



FEBRUARY, 2024

ORANT CHARITIES AFRICA MONTHLY REPORT



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Healthcare Program

Executive Summary

Kasese Health Center (KHC) 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 February 2024, Kasese Health Center (KHC) saw **2918** clients at (OPD). Only **42** patients were seen during weekends and nights. The total number of patients seen in February is **2960**(KHC OPD). MOC in Kasese catchment areas saw **1625**. Kasungu (Bowe) Outreach clinic saw **4827** clients. MOC's total number of patients seen is **6452**. The total number of patients seen in February 2024 is **9412** (Dowa: **4585 (49%)** & Kasungu **4827 (51%)**).

The Laboratory department tested **4707** for Malaria, out of which **2300** were positive, representing a **49%** positivity rate. In Dowa, **2268** patients were tested and **974(43%)** were positive cases; in Kasungu, **2439** patients were tested and **1326(54%)** were positive.

The Maternity department admitted **31** mothers and referred **12**. A total of **29** babies were born at the facility and **4** in transit (BBA). Out of **33** babies, **12** had complications (**4** Weight < 2.5 Kgs, **1** Asphyxia, **6** Prematurity and **1** other). The total Maternity attendance was **43** (**31** admissions and **12** referrals).

The HTS department tested **252** clients, **1** was found positive.

The total number of patients seen at the eye clinic by an outsourced clinician is **44** and **5** were booked for surgery.

The public health department administered **412** doses of Johnson and Johnson (J & J) COVID-19 vaccine.

Cervical Cancer providers screened a total of **24** women and **no** VIA+.

The MOC 1 team managed to conduct all **20(100%)** scheduled visits in the month. MOC 2 conducted **8** visits out of **18 (44%)** scheduled visits.

Monthly Patients Visit

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

2024	OPD Static	Bowe MOC	Kasese MOC	Nights/Holiday	Total
Jan	2719	2853	705	77	6354
Feb	2918	5714	1625	42	10299
Total	5637	8567	2330	119	16653

Table 1: Monthly OPD And Outreach Clinic Attendance

Figure 1 below shows the total OCA patient attendance in 2024

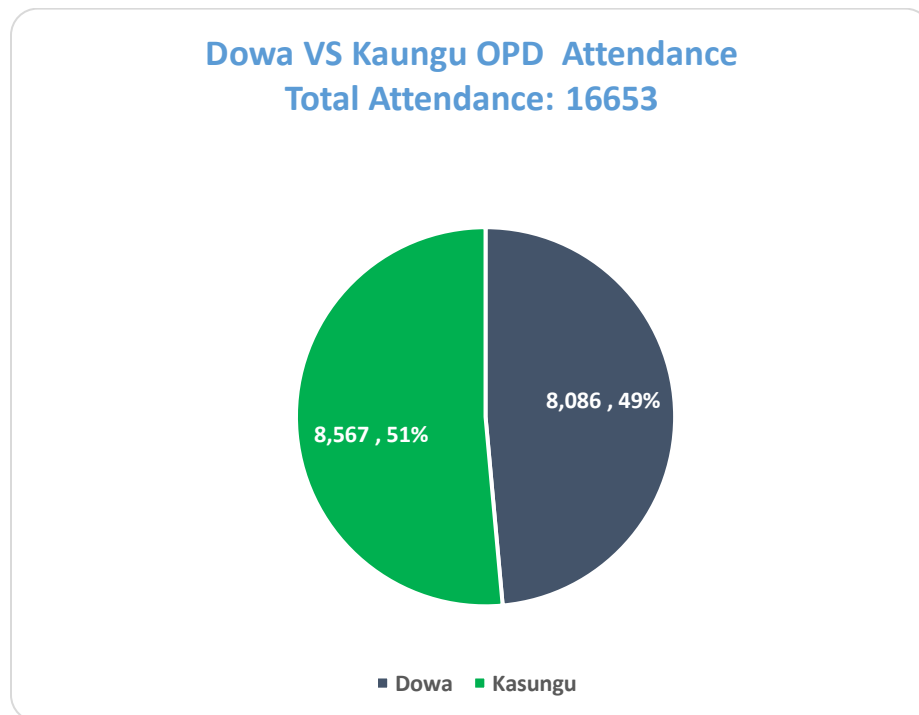


Figure 1: OCA Patient Attendance – 2024.

OCA MOC Updates

Figures 2 and 3 below show the Kasungu patient attendance for February 2024

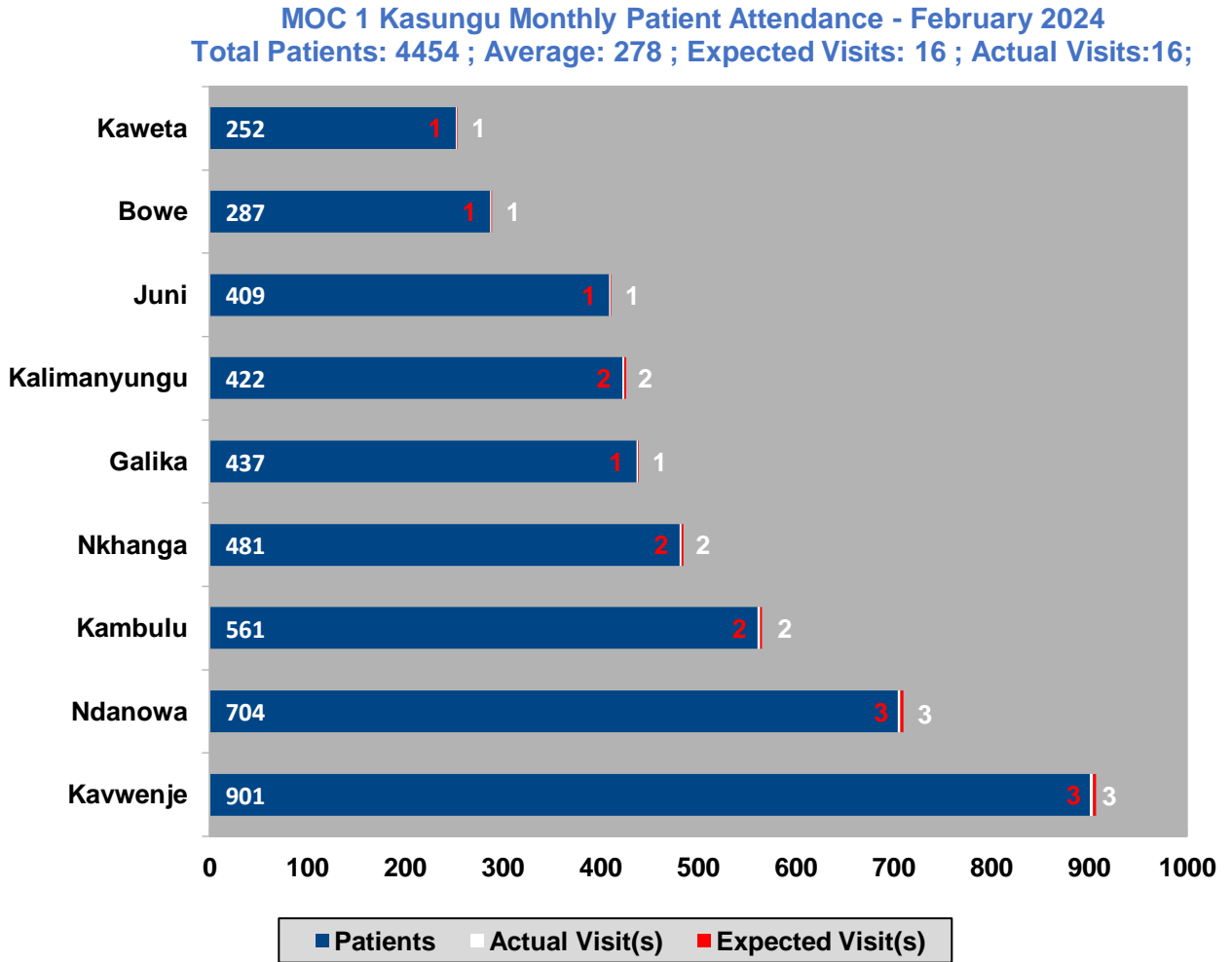


Figure 2: Kasungu Patient Attendance – February 2024.

