



FOCUS ON SUSTAINABILITY AT THE 2025 JOINT COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING



Dr. Simulyamana Choonga LPHO PHD, Dr. Sophia Msiska LPHO CCS with Dr. Kennedy Lishimpi, MOH Permanent Secretary - Technical Services reviewing copies of the monthly Cassiopeia Nkani Newsletter of the Cassiopeia Project during the 4th JCC meeting

On June 19, 2025, the Fourth Joint Coordination Committee (JCC), the official decision-making body of the JICA Cassiopeia Project, was held in Lusaka. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Kennedy Lishimpi, Permanent Secretary for Technical Services at the Ministry of Health and the Project Director.

Participants consisted of MoH, Lusaka Provincial Health Office (LPHO), Lusaka District Health Office (LDHO), the five first level hospitals, JICA Zambia, and the Embassy of Japan. The participants exchanged views on the project's achievements and future prospects of the project

in its final year.

Dr. Lishimpi thanked JICA for its continued support to the health facilities, LPHO, and the MoH. He emphasized that the meeting was taking place at a critical time as Zambia continued efforts toward strengthening decentralized health systems and achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

He also noted that the project's progress in hospital management, Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), Surgical Site Infection (SSI) surveillance, essential medicines and medical supplies (EMMS), and medical equipment management was beginning to influence national policy, and expressed his expectations for further scale up

to other health facilities.

On behalf of LPHO, the Clinical Care Specialist Dr. Sophia Msiska reported the progress made in each of the projects' outputs and also highlighted key policy recommendations that had been approved by MoH, including: the National IPC Strategy; National IPC Technical Guidelines; Cholera Treatment Center Tools and Poster; National Integrated Cholera Surveillance, Laboratory and Case Management Guidelines 2024; and the SSI Surveillance Guidelines and SOPs.

From the targeted five hospitals, presentations echoed LPHO and LDHO about the progress and bottlenecks faced during the project

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duration and presented ways to sustain the notable milestones achieved such as training in Balanced Scorecard (BSC), IPC, medical equipment champions, satellite pharmacies and SSI surveillance.

Furthermore, Project Formulation Advisor at JICA Zambia Office, Mr. Kohei Fukushima, presented JICA's support policy for the final year of the Cassiopeia Project.

He focused on sustainability through task optimization and reporting and data use in quality improvement which will be led by the Zambian Side and supporting standardizations and their dissemination from the Japanese side.

Chief Representative

from JICA Zambia, Mr. Jotaro Tateyama, reflected on the project achievements over the last four years, highlighting that the project had achieved significant milestones such as strengthening of hospital management through the adopted use of the BSC for planning, enhancing of IPC protocols through capacity building and strengthened inventory management, as well as the introduction of Medical Equipment Champions.

He also hailed LPHO, LDHO and the five targeted hospitals for adopting the approved policy recommendations to be taken up by the Zambian side as the project closes. He further urged the JCC members that, in order to sustain the good practice

and health systems, there needs to be a strong sense of ownership and continuous efforts to institutionalize these achievements.

Prior to the JCC, on June 17, 2025, the projects progress was also highlighted by Dr. Shin-suke Murai Chief Adviser of the project who participated and presented at the Lusaka District Health Office Integrated Meeting (DIM) for the 2024 fourth quarter and 2025 first quarter. He explained to the participants the project status as well as the support policy and way forward for the remainder of the year as the project draws to a close in 2026.

Group photo of the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting participants during the 4th JCC meeting on June 19th 2025 at Pamodzi Hotel, Lusaka



CHELSTONE ZONAL HOSPITAL CONDUCTS THREE DAY TRAINING IN STRATEGIC PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

After winning the 2025 Zambia JICA Fellowship Association (ZAJIFA) award out of 35 applicants, Chelstone Zonal Hospital held a first-of-its-kind training for all line managers in strategic planning and management, with a focus on the Balanced Scorecard (BSC). The training introduced the managers to the planning tool with the aim of building capacity in planning and monitoring at both the facility and departmental levels.

The yearly award is given to a winning proposal from a past Knowledge Co-Creation Programme (KCCP) participant to help them implement actions

to address gaps they notice in their day-to-day work at their respective health facility. The 2025 award went to Chelstone Zonal Hospital through the application by Chipata First Level Hospital Planner Ms. Kanekwa Nyirenda (formerly the planner at Chelstone Zonal Hospital).by LDHO, a discrepancy found after several months.

The facilitators included Ms. Nyirenda, Dr. Shula Chanda, Medical Superintendent at Kafue General Hospital, and Mr. Anthony Kazembe, Administrative Officer at Lusaka District Health Office, with support from Ms. Michiko Nyanga, JICA expert on hospital management and IPC,

as well as Ms. Kombe Kapatamoyo Project Officer with the JICA Cassiopeia Project. During the three days, participants were trained in finding strategies for effective hospital management and building problem-solving skills to tackle challenges in their day-to-day work environment by learning the use and purpose of the Balanced Score card in the managing of hospitals.

Emphasis was placed by the facilitators on the need to learn effective tools for effective problem-solving and how participants could identify, strategize and plan to tackle the issues identified.



Ms. Kanekwa Nyirenda, Chipata FLH Planner (formerly Planner at Chelstone Zonal Hospital) talking with participants during the strategic planning and management training for Chelstone Zonal Hospital departmental heads



Mr. Anthony Kazembe Administrative Officer at LDHO; Ms. Nyirenda; Ms. Kombe Kapatamoyo Project Officer with JICA Cassiopeia Project; Ms. Michiko Nyanga JICA expert on hospital management and IPC; and Dr. Shula Chanda Medical Superintendent at Kafue General Hospital

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The participants developed a new facility vision as well as the hospital BSC, which were expected to be finalized by July 15, 2025. Upon completion, participants will receive certificates of participation from the Lusaka District Health Office (LDHO).

Speaking at the opening of the training, LDHO Director of Health Services, Dr. Astridah Maseka, welcomed the initiative by the hospital management to undertake the training and build capacity in strategic planning and management among departmental heads at Chelstone Zonal Hospital. Dr. Maseka urged

the participants to apply what they learned during the training to change how they manage, use data, and respond to challenges in their daily work. She further noted that the BSC was a powerful tool when used in a consistent manner.

In her closing remarks, Dr. Nobahle Sibanda, Medical Superintendent at the facility, called on all participants to implement the lessons and strategies learned during the training. She encouraged them to hold onto the hospital vision they had developed together and to find ways to realize that vision. Dr. Sibanda expressed appreciation to ZAJIFA for the

financial support and to JICA Cassiopeia Project for the continued technical support given.

This initiative by Chelstone Zonal Hospital represents the first time that activities supported by the Cassiopeia Project have been implemented at a non-target hospital. It demonstrates that project outcomes can be applied to other facilities and highlights the potential of broader relevance and scalability of the initiative. explained to the participants the project status as well as the support policy and way forward for the remainder of the year as the project draws to a close in 2026.

NURSE LEADERS MEET TO SHARE 2025 SECOND QUARTER PROGRESS

On 5th June, 2025, Nursing Officers (Nos) from hospitals across Lusaka Province gathered both in-person and online at the Lusaka Provincial Health Office (LPHO) to discuss and share issues arising since the previous meeting.

During the meeting, they discussed ways to improve the current situation and agreed on action points based on the results of the quarterly assessment by LPHO. Good practices were also shared from the selected hospitals, with the projects' target hospitals – Chipata Hospital sharing “improving leadership skills in the nursing department”, Chilenje Hospital on