET is a membership-based Civil Society network that coordinates the work of NGOs working in the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) subsector in Malawi. During the visit members from WESNET visited boreholes, Pump Area mechanics, Water Point Committees, School latrines and Sanitation entrepreneurs with the OCA WASH program. Following the visit members from WESNET were impressed with what OCA is doing in Kasese. Furthermore, WESNET advised the OCA WASH program to attend more coordination meetings and join more coordination forums to promote information sharing and improve the visibility of the OCA WASH program.

Conclusion

The visit by WESNET members was a major highlight for the WASH program during the month. This visit was an indication that OCA WASH initiatives are now getting the nation-wide recognition they deserve .

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. OCA's main focus in agriculture is equipping farmers with the knowledge of sustainable farming methods. OCA supports smallholder farmers in both irrigation and rain feed



farming through the provision of farm inputs microloans and agriculture expertise. Some of the activities conducted during reporting month have been explained below;

OCA Agro-ecology farm

OCA is practicing Agro-ecology farming where crop production is being done without the use of chemicals. The farm is composed of fruit trees, legumes, cereals and vegetables. Currently harvesting of vegetables from the farm is in progress which is being sold out to the community and the other portion is being given to the clinic. The women at Maternity were supported with different types of vegetables which were indigenous and exotic such as Amaranths, Rape, Chinese, Mustard, pumpkin leaves and blackjack. The indigenous vegetables are scarce in the community especially during dry season hence pregnant mothers were at an advantage as OCA was supplying them with these vegetables. These types of vegetables are more important to pregnant mothers as it helps to boost their immune system.



Harvesting of vegetables in OCA Agro-ecology farm in progress

Mwayiwathu farm

Marketing of Produce

Mwayiwathu has closed its second year farming season with OCA as they have sold their produce from 2022-2023 farming season. Marketing of Soya, Groundnuts and Maize grain was done. The soya beans and Maize grain was sold at Mk700/kg and Groundnuts was sold at Mk7,000/ bucket. Mwayiwathu club members were happy to sell there produce at such prices especially Soya beans as the market for soya has been poor for this year.



Selling of farm produce by Mwayiwathu farm club

Mwayiwathu Loan repayment

After selling of the farm produce, Mwayiwathu club members have managed to pay back the loan to OCA in full. OCA provided farming loan to Mwayiwathu in form of farm inputs such as seeds, chemicals, fertilizers and inoculant. Total loan for Mwayiwathu was 3,933,600. Despite paying back of this loan, Mwayiwathu club members have more food

and money to help them pay school fees for their children and purchasing of other farm inputs for the next rainy season. The club members were happy after selling of these produce as they have been able to make more profits as they did last year. Club members are enjoying working with OCA in this program as their lives are improving. Below is the table showing input and output for 2022-2023 farming season.

Farmers Name	total input	total output	Profit/loss
Daniel Lingison	324,800	1057000	732,200
Labson Kambwita	325,600	1565900	1,240,300
Elias Gidion	368,560	914900	546,340
Monica Banda	343,600	1342600	999,000
Feleyi Jestar	379,600	879200	499,600
Teleza Banda	337,600	1607900	1,270,300
Regina Phiri	446,960	2263800	1,816,840
Aaron Chiwale	434,320	2106300	1,671,980
Dumancy Mtengowaminga	504,760	1246000	741,240
Lyness Nkhungu	467,800	1549800	1,082,000
Total	3,933,600	14,533,400	10,599,800

Irrigation clubs

Harvesting and marketing

Irrigation clubs who planted Maize, Tomatoes, Beans, vegetables and Irish potatoes, have started harvesting some of these crops such as beans and tomatoes. Irrigation clubs namely; Madzimayela, Mantchedza, Mvunguti, Tidalilainu and Kasangadzi are in progress with harvesting. These crops are sold to the community as well as to big buyers

from big markets such as Madisi, Mponela, Lilongwe, Kasungu and Bua markets. Farmers are expecting to make more money from these crops as it has been managed properly especially from pest and disease damage.



Harvesting of Tomatoes and ready for marketing

Pest and disease control

Maize crops have grown to a stage where it requires much attention to fall army worms as this pest can completely reduce crop quality and quantity. Those Clubs practicing maize crop production was supported with enough chemicals and equipped with traditional methods to control this pest. Farmers were encouraged to practice more on the use of traditional methods as it saves production cost while attaining high quality and quantity produce.