MOC 2 Kasungu Monthly Patient Attendance - February 2024
Total Patients: 1260 ; Average: 158 ; Expected Visits: 15 ; Actual Visits: 8;

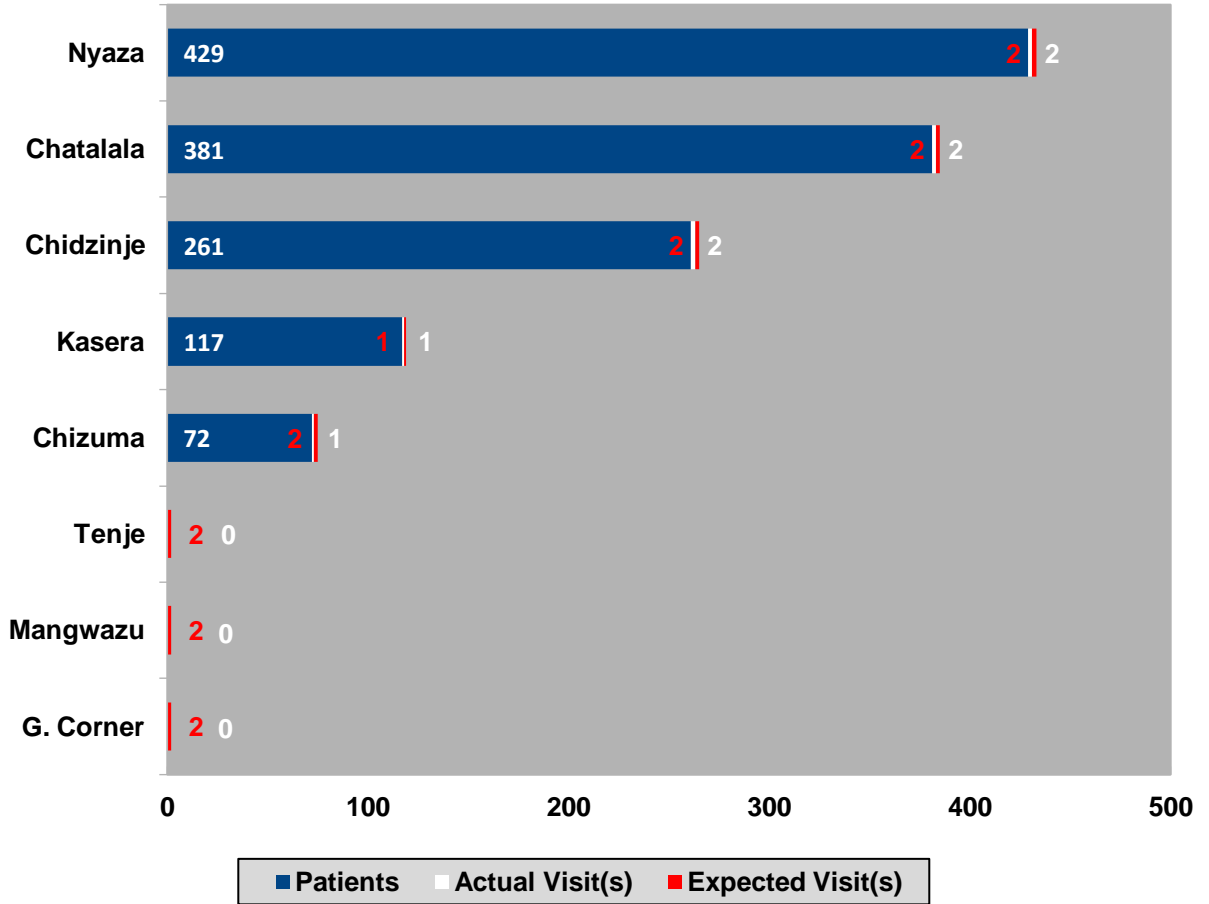


Figure 3: Kasungu Patient Attendance – February 2024.

Figure 4 below shows the Dowa patient attendance for February 2024

Dowa (Kasese Outreach) Monthly Attendance - February 2024
Total Patients: 1625 ; Average: 287 ; Expected Visits: 7; Actual Visits: 6;

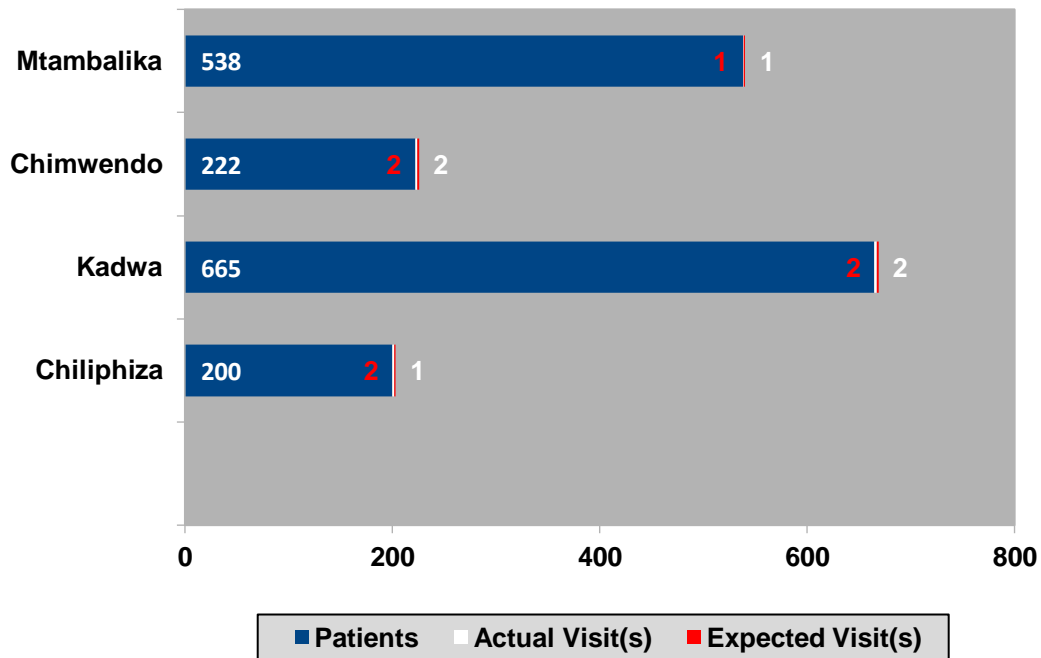


Figure 3: Dowa Patient Attendance – February 2024.

COVID -19 Situation Updates

The COVID-19 situation in the country remains low and in February 2024, **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 COVID-19 Data.

	Staff (OCA/HSA)	Others	Total
February Tests	0	0	0
February Positives	0	0	0

Table 2: COVID-19 Cumulative Data

4.2 COVID 19 Vaccine (Pfizer) – KHC Static.

Table 3 below shows Vaccine Doses Administered in 2024

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

Table 3: Pfizer Administered at KHC Static (February 2024)

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

Table 4 below shows Vaccine Doses Administered in 2024

Vaccine Type	Male	Female	Total
B/F	179	273	452
Dose 1	33	63	96
Dose 2	51	77	128
Booster	66	122	188
Total	329	535	864

Table 4: J & J Administered at KHC Static (February 2024)

4.4 COVID-19 Vaccine (Astra-Zeneca) – KHC Static

Table 5 below shows Vaccine Doses Administered in 2024

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

Table 5: Astra-Zeneca Administered at KHC Static (February 2024)

4.5 COVID 19 Vaccine Status – KHC Static.

Table 6 below shows Vaccine Status in February 2024

Vaccine Type	Beginning Balance	End Balance
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Table 6: Vaccine Status at KHC Static (February 2024)

Reproductive and Family Planning Health

5.1 Maternal and New-born Health Care

2024	Admissions	Referrals	Attendance	New Babies	Alive Babies	Facility Deliveries
January	32	13	45	32	32	30
February	31	12	43	33	31	29

Table 7: Maternity Data – 2024

Table 8 below shows the Maternity Data of new babies with complications.

