



5S AND IPC ACTIVITIES UNDERWAY IN 3 HOSPITALS UNDER THE PROJECT FOR “FOLLOW-UP COOPERATION ON THIRD COUNTRY GROUP TRAINING PROGRAM ON 5S-CQI-TQM”



Sorting and Setting in ER at Bong Mines Hospital



Labeling is done to set the items in order in the cabinet



ER in Curran Lutheran Hospital



Improvement from the baseline survey. Now clear waste segregation is installed



Handwashing practice

5S-KAIZEN approaches have been introduced and practiced in 3 rural hospitals in Liberia namely; Bong Mines Hospital in Bong County, G. W. Harley Hospital in Nimba County and Curran Lutheran Hospital in Lofa County; under the project for “Follow-up Cooperation on Third Country Group Training Program on 5S-CQI-TQM.” The project has been led by the ex-participants of the JICA's training program on 5S-CQI-TQM in cooperation with the Quality Management Unit (QMU) in Ministry of Health.

5S-KAIZEN is a tool for organizing and managing the work space and work flow to improve working environment. In order to deliver quality and effective healthcare, 5S (Sort, Set, Shine, Standardize, Sustain) has been adopted at health facilities in many Asian and African countries where provision of quality healthcare services and health system management are challenging. This situation is also the case in Liberia and it is against this background that the ex-participants and QMU decided to launch the project which pilots the implementation of 5S-KAIZEN and focuses on Quality Improvement and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC).

After the Training of Trainers and procurement of necessary items for the activities such as waste bins and handwashing buckets, each hospital started on its activities in accordance with its own action plan. In Bong Mines Hospital, an IPC focal person has taken the lead in introducing 5S-KAIZEN approaches in its pilot site, Emergency Room (ER), with using some 5S tools. Firstly, the ER staff got rid of unnecessary items from the room and set essential items in order, in view of user-friendliness and ease of access; they also sorted and set the medical instruments and drugs in cabinets by using a labelling method. This makes it easy to find items and properly store each items. In addition, the staff has always kept the room neat through regular cleaning. Thus, Bong Mines Hospital has gradually embraced the implementation of 5S-KAIZEN.

Meanwhile, in Curran Lutheran Hospital which an ex-participant of the JICA's training program heads, the activities for hand hygiene and waste management have been more focused on, in line with the implementation of 5S-KAIZEN. The hospital has placed all procured waste bins with clear segregation in appropriate places in the hospital; this enables the staff and patients to access them when needed. The equipment and posters for hand washing have been distributed for easy reach for staff, patients and their families. From the viewpoint of 5S-KAIZEN implementation, all toilet

facilities for patients in the hospital are kept in a clean condition while the furniture of the Obstetrics ward that was selected as a pilot site for the 5S-KAIZEN approaches in the hospital is well aligned and the room is cleaned regularly.

During the site monitoring conducted by the QMU on March 19th-22nd, 2018, it was observed that all the three hospitals have improved adherence to standardized IPC practices since the beginning of the project. This means that the awareness of IPC among the staff and patients in the hospitals has been raised step by step. In the meantime, the 5S-KAIZEN activities in each hospital are halfway, in which, activities for sort, set and shine have not been fully put into practice even in their pilot sites. Therefore, although the project has been concluded in March, the hospitals are expected now to take ownership of the process and continue their 5S-KAIZEN activities. They are expected to gradually expand the approaches to all departments in their hospitals.

About JICA

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JICA Training Program

Between 1979 and 1990, JICA accepted 232 Liberians to Japan or third countries. After the end of civil conflict, JICA resumed training program and has invited more than 255 Liberians since 2007.

JICA Liberia Newsletter

Back numbers are available from here: <https://www.jica.go.jp/liberia/english/newsletter/index.html>



Good care is provided to all the toilets for patients



Beds are aligned in O.B. Ward at Curran Lutheran Hospital