Irish potatoes production

As most of the farmers within the OCA catchment area are used to Tomatoes, Maize and beans production in irrigation farming, Mvunguti irrigation club is being trained in Irish potatoes production. Total land of 0.5 acres have been cultivated with Irish potatoes. Farmers are appreciating how this crop is doing and it can be used in crop rotation in future with the crops which are currently being cultivated.



Training farmers on Irish production at mvunguti irrigation club

Demonstration Plots

Showcasing different types of Maize crops which can be cultivated in the irrigation farming is of more importance to smallholder farmers as they will be able to choose the best crop for irrigation by themselves. During reporting period, a representative from



Bayer company visited one of the demonstrations where three maize varieties have been planted at mvunguti. As the crops are at vegetative stage, farmers are already happy with the way crops are growing as they are able to differentiate the results themselves from vegetative stage.

Meeting with farmers with Bayer representative

Business and Financial Empowerment Microloans (FEM)

Executive Summary

In the month of August, the Financially Empowerment Microloans (FEM) has worked tirelessly in making sure that the women entrepreneurs continue to enjoy their financial freedom and be in a position to live a comfortable life. Training to boost their financial capabilities, meetings with local stakeholders and learning visits to other areas among other routine activities were carried out.

Business/ entrepreneurship training

In the FEM program, we have had encounters of gender based violence (GBV) where men would dominate in making financial decisions on microloans contracted by women. There were also other scenarios where the men would take away proceeds realised by the woman and spend it with other women other than their spouses. To ensure that such occurrences do not repeat themselves in the future, the FEM program facilitated training for Tikondane and Tiyanjane FEM groups on the role of spouses in business management. During this training, the women entrepreneurs were asked to come with the partners to attend the training. Some of the folios covered under the topic were, decision making at family level, teamwork and gender equality and family life. It is believed that involving partners in business management will help in minimising GBV occurrences in the family hence contributing to women being able to independently make financial decisions at household level and may in the future reflect on the whole community. Involvement of male counterparts in the programming may also ensure sustainability as the spouse may provide financial, moral and emotional support in running the affairs of the business.



Left- The facilitator with one of the couples



Right- training participants during group discussions



Couples working on their assignments

The training was facilitated by Joanna Chilembe, an agribusiness officer from the agriculture department in Mponera. Participatory training approaches such as group discussions, couple exercises and games and role plays were employed by the facilitator to make the classes livelier and interactive.

Exchange visit

An exchange visit for the oldest FEM group to meet the newest FEM group was organised with the intent of motivating and encouraging each other so that both groups should be successful. To spice up the event, Tikondane FEM group prepared a number of activities such as individual presentations, poems and dramas to showcase to Takondwa members. This also created a platform where both groups may interact, learn and emulate from each other best practices for betterment of their businesses and livelihoods.

Lessons learnt and shared are as follows;

Diversification

Tikondane women entrepreneurs shared to Takondwa members to be open minded and explore other valid business opportunities that may come their way and not just stick to one business just because they are used to it.

Village Savings and loan group

Tikondane members also had the liberty to share how the Orant VSL groups have helped them realise their dreams and rescued them from the jaws of poverty. They encouraged Takondwa members to have good saving plans that may also help them in the future. In their narration, they mentioned how they had learnt through Orant that everyone is supposed to come up with a goal checklist which indicates the amounts required to attain each goal and the month set to achieve that goal at the beginning of every year. This tool has been beneficial to them as it reminds the members of how much they are supposed to be saving through the VSLs on a weekly basis.

Record keeping

Keeping business records has also contributed to the success of business for women in the Tikondane group. They shared that at first it was a bit challenging for them to remember every business transaction and make tangible business decisions but now they are able to appreciate how much it has kept their businesses moving forward.



Takondwa and Tikondane Members



Some of the Tikondane members during a role play

Sensitization meeting

The FEM program plans to expand its program to Mtambalika market since its targeting approach is market based. To achieve this, a sensitization meeting with Joseni and Bweya village development committee was conducted. The sensitization meeting was conducted in collaboration with the education department. Sensitization meetings have always been a powerful tool in strengthening collaboration with local stakeholders. It also eases the work of spreading the messages of OCAs initiatives across the communities hence ensuring sustainability as the programs are owned and accepted by the communities.