Months (2024)	Jan	Feb
Weight <2500g	7	4
Prematurity	1	6
Asphyxia	1	1
Sepsis	0	0
Stillbirth Fresh	0	0
Stillbirth Macerated	0	0
Neonatal Death	0	2
Total	9	13

Table 8; Newborns with complications – 2024

Figure 5 below shows the total newborns complications in 2024.

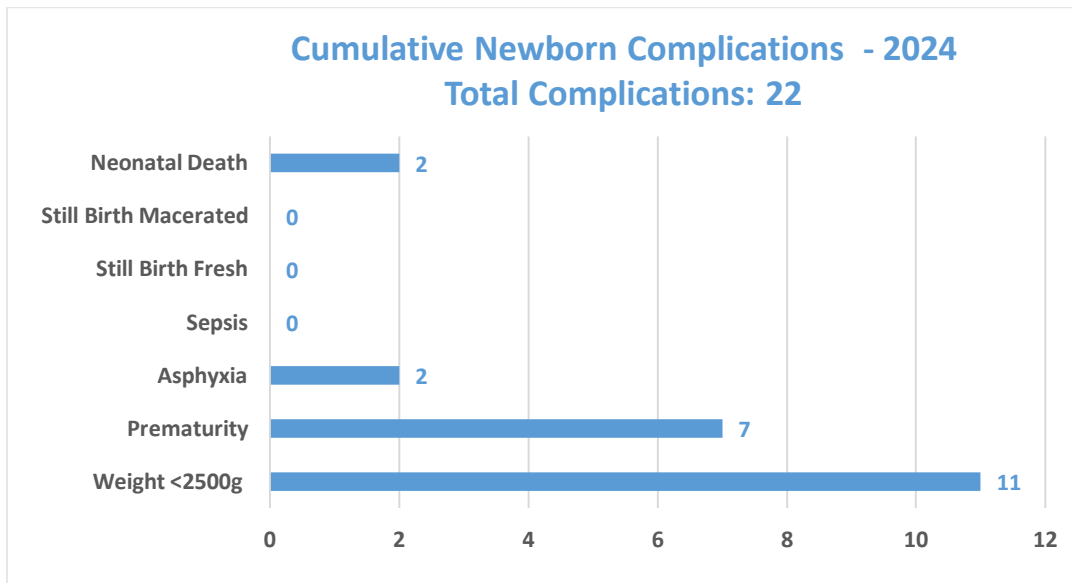


Figure 4: Newborns Complications – 2024

Figure 5 below shows the total monthly Maternity attendance.

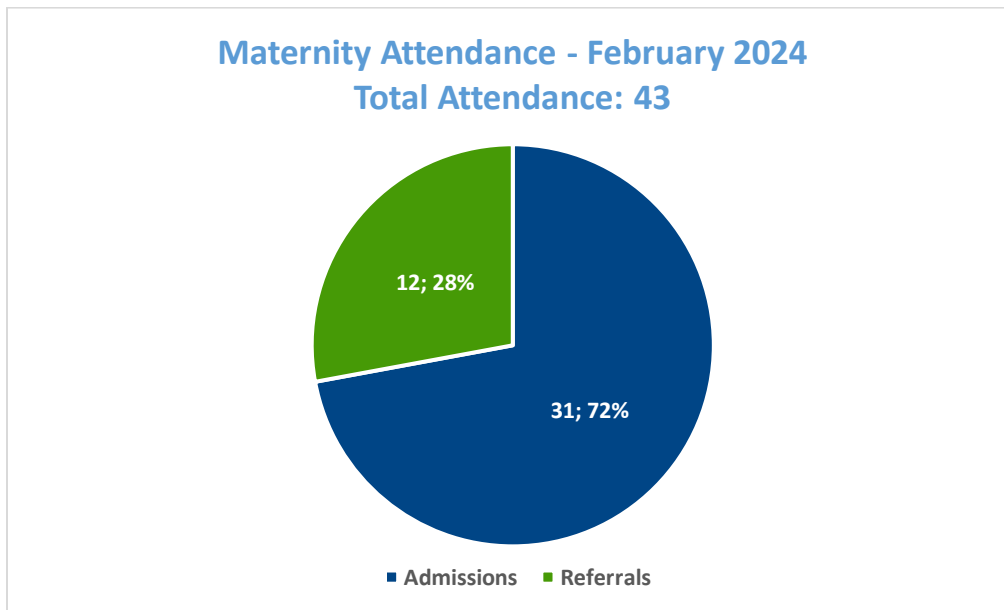


Figure 5: Admissions and Referrals (February 2024)

Table 9 below shows the reason for the referrals

Referral Reason	Referred
CPD	4
Young Primigravida	2
Obstructed Prolonged Labour	2
Cervical Distortia	1
APH	2
Pre-Eclampsia	1
Total	12

Table 9: Referral Reasons - February 2024

Table 10 below shows ANC attendance.

2024	New ANC Visit	First Trimester	%First Trimester
January	82	33	40%
February	73	33	45%

Table 10: ANC Attendance – February 2024

5.2 Cervical Cancer Control Clinic Report

Table 11 below shows the 2024 Monthly Cervical Cancer Screening.

2024	Total	VIA+	%VIA+
January	24	1	4.17%
February	24	0	0.00%

Table 11: Monthly Cervical Cancer Screening – 2024

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

Family Planning Clinic Report

Table 12 below shows the 2024 Monthly Family Planning Report.

2024	Condoms	COC	Depo	Implanon	Levoplant s	Jadelle	IUCD	Total
Jan	71	14	642	20	2	3	0	752
Feb	46	34	491	26	8	19	2	626

Table 12: Monthly Family Planning – 2024

Eye Clinic

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

Table 13 below shows the total number of clients treated for eye infections and those booked for surgery.

2024	Eye (Treated)	Infections	Eye Surgery (Booked)	Total Seen
January	57		2	59
February	40		5	45

Table 13: Monthly Eye Clinic Table – 2024

Malaria Report

Table 14 below shows Malaria tests for February 2024 (Dowa and Kasungu)

	Total Tested	Positives	Negatives	Positivity Rate
Under 5	1676	633	1043	38%
5 Years and Over	3031	1667	1364	55%
Total	4707	2300	2407	49%

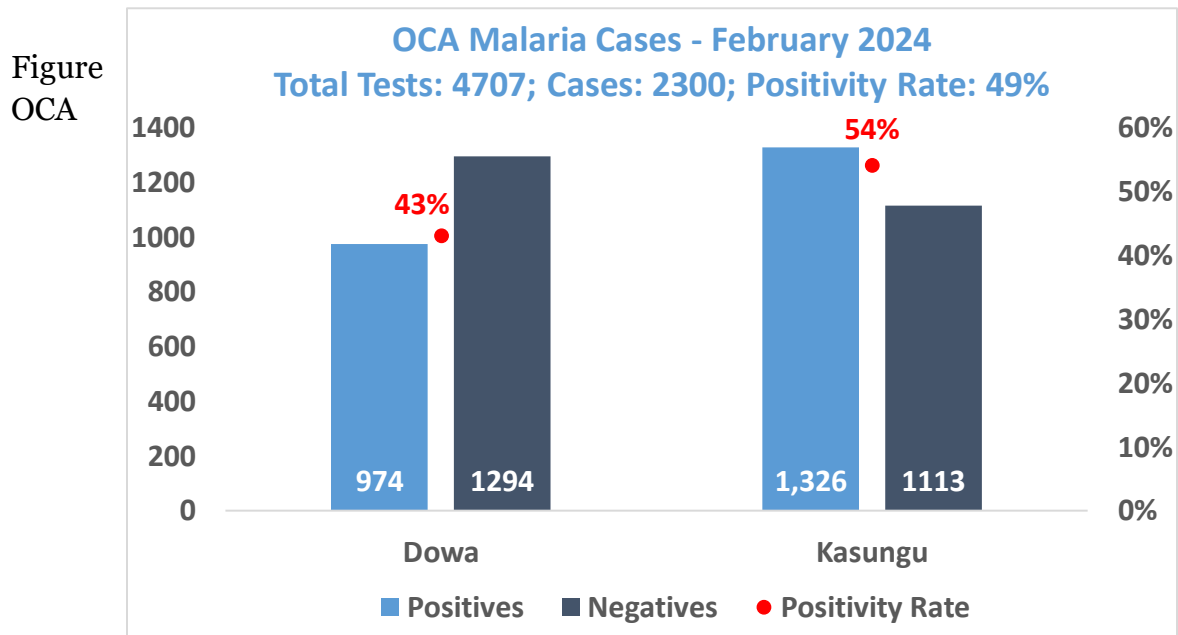
Table 14: Total Malaria Tests - 2024.

