

CASSIOPEIA-BRINGING 5 STAR QUALITY HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO THE 5 TARGET HOSPITALS FOR UHC

JICA - THE PROJECT FOR STRENGTHENING MANAGEMENT CAPACITY OF GENERAL HOSPITALS IN LUSAKA DISTRICT



Mr. Kazuhiro Ajiki short term expert on medical equipment with the JICA Cassiopeia Project during the 5s exercise at Chilenje First Level Hospital on April 17th, 2025

**FIVE FIRST
LEVEL
HOSPITALS
IN LUSAKA
CONDUCT
MEDICAL
EQUIPMENT
CHAMPIONS
TRAINING**

**FINAL DRAFTING
OF HOSPITAL
MANAGEMENT
HANDBOOK
COMPLETED**

**CHILENJE FIRST
LEVEL HOSPITAL
CONDUCTS 5S AT
THE LUSAKA
DISTRICT HEALTH
OFFICE
MEDICAL
EQUIPMENT
WORKSHOP**



FIVE FIRST LEVEL HOSPITALS IN LUSAKA CONDUCT MEDICAL EQUIPMENT CHAMPIONS TRAINING



Mr. Obed Simusiko giving a presentation on 5s during the Medical Equipment Quarterly meeting held at Lusaka Provincial Health Office on April 30th

The five first level hospitals located in Chawama, Chilenje, Chipata, Kanyama and Matero sub-districts conducted a first of its kind training of Medical Equipment Champions (MEC) for the hospitals. The MEC system is intended to clearly identify a link person for equipment management in each hospital department.

The aim of the training and identifying of champions was to promote preventive maintenance by equipment users, prevent equipment breakdowns, and ease the reporting system for malfunctioning or damaged equipment from the hospital departments to the medical equipment technicians (METs) in the facilities. This is expected to help METs to identify the cause of failure more easily and implement pre-

ventive measures.

The introduction of MECs was necessitated by the difficulty being experienced in the reporting system from various hospitals department to the METs which result in delayed fixing or replacing of the equipment.

The other aim of the training and formation of MECs was to orient equipment end users in daily maintenance of the equipment but also in the correct use of equipment. This is hoped to translate into longer lasting equipment but also the streamlining of the reporting system with an identifiable responsible individual in the department.

On April 30, 2025, a meeting was held at the Lusaka Provincial Health Office (LPHO), where Mr. Kazuhiro Ajiki, short-term expert on medical equipment management under the JICA Cassio-

peia Project, introduced a draft of the Medical Equipment Champion Manual.

The meeting included Mr. Chris Sinkala, Chief Medical Equipment Officer at LPHO; Mr. Friday Matafwali and Mr. Obed Samusiko, METs from Lusaka District Health Office (LDHO); as well as METS and biomedical engineers from the five first level hospitals in Lusaka. The meeting was aimed at orienting the METs and biomedical engineers at the health facilities on how to train ME champions at their institutions. Practical topics covered during the training included dust removal, filter cleaning, and the use of appropriate disinfectants depending on the type of equipment. ME champions are expected to work in collaboration with METs as the first line of defense in maintaining medical equipment.

FINAL DRAFTING OF HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT HANDBOOK COMPLETED

Stakeholders from the Ministry of Health in Zambia gathered to finalize a hospital management handbook that will guide strategic planning and monitoring in hospitals in Lusaka Province.

From April 14 to 17, 2025, representatives from the Lusaka Provincial Health Office (LPHO), Lusaka District Health Office (LDHO), and five first-level hospitals gathered for the fifth and final drafting session of the Hospital Management Handbook.

This handbook is being developed as a practical tool to document and disseminate hospital management practices—particularly in strategic planning and implementation monitoring—that have been

piloted under the current project.

Over the four-day session, participants were divided into five working groups to revise and expand key sections. The event culminated in a joint review session where members reached consensus on the handbook's content and structure.

Discussions highlighted the need for clearer guidance on how provincial and district health offices can support hospitals in applying the handbook's practices. While internal roles within hospitals were relatively well-defined, the broader support system remains a subject of ongoing dialogue.

Another unresolved issue was how to assess the implementation status of the handbook at facility level—a challenge

acknowledged by multiple participants as needing further attention.

And Dr. Sophia Msiska, the Clinical Care Specialist at LPHO, stated that “the finalization of the hospital handbook is an important milestone in the standardization of hospital management in the province. Dr. Msiska hopes that the handbook will act as a roadmap for hospital senior management in Lusaka province and the rest of the country at large as it aims to streamline the management process and strengthen health systems”.

Going forward, an editorial committee will be established to finalize the content, carry out English editing, and prepare the handbook for publication. The manuscript of the final version is expected to be completed by the end of May 2025.



Participants during the 5th Hospital Management Handbook drafting meeting held at Sandy's Creation in Chilanga, Lusaka province

CHILENJE FIRST LEVEL HOSPITAL CONDUCTS 5S AT THE LUSAKA DISTRICT HEALTH OFFICE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT WORKSHOP

On April 17, 2025, a 5S activity was carried out at the Lusaka District Health Office (LDHO) medical equipment workshop located at Chilenje First Level Hospital (FLH).