During the meeting, it was agreed upon that when distributing application forms, members of the VDC should be involved in authenticating members if they are really from their communities and again if the selected individuals are indeed marginalised and deserving.

Distribution of FEM Application forms

A follow up meeting from the sensitization meeting was arranged to distribute forms. Multitudes of women entrepreneurs from Joseni and Bweya VDC beyond our expectation came to collect forms to express interest in the FEM program. Initially, we had planned to distribute 50 forms to each VDC but a total of 326 came to collect the application forms. With the help of VDC members and local chiefs, 326 forms were distributed, signed and collected.



Women Entrepreneurs around Mtambalika waiting to collect application forms

Loan repayment

August marks the first month of loan repayment for Tikondane and Tiyanjane FEM groups. Repayment has started immediately a month after disbursement as there were delays in repayment from the previous loan period which also affected disbursement. This decision to start repayment was agreed upon by the women entrepreneurs themselves so as not to miss the December loan period.

Education Support Program

Executive Summary

OCA education sponsorship is provided to students who cannot support their education independently due to financial challenges. With the help of OCA donors, students can get access to primary, secondary, and even university level education. In order to be a sponsored student, OCA follows some basic eligibility criteria. Few of which include; Being a poor orphan, belonging to a low income or very poor family, and also having a great interest for studies. Henceforth, the basic goal of the OCA education program is to support a child and the family in order to break the cycle of poverty, and help them to be self-dependent individuals throughout their life.

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

Program Meetings

I. Review Meeting with Parents

The education program attended a meeting with parents who live within the Kasese catchment area. The aim of the meeting was to discuss how we can help our children (students) excel in life. It was noted that students from within our catchment area are not performing well. This is due to several factors some of which are; poor background, lack of exposure or enough role models in their communities, lack of full parental involvement e.t.c.

During the meeting it was discussed that our students can be exposed by bringing in role models in their schools to inspire them. We also highlighted one another on the importance of parents getting involved in their children's education and also the responsibilities of parents toward their children's education. It was a very fruitful meeting because a lot of parents learnt a lot since most of them were not getting involved in their children's education.



OCA education program conducting a meeting with parents & students within the Kasese catchment area

In addition to that, the parents were also reminded of the things that the OCA education program does to help students excel. Thus; providing school fees, material support, mentorship, monitoring, e.t.c. The parents were also informed of the University Program called “**Orant Ulemu Scholarship**” which is there to assist students when they have been selected to University/college. The initial plan of the scholarship is to assist students who were previously assisted by Orant in Secondary school. OCA noted a gap in students' academic life that after graduating from secondary school they were failing to progress in the university due to lack of tuition and support. The OCA education program encouraged the parents to keep on working together with Orant and also to continue encouraging their children so that they perform with good grades and have the chance to be given a scholarship under the Ulemu scholarship.

Meetings with parents are conducted every term (quarterly) in order to help our students excel in their academic life.

II. Village Development Committee (VDC) Meeting

Orant Charities Africa Education program conducted a meeting with VDCs for the Bweya and Joseni section within the Kasese catchment area. The aim of the meeting was to

inform the community of what is involved in the education program. We also discussed 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.



OCA Education program Manager (Lonjezo) conducting a meeting with VDC from Joseni and Bweya section

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.

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 part of the society. The community has the responsibility to support and advocate for the girls.

III. Meeting with CAMFED

In the same reporting period, the education program also had a meeting with the Campaign for Female Education (CAMFED) organisation. Some of the things which were discussed and shared include ; The process of selecting students, ways to communicate with students and their staff. It was also noted that CAMFED have mentors whom they call “Teacher mentors' ', whereby they select one Teacher from each

school where they are supporting students. Additionally, CAMFED has an Alumni association (graduates) who visit other students for encouragement and also act as low models.



OCA meeting with CAMFED

Lastly, it was also noted that CAMFED also supports Tertiary and primary students. They also conduct annual meetings with parents and during holidays they invite students to camps where they conduct lessons, extra curricular activities and also role models are brought in.

It was a very wonderful meeting and OCA learnt a lot from CAMFED and is looking forward to working with them.

Graduation Ceremony



In the same reporting period OCA had one student who graduated from University. Alick Nathan was studying Materials and Metallurgy engineering at the Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST) and he has graduated with a Bachelor's degree. This is a great achievement to OCA because Alick is the first student to graduate from University since OCA started sponsoring students in 2017. Currently OCA has 5 students in University.