Table 15 below shows the total Malaria Cases (MRDT's Positive), LA Issued and Dispensed (OCA Clinics)

2024	Jan	Feb
Suspected Malaria Cases	3366	4707
Suspected Cases Tested MRDT	3366	4707
Confirmed Malaria Cases	1707	2300
New Malaria Cases Registered	1707	2300

Table 15: Total Malaria Cases, LA Issued and Dispensed Table.

Figure 7: shows total OCA Malaria tests



6:

Clinics Malaria tests (February 2024)

Figure 8 shows the total OCA Clinics under 5 Years of Malaria tests

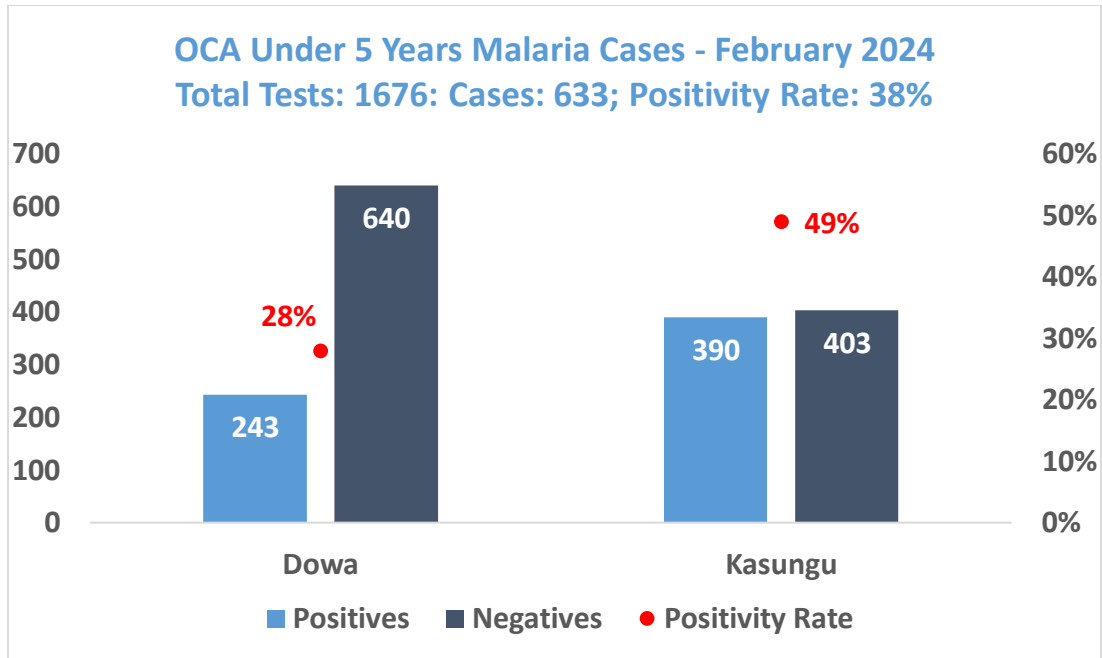


Figure 7: OCA Clinics, Under 5 Years Malaria tests (February 2024)

Figure 9 shows the total OCA Clinics 5 Years and Over Malaria tests

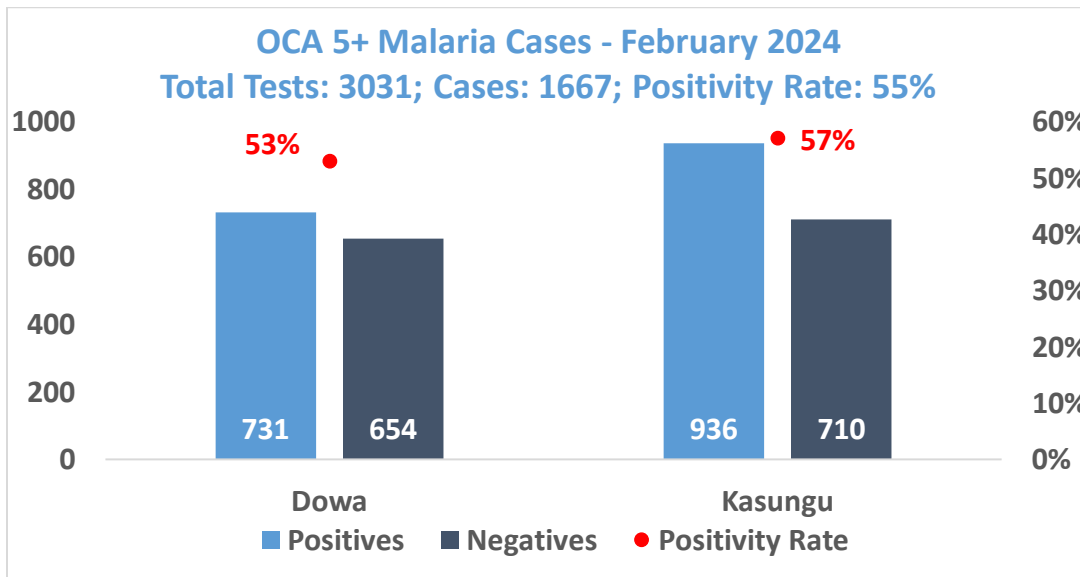


Figure 8: OCA Clinics, 5+ Malaria tests (February 2024).

HIV Testing Services (HTS)

Months	Total Tested	Positives	Positivity Rate
January	252	1	0.4%
February	273	4	1.47%

Table 16; HTS Monthly Data – 2024

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

Laboratory Services

Table 17 below shows qualitative Laboratory tests conducted in 2024.

	H. Pyloris		Salmonella		Hep B		HCG		COVID 19	
	Total	Pos	Total	Pos	Total	Pos	Total	Pos	Total	Pos
Jan	130		23	3	3	0	92	35	0	0
		33								
Feb	113	44	15	2	2	1	74	38	0	0

Table 17: Qualitative Lab Tests Data Table for OCA Clinics - 2024.

Figure 10 below shows qualitative lab tests – February 2024

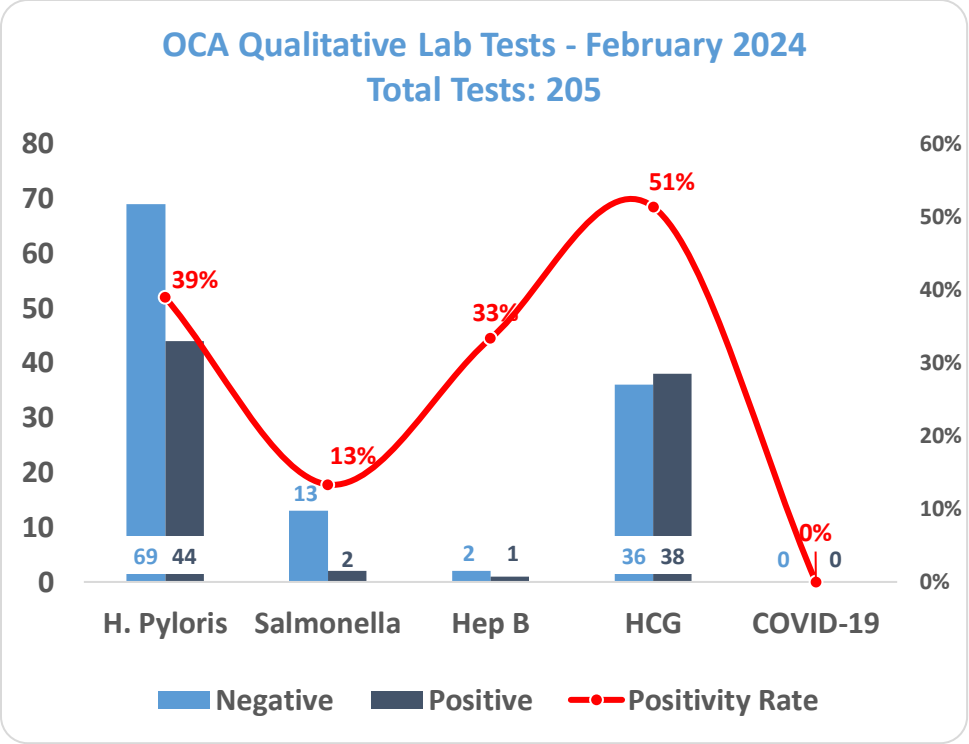


Figure 9: Qualitative Lab Tests – 2024.