Participants included Mr. Chris Sinkala (Chief Medical Equipment Officer at LPHO), the Medical Equipment Technicians (METs) from LDHO Mr. Friday Matafwali and Mr. Obed Samusiko, METs and biomedical engineers from the five FLHs (Chawama, Chilenje, Chipata, Kanayama and Matero), JICA short-term expert on medical equipment management Mr. Kazuhiro Ajiki, and Project Officer Mr. Joseph Chizongo.

The purpose of the visit was to conduct 5s at the

workshop, which was previously being utilized as a store-room for damaged medical equipment from the five FLHs.

It was aimed at organizing the workshop by identifying equipment that was obsolete and ready for disposal, and separating it from that which was repairable.

The team began by removing all equipment from the workshop and cleaning it. After this was done, the workshop was zoned into three sections: damaged equipment, working equipment, and equipment that had not yet been assessed for either repair or disposal.

Mr. Simusiko who participated in the 7-week Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP) on medical equipment last year in Japan shared that part of his training was on how to

carry out 5s as a medical equipment technician. Therefore, at the end of his training, one of his action points was to “ensure that maintenance workshops in the five First Level Hospitals in Lusaka were well organized and safe to carry out maintenance works”. He further stated that Chilenje FLH is a central workshop that can be used by any facility within Lusaka District. “Therefore, implementing 5S activity at Chilenje FLH will set as an example on how a maintenance workshop is supposed to be organized or maintained. Hence the reason why all Head of Units (Medical Equipment) from FLHs hospital were strategically invited to participate in order to learn part of my best experience in Japan in the aspect of 5s”.



Above: Part of the workshop before the renovation

Below: Part of the workshop after the renovations



Above: Cleaning crew going over 5s instructions

Below: Workshop cleaning underway



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MATERO AND CHILENJE FIRST LEVEL HOSPITALS HOLD INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPC) TRAINING FOR 400 HOSPITAL STAFF

Matero and Chilenje First Level Hospitals (FLH) conducted a four-day workshop on infection prevention and control (IPC), surgical site infection (SSI) and anti-microbial resistance (AMR) for over 200 hospital employees each comprising all cadres at the health facilities. In attendance were clinicians, maids, medical equipment technologists, general workers, pharmacists, nurses, administrative staff, and more.

The IPC training team at Matero FLH comprised of Mr. Ezekiel Kankoloto (environmental health technologist and IPC focal person), Ms. Bridget Sitima (IPC Nurse) and Dr. Muwemba Mashili (IPC Doctor). For Chilenje FLH, the team comprised of Mr. Clyde Ushibantu (environmental health technologist and IPC focal person), Mr. Kenny Chileshe (IPC Nurse) and Dr. Saviour Kanungwe (IPC Doctor).

This follows the train-

ing instituted by Chawama FLH which aimed to train all hospital cadres after recent IPC committee meetings at the facility revealed poor compliance to IPC standards, owing partly to a gap in knowledge and understanding of the importance of IPC, SSI and AMR among healthcare workers (HCWs) including support staff.

The two FLHs, identifying the same needs as Chawama FLH, chose to address this gap by conducting a comprehensive IPC training for all the HCWs at their facilities. During the training, pre- and post-tests were carried out to assess the level of knowledge participants had on IPC, SSI and AMR prior to and after the training.

Attendees learnt more about the process of waste management with a focus on waste segregation as well as general cleanliness in the hospital. The participants were encouraged to observe proper waste segregation to avoid cross contamination

of general waste from infectious and highly infectious waste.

On surgical site infections and anti-microbial resistance, the facilitators and participants discussed the ways in which SSI and AMR can occur and the ways that they can mitigate and prevent this from occurring on a personal as well as at institutional levels.

After the end of the training, Mr. Ushibantu expressed his gratitude and thanks to the hospital management and the JICA Cassiopeia Project for the continued support. He also acknowledged that although the training had been a success, the 200 staff reached were only a quarter of the hospital staff. Mr. Ushibantu hopes that more staff members would undergo the training to further enhance employees' IPC adherence.

The end game of the trainings is to help improve the knowledge, attitude and IPC practices among staff, and how this leads to better patient outcomes at the facilities.



Dr. Victor Liyuma Medical Superintendent at Matero FLH officially opening the four-day IPC training at the facility



Mr. Clyde Ushibantu helping an attendee during the IPC training pre-test

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PHOTO FOCUS



Dr. Shinsuke Murai Chief Advisor for the JICA Cassiopeia Project with participants at the clinical meeting held on April 2nd and 3rd , 2025.



Participant asking questions during the IPC training at Chilenje FLH



JICA Cassiopeia Project expert Ms. Michiko Nyanga demonstrating hand hygiene to participants during the IPC training at Chilenje FLH



Group photo of participants attending day 4 of the IPC training at Matero FLH



Ms. Dalitso Sakala, Planner at LPHO speaking during the Hospital Management Handbook drafting meeting at Sandy's creation in Chilanga, Lusaka province



Ms. Michiko at Chelstone Zonal Hospital during an IPC round



Newly zoned medical equipment workshop at Chilenje FLH

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