Junior Certificate of Education (JCE) Exams

OCA had a total of 31 students who sat for the JCE exams, and 29 passed, representing a 93.5% pass rate. The two students who failed are from Madisi secondary school and Ngala CDSS. When one fails JCE it means that she/he can no longer be admitted in any government school across Malawi to continue with his/her education or to repeat. This also means that as Orant, we will no longer sponsor these students since they have failed and have no school to go to for repetition.

However, Orant will replace these students with other needy but deserving students. The replaced students will be from the same schools and in form 3 since the students who have failed the JCE were to be in that class in the coming academic year.

	# of students who wrote JCE	Boarding students	Day students	Total
	31	23	8	31
Passed	29	22	7	29
Failed	2	1	1	2

2023 JCE results

Primary School Leaving Certificate of Education (PSLCE) Exams

PSLCE examinations in Malawi are conducted for the student who is completing their final grade at primary school. This examination is also used by the Ministry of education to select students to various public secondary schools. In the year 2023, only one OCA student sat for the Primary School Leaving Certificate of Education (PSLCE) Examinations and was selected to Mponera Community Day Secondary School (CDSS).



The results were out in August and she passed. She was selected to Mponera Community Day Secondary School (CDSS), a day school located in Mponera trading Centre.

However, it will be difficult for the student to be learning at this school since it is far (about 28km) from her home village. She stays at Chilemba village which is around Kasese Catchment area and it is not possible for her to be commuting every day to school. Therefore, OCA will try to find the best school for her so that she continues her education without any difficulties.

Selection of Ulemu scholarship students

In the 2023/2024 academic year, OCA received 43 applications for the Ulemu scholarship. 14 applications were from previous OCA students and 29 non OCA students. From the 14 OCA previous students, 2 are continuing students and 12 are first year students.

During the selection, two OCA previous sponsored students were considered to be given the scholarship. These two have been prioritised for the reasons that; They come from Kasese catchment area and Orant believes that people from Kasese are the primary beneficiaries of OCA program. The students also come from poor families and their parents cannot afford to pay for them at the University. Lastly, it is because they have good MSCE grades. 13 and 17 points. However, we will still have a Surplus from the annual budget which will be used to pay for tuition for a third student who will not have any scholarship or government loan.



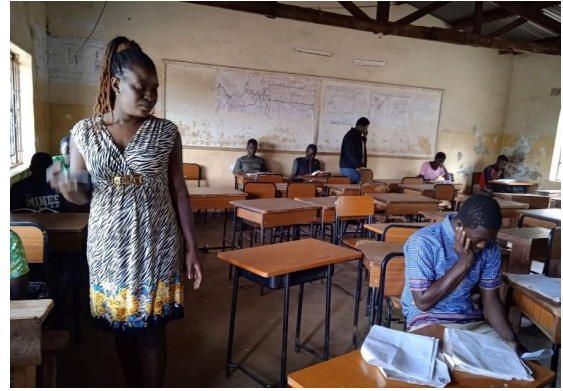
Selection of Orant Ulemu Scholarship students

The Orant Ulemu scholarship will therefore support the education of **4** University students (3 females and one male) in the 2023/2024 academic year. The male student who is in first year has already been supported with tuition for one semester (second semester) because his grades were missing and he had to repeat a semester. Two students in first year will be supported for the whole academic year with tuition, food and accommodation. And one student (in first year as well) will be supported with Tuition only.

The selection of the students will be disclosed after the government has released names of students which have been given the loans. This is so because we want to give the scholarship to someone who has not benefited from any scholarship or loan. If the selected students will be given government loans, we will give the scholarship to other students with the lowest grades from the students who qualify.

School Library visit

Monitoring of the Library sessions at Ngala CDSS is still in progress. In the reporting month, the education program visited the schools' Library to check the attendance of students at the Library since it was during the holiday and the Library remained open. OCA noted that the attendance was very good, students from all classes were visiting the Library and also students from other schools who stayed within the Ngala CDSS also had the privilege of visiting the school's Library.



Students studying in the Library (left) and in the classroom (right) monitored by OCA

The Education program also visited the Library to help the Librarian with the check out system. Ngala CDSS Library adopted a new check out system (the use of cards & pockets) from Madisi secondary school and OCA visited to see progress and also to assist them.



OCA Education Support Assistant (Amanda) helping Ngala CDSS Librarian with the new check out system