Table 18 below shows OCA clinics quantitative Laboratory tests conducted in 2024.

	Glucose	HB	Urinalysis	FBC
Jan	77	76	12	168
Feb	99	92	16	120

Table 18; Quantitative Lab Tests Data Table for OCA Clinics – 2024.

Figure 11 shows quantitative lab tests for February 2024

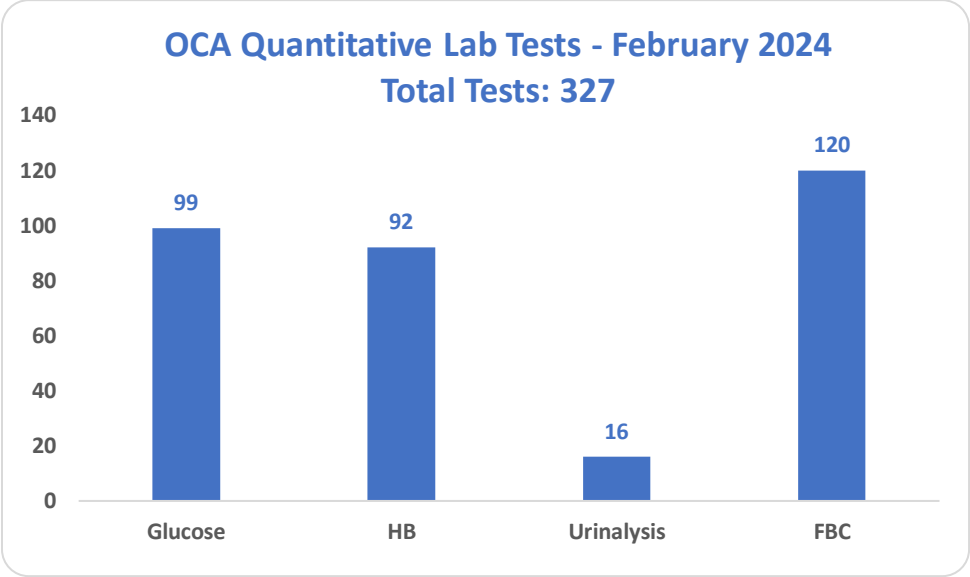


Figure 10: Quantitative Lab Tests – February 2024.

Disease Group Trends

Figure 12 below shows Dowa disease occurrences for February 2024

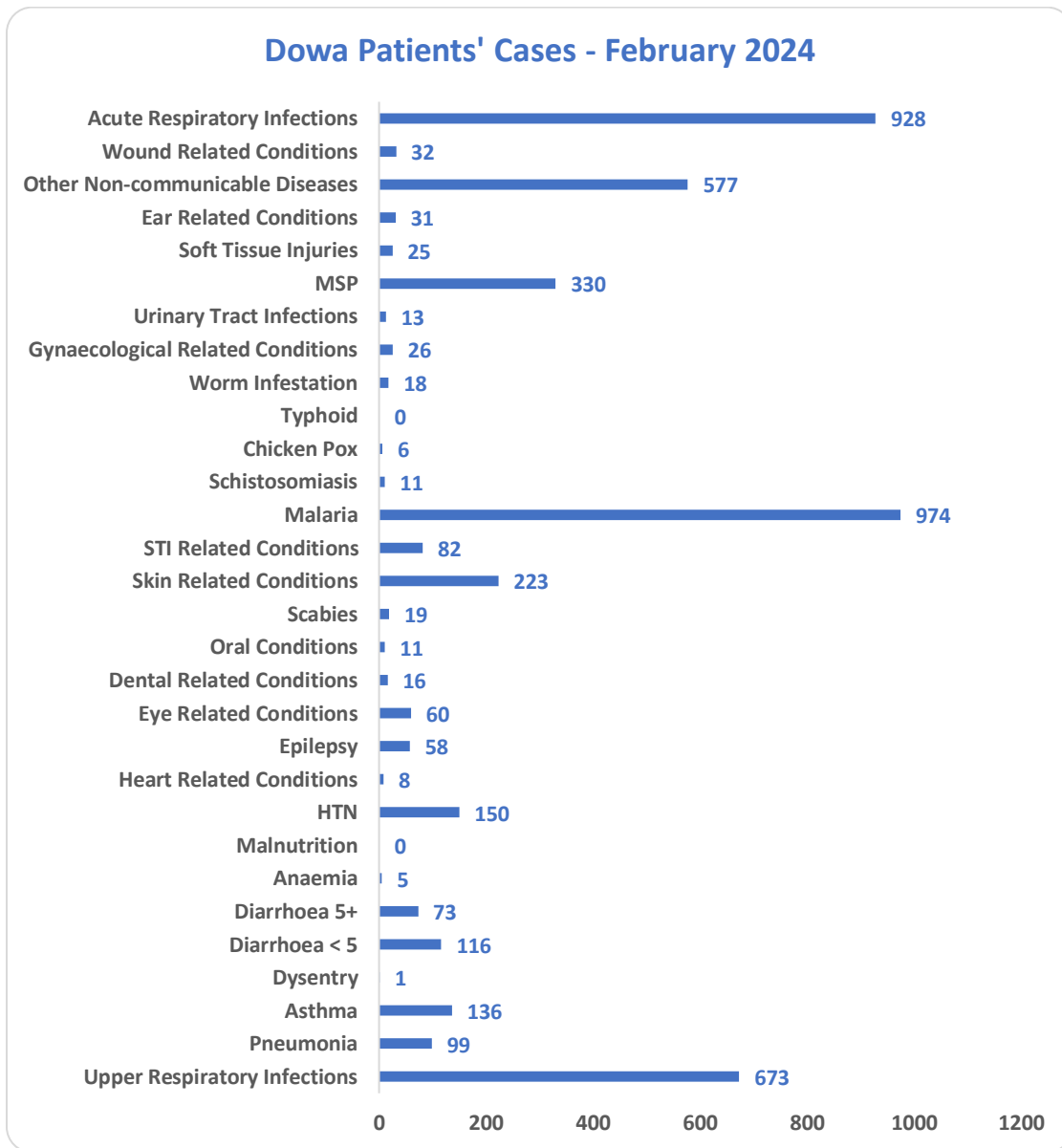


Figure 11: Dowa Disease Occurrences (February 2024).

Figure 13 below shows Kasungu disease occurrences for February 2024.

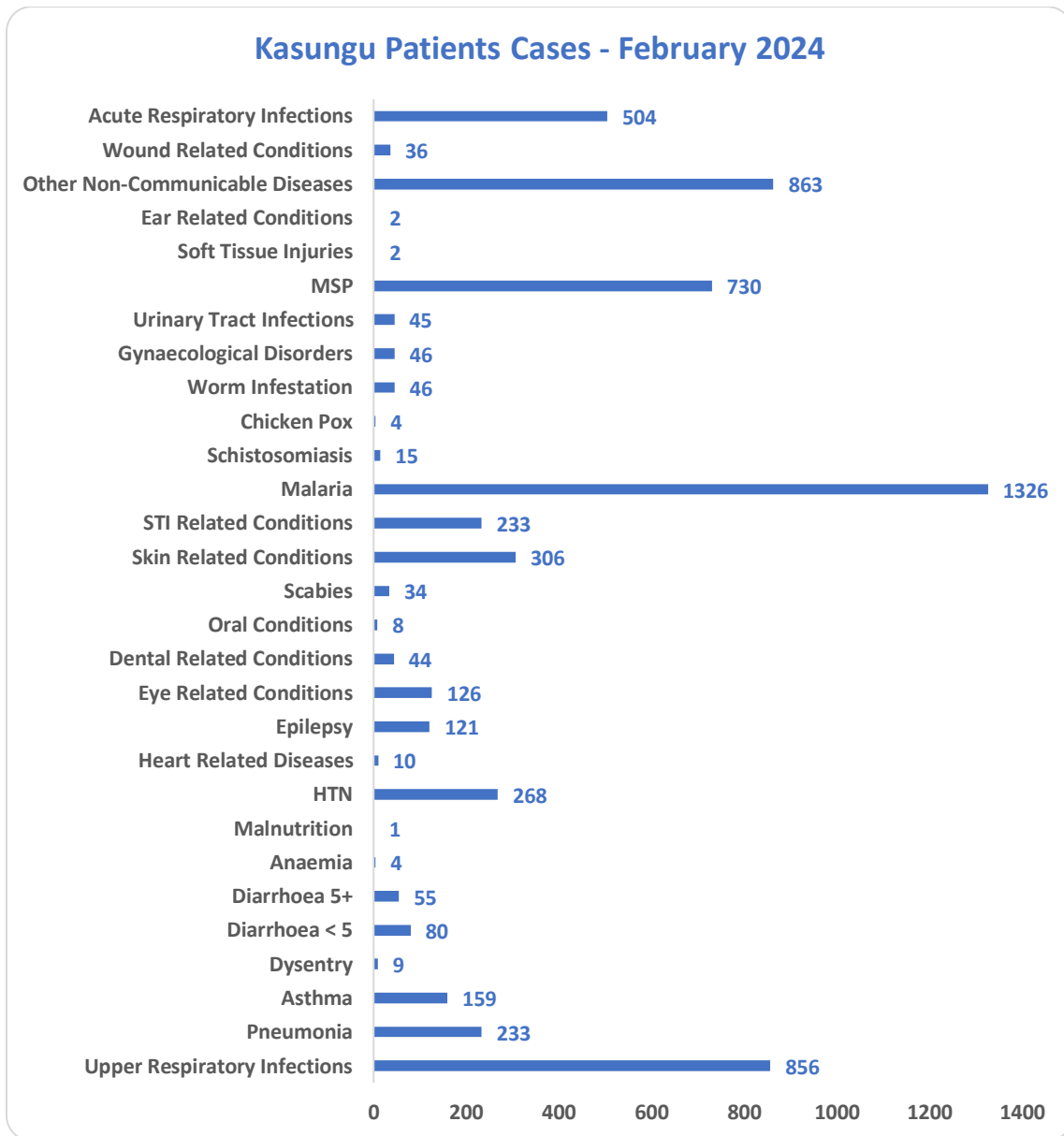


Figure 12: Kasungu Disease Occurrences (February 2024)

Healthcare Finance and Administration

Table 19 shows the clinic finance table for February 2024.

2024	Collection	Referrals	Clients	Average Cost
January	MK 3,754,600	MK 506,115	13	MK 38,932
February	MK 5,507,350	MK 687,650	17	MK 40,450

Table 19: Clinic Finances – 2024

Achievements and Challenges

1. Success Highlights

- ❖ The health Centre introduced the second Mobile outreach Clinic which serves part of Kasungu and Kasese Health Centre catchment areas in Dowa district. The new areas are; Nyaza, Chitalala, Kasera, Chizuma and Tenje.
- ❖ The health Centre did not run short of the most essential medicine and medical supplies.

2. Challenges

- ❖ Malaria continues to be the leading common public health problem seen at the Health Centre, the month of February is the epidemic period. It's also the season whereby the health Centre experiences morbidity and mortality due to malaria especially in children under five years (one child was brought in dead due to malaria). From the data, Kasungu district continues to register a high positivity rate of 54% while Dowa district is at 43%.
- ❖ During the month of February the Health Centre experienced high cases of premature infants, 6 premature infants.

Appendices

Appendix A: February 2024 MOC1 Schedule

2024 MOC1 Schedule					
Date	Day	Station	District	Outreach Clinic	Time
1	Thursday	Nkhanga	Kasungu	Outreach Clinic	09:00 AM – 3:00 PM
2	Friday	Kadwa	Dowa	Outreach Clinic	09:00 AM – 3:00 PM
3	Saturday				
4	Sunday				
5	Monday	Chisuwe	Kasungu	Outreach Clinic	09:00 AM – 3:00 PM
6	Tuesday	Kamtomphole	Kasungu	Outreach Clinic	09:00 AM – 3:00 PM
7	Wednesday	Kavwenje	Kasungu	Outreach Clinic	09:00 AM – 3:00 PM
8	Thursday	Kambulu	Kasungu	Outreach Clinic	09:00 AM – 3:00 PM
9	Friday	Mtambalika	Dowa	Outreach Clinic	09:00 AM – 3:00 PM
10	Saturday				
11	Sunday				
12	Monday	Miyowe	Kasungu	Outreach Clinic	09:00 AM – 3:00 PM
13	Tuesday	Ndanowa	Kasungu	Outreach Clinic	09:00 AM – 3:00 PM
14	Wednesday	Lusito	Kasungu	Outreach Clinic	09:00 AM – 3:00 PM
15	Thursday	Kalimanyungu	Kasungu	Outreach Clinic	09:00 AM – 3:00 PM
16	Friday	Chiliphiza	Dowa	Outreach Clinic	09:00 AM – 3:00 PM
17	Saturday				
18	Sunday				
19	Monday	Galika	Kasungu	Outreach Clinic	09:00 AM – 3:00 PM
20	Tuesday	Juni	Kasungu	Outreach Clinic	09:00 AM – 3:00 PM
21	Wednesday	Bowe	Kasungu	Outreach Clinic	09:00 AM – 3:00 PM

22	Thursday	Kaweta	Kasungu	Outreach Clinic	09:00 AM – 3:00 PM
23	Friday	Chimwendo	Dowa	Outreach Clinic	09:00 AM – 3:00 PM
24	Saturday				
25	Sunday				
26	Monday	Ndanowa	Kasungu	Outreach Clinic	09:00 AM – 3:00 PM
27	Tuesday	Kalimanyungu	Kasungu	Outreach Clinic	09:00 AM – 3:00 PM
28	Wednesday	Lusito	Kasungu	Outreach Clinic	09:00 AM – 3:00 PM
29	Thursday	Preparation Day			
30	Friday				
31	Saturday				

Appendix B: February 2024 MOC2 Schedule

2024 MOC2 Schedule					
Date	Day	Station	District	Outreach Clinic	Time
1	Thursday				
2	Friday				
3	Saturday				
4	Sunday				
5	Monday	Mangwazu	Kasungu	Outreach Clinic	09:00 AM – 3:00 PM
6	Tuesday	Tenje	Kasungu	Outreach Clinic	09:00 AM – 3:00 PM
7	Wednesday	Chatalala	Kasungu	Outreach Clinic	09:00 AM – 3:00 PM
8	Thursday	Chizuma	Kasungu	Outreach Clinic	09:00 AM – 3:00 PM
9	Friday	Chimwendo	Dowa	Outreach Clinic	09:00 AM – 3:00 PM

10	Saturday				
11	Sunday				
12	Monday	Nyaza	Kasungu	Outreach Clinic	09:00 AM – 3:00 PM
13	Tuesday	Chidzenje	Kasungu	Outreach Clinic	09:00 AM – 3:00 PM
14	Wednesday	G. Corner	Kasungu	Outreach Clinic	09:00 AM – 3:00 PM
15	Thursday	Kasera	Kasungu	Outreach Clinic	09:00 AM – 3:00 PM
16	Friday	Kadwa	Dowa	Outreach Clinic	09:00 AM – 3:00 PM
17	Saturday				
18	Sunday				
19	Monday	Mangwazu	Kasungu	Outreach Clinic	09:00 AM – 3:00 PM
20	Tuesday	Tenje	Kasungu	Outreach Clinic	09:00 AM – 3:00 PM
21	Wednesday	Chatalala	Kasungu	Outreach Clinic	09:00 AM – 3:00 PM
22	Thursday	Chizuma	Kasungu	Outreach Clinic	09:00 AM – 3:00 PM
23	Friday	Mtambalika	Dowa	Outreach Clinic	09:00 AM – 3:00 PM
24	Saturday				
25	Sunday				
26	Monday	Nyaza	Kasungu	Outreach Clinic	09:00 AM – 3:00 PM
27	Tuesday	Chidzenje	Kasungu	Outreach Clinic	09:00 AM – 3:00 PM
28	Wednesday	G. Corner	Kasungu	Outreach Clinic	09:00 AM – 3:00 PM
29	Thursday	Preparation Day			

Water and Sanitation Program

Executive Summary

The WASH program's overall goal is to reduce morbidity and mortality for the people of Kasese through improved WASH services. In this regard, the WASH program has four key implementation areas namely; Water supply, Operation and maintenance



of WASH facilities, Community and school sanitation as well as stakeholder coordination. In February, the WASH program implemented several activities aligned with these key implementation areas. Therefore, this report provides the progress of program implementation in February 2024. This report begins with an introduction, a summary of achievements, then a detailed narration of achievements, and finally ends with a conclusion.

SUMMARY OF MONTHLY ACHIEVEMENTS

In February the following milestones were achieved;

- Supported **35** water point repairs (Service/preventive: **31** major repairs: **4**)
- Community-Based Management (CBM) training for Kawele and Kalidele Water Point Committees (WPCs)
- Review Meeting with Sanitation Entrepreneurs
- Assessment of piped water sites

DETAILED NARRATION OF MONTHLY ACHIEVEMENTS

The WASH program carried out the following key activities in February 2024.

Water point/borehole repairs and rehabilitations



Female Afridev pump Area Mechanics performing borehole repairs during the month

Water point repairs are one of the focal activities for the WASH program. Under this initiative the WASH program services/preventive maintenance and major repairs water points to ensure sustainable access to potable water for the people of Kasese. In 2024, the WASH program will continue to promote water point services or preventive maintenance, which can potentially reduce costly major water repairs. The preventive maintenance of water points is conducted by Area Mechanics. In February, the program supported repairs of **35** water point repairs. Of the 35 water points repaired, **31** were preventive maintenance and **4** were major repairs. Despite the good job the Area Mechanics do regarding preventive maintenance they always have challenges in terms of transport to the water points which are far apart within their catchment areas. On average each Area Mechanic has an average of 65 boreholes in his or her catchment. The transport challenge reduces the number of monthly water points they can service as some water points are not serviced. In this regard, the WASH program proposes that OCA should consider supporting them with bicycles to ease this transportation challenge.

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

In February, the WASH program conducted two CBM training for Kalidele and Kawele WPCs. The water points in Kalidele were drilled in December and August 2023 respectively. In each WPC, 11 participants attended the training. The training was facilitated by OCA WASH program staff in collaboration with the Dowa district Water office, Health Surveillance Assistant (HSA), and Area Mechanic. The training in these two villages focused on minor repairs of Afridev pumps, fundraising for water point maintenance, household water handling, sanitation, and hygiene. Currently, the water point in Kawele Village is supplying potable water to approximately 200 people while the one in Kalidele Village is supporting 300 people.



Left -Group discussion during Kawele CBM training, Right- A practical session during Kalidele CBM training

Review Meeting with Sanitation Entrepreneurs

During the month the program also conducted a review meeting with Sanitation Entrepreneurs. Sanitation Entrepreneurs are trained artisans responsible for making pit latrine slabs, and corbelled latrines and selling in their communities at agreed price as a part of promoting good sanitation practices in the catchment. The meeting was organized to review progress made since their training which was conducted in June 2023. The meeting was attended by all 10 Sanitation Entrepreneurs trained by OCA. During the meeting, it was observed that all participants had constructed and sold some latrine slabs in the last 6 months. It was further observed that there was low adoption of the corbelled latrine in the communities. This low adoption of corbelled latrines might be a result of

other projects which are also promoting other types of latrines such as Ecosan in the same catchment area. The changes in prices of cement were agreed as a major challenge faced by Sanitation Entrepreneurs in the past six months.



A round table discussion during the Sanitation Entrepreneurs review meeting

Assessment of piped water sites

In February the WASH program started an assessment of potential sites for this year's community piped water project. During this activity WASH program staff visited villages which are under-served by the program due to the existence of saline aquifers to assess the feasibility of a piped water project in these villages. During the month the following villages/institutions were visited; Kabuluzi school, Mdinga School, Phambako, Masiku, and Chapuwala villages. Following the assessment, it was observed that there is a huge potential for a piped water project in these areas due to the insufficient number of boreholes in the area and the suitable elevations for the piped water project. It was further observed that the piped water project will likely serve two primary schools making this project worthy of exploring.

Conclusion

Overall the month of February was productive in program implementation with significant milestones achieved narrated in this report. The WASH program looks forward to March which also promises to be another exciting month for program implementation.

Agriculture and Business

Agriculture



Executive Summary

Farming is one of the important activities which builds the economy of Malawi. Smallholder farmers depend on farming to improve their economic status and feed their families. OCA supports smallholder farmers in equipping them with knowledge on commercial farming. The activities are done in both irrigation and rainfed farming through provision of farm inputs as microloans and agriculture expertise. Some of the activities conducted during the reporting month have been explained below.

Village Savings and Loans (VS & L) training

The irrigation clubs of Madula, Madzimayela and Kambalame benefited from village savings loan (VS&L) training which was conducted with the aim of empowering rural communities with financial knowledge and skills to manage their finances effectively through savings and loan systems. The training was done in collaboration with the FEM program. The training objectives were to educate the irrigation clubs on the importance of savings and financial planning, the benefits of VS&L, how to establish and manage a

VS&L group effectively and equipping participants with basic financial literacy skills. The training season was a welcome idea to all three irrigation club participants with a total of 58 individuals actively engaging in the sessions. The participants demonstrated a keen interest in adopting the VS&L model in their community and expressed confidence in their ability to manage a VS&L group effectively. During the training season, OCA donated records books to be used in keeping their savings and loan records.



Training irrigation clubs on VS&L

Program Meetings

The meeting was convened with Chiefs, HSA's, L.F, government agriculture officers and Area Development Committees (ADC's) members to discuss and strategize the implementation of a food relief program aimed at addressing food insecurity issues within the catchment area. The primary objective was to pool together expertise, resources and local knowledge to ensure the effective execution of the relief program. The participant's discussed the identification of vulnerable groups such as low-income families, elderly individuals, malnutral, single parents and people with disabilities who are particularly at risk of food insecurity. During the meeting, the agreement was reached on the total Kilograms (Kgs) of maize to be given per household which is 25kgs. The meeting served as a crucial platform to collaborate and plan the implementation of a food relief program to alleviate food insecurity within the community. The participants of this meeting were also introduced to the concept of **Agroecology farming** and they were able to appreciate some works which are taking place on the farm.



Meeting on food relief program

Selection and verification of food beneficiaries

The selection and verification of food beneficiaries are critical processes in food assistance programs aimed at addressing food insecurity and vulnerability. These processes ensure that limited resources are allocated to those most in need, while also safeguarding against fraud and misuse of aid. Selection criteria focused on vulnerability assessment where vulnerable households were identified which included childheaded households, women-headed households, elderly individuals, persons with disabilities, and marginalized communities. Another group of households selected were those who are facing food insecurity. The program prioritized individuals or households experiencing food insecurity, as indicated by inadequate access to food, malnutrition, or reliance on unsustainable coping strategies. Lastly the other targeted group were the special needs group. Considering specific needs and vulnerabilities such as chronic illnesses and dietary restrictions. The verification process of the beneficiaries was done through community validation where community leaders, local authorities, and beneficiary committees were engaged in the verification process to ensure transparency, accountability, and community ownership. The selection and verification of the food beneficiaries are essential steps in ensuring the equitable, efficient and accountable delivery of food assistance to those most in need.



Selection and verification of the food relief beneficiaries at Kang'oma catchment area

Distribution of maize

Food relief distribution, particularly maize which is staple food in Malawi plays a crucial role in addressing food insecurity and meeting the nutritional needs of vulnerable populations during times of crisis. The exercise targeted Kasese catchment area, BOMFA and Bowe parish where 2150 maize bags were distributed. Kasese catchment area targeted 2,900 households, BOMFA 700 households and Bowe parish 700 households which gives a total of 4,300 beneficiaries. The maize which was distributed was harvested from OCA farm and this was supplemented maize procured from smallholder farmers. The distribution process was monitored by OCA staff, agriculture officers, HAS's, Chiefs, and ADC's members. Monitoring was done to ensure transparency, accountability and adherence to humanitarian standards. The food distribution process has brought impact in improved food security through provision of access to maize grain which enhances food security and dietary diversity among vulnerable populations and reducing the risk of malnutrition and hunger.



Distribution of maize to the selected beneficiaries

Water harvesting

Dams play a crucial role in water resource management by controlling the water flow, storing water and raising the water table. One of the primary functions of dams is to regulate water flow and ensure steady supply of water for various purposes such as irrigation. By storing water during high water flow and making use of it during dry spells, it helps to stabilize water availability throughout the year, mitigating the effects of droughts and water scarcity. OCA constructed 4 dams which are serving the purposes of reducing speed of water runoff, raising water table and keeping the water for other uses such as irrigation farming. The dams have been constructed in the growing season of 2023/2024 hence hoping to improve the farm water table in the coming growing seasons.



Water harvesting on OCA farm

Pests control

Termites are insects which can result in significant yield losses and economic impact on maize production and making effective control measures are essential for farmers. Several measures were implemented to control the termites from destroying the crops. The methods used to control the termites include chemical treatment where insecticides were applied to the maize field using approved chemicals to target termite's colonies and disrupt their activity. Careful application methods were employed to minimize environmental impact and ensure safety of farmers and consumers.

Business and Financial Empowerment Microloans (FEM)

Executive Summary

The Financially empowering microloan program works to break the poverty circle in our communities. It continually provides microloans to women entrepreneurs so that they can ably manage their businesses. Follow-ups to individual businesses as well as capacity building classes are given to the women entrepreneurs so that they are well equipped to effectively and efficiently manage their businesses hence improving livelihoods in the communities. In the month of February, a number of activities were conducted which contributed to the success of the program. Below is a narrative of the activities conducted;

Business/ entrepreneurship training

The FEM program prioritizes training as one of the ways of ensuring program sustainability. It is believed that knowledge imparted to individuals remains with them for many generations. The FEM program organized training for Mtambalika FEM groups; Tithandizane and Tamandani. The training focused on building awareness in business and financial planning for the women entrepreneurs. The training was facilitated by colleagues from the Agribusiness department in Mponera. Individual Business plans were produced as an output for the training that was conducted.



Joanna(Facilitator) with one of the members during presentations (L) and Tamandani and Tithandizane FEM Members (R)

Non-FEM Members VS&L training and recruitment

Village savings and loan (VS&L) as well as mobile banking training was conducted with Madzimayera, Kambalani and Madula irrigation clubs. The purpose of the training was to help program participants develop a saving culture as well as being conversant with mobile banking facilities. The training was conducted in light of the new developments in keeping and saving money. Upon acceptance to form VS& L groups, the groups were gifted with startup VS&L record books for the individual group members. We believe that these VS&L groups will not only help individuals but also contribute to the group's growth and sustainability through creation of a group fund that may be used for maintenance and purchase of farm equipment and servicing of current OCA microloans.

Monitoring visits

Routine business check ups to individuals were conducted to monitor business progress.



The visits are instrumental in motivating women entrepreneurs to always be on their business posts. Going round also helps in recording business successes and challenges and finding a solution on how best the women entrepreneurs may be helped. From the previous findings recorded in January, there were some women entrepreneurs who were not doing business due to the economic hardships, but as of February, they were found to have started. Additionally, they have also managed to pay their monthly loan installment.



Edilina (L) and Maligelita; Members of Tikondane FEM group

FEM groups review meeting

Review meeting with Tithandizane and Tamandani FEM members was conducted with the aim of assessing the successes, challenges and lessons learnt. As the groups have just been developed, it was deemed necessary to visit them to orient them on loan repayment procedures. As per agreement, repayments are supposed to be done via mobile money. It is encouraged that members use their mobile money wallet to send the payments so that they also become familiar with the use of mobile money banking services. These meetings are also used to raise awareness of the importance of using mobile money and the potential challenges that they may encounter when using mobile money. Additionally, the meeting was also used as a platform to iron out some of the challenges that were noted during the individual monitoring visits.



Tithandizane (L) and Tamandani (R) FEM members during a review meetings

Education Support Program

Executive Summary

Orant Charities Africa (OCA) education program was founded with a vision to empower underprivileged students to become a contributing and productive part of the society. We believe all humans have the ability to overcome obstacles, and if given the right motivation and resources, they can achieve a lot. This is what we aim for with our mission of empowering students from the most socially and economically disadvantaged communities of Malawi.

The following were the activities which were accomplished by the Education program in the month of February, 2024.

School needs assessment Survey

In January, 2024, the OCA education program started the needs assessment survey in schools around the Kasese catchment area. The aim of the survey was to know how best we can work with the surrounding schools in order to promote education. The survey targeted 24 schools (20 primary schools and 3 schools); 3 schools were conducted in January and 21 schools in the month of February 2024.

It was a great exercise and no big challenges were encountered with the schools, the participants were flexible and very welcoming. The only challenge was bad roads due to heavy rains. But we still managed to reach all the targeted schools and it was successful.



Needs assessment survey at Chiliphiza (left) & Tchale (right) primary schools



OCA conducting the needs assessment survey at Chilinkholi (left) & Mambala (right) primary schools

OCA is looking forward to working with the schools and helping each and every student excel in their academic life.

Learning visits



In the same reporting period, the OCA education program visited the “Peachtree Tubepoka Legacies”. An organization based in Chitipa District. The aim of visiting this organization was to learn how they conduct their activities since they also have an education program which sponsors students in secondary and also in technical colleges. Additionally, they

also have a library where students within Chitipa borrow books.

In addition to learning what the organization does, Orant also received a donation of books from them. Peachtree has a lot of books which they are donating. They have donated the books to all secondary schools in Chitipa and also some organizations in Malawi. After hearing that Orant is also planning to have a Library and also that is

supporting secondary and University students, they thought we might also need the books. A total of 874 books of different categories have been donated to Orant. This is a good development to Orant because it will be of benefit to the sponsored students and also the community at large.



OCA receiving a donation of books from Peachtree Tubepoka Legacies

Monitoring Visits

The OCA education program visited sponsored students in their respective schools. Nine schools were visited during the reporting period; Dowa, Tchawale, St.Peters, Madisi, Natola, Ngala, Chamkango, St. chavara and Rise Malawi 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 46 students were supported with school supplies by the OCA Education program. The supplies which were given to them includes; Writing books (Hard covers), Pens, pencils, Sugar, sanitary products and many more.



Students from Tchawale (left) & St. Chavara (right) secondary with supplies given by OCA



Students from Madisi (left) & St. Peters (right) secondary schools after being visited by Orant

During the monitoring and mentoring sessions, the OCA education program encouraged students to work extra hard in their studies and to make good use of the support provided to them. School reports for the first term were also collected to see students' progress and performance. It was noted that some students are doing well in their studies, and only a few students need some improvement. OCA has hope that this term (second term) the grades for all students will be better.

Orant Ulemu Scholarship

During the month, new students under the Ulemu scholarship program reported for school. These are the students who were selected for the 2023/2024 Orant Ulemu scholarship program. Four students from different Universities have reported. One each from Mzuzu University (Mzuni) and the Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS), Two students from Kamuzu University of Health Sciences (KUHES).

❖ Below are the pictures of Orant students at their respective schools;



A student studying Nursing (left) & a Dental Surgery student at KUHES (right)



A Bachelor of education student at Mzuni (left) & a Mechanical engineering student at MUBAS (right)

In this academic year, The OCA education program selected five students for the Ulemu scholarship and 4 have started school. The one remaining is from the Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST) and she has not reported because the school is not yet open. They will open in June, 2024 if there will not be any changes. All these students are in their first year of studying.

Conclusion

At OCA, we believe in education to break the cycle of extreme poverty. We provide direct tuition support in addition to a range of comprehensive support programs so students can excel throughout their secondary school and college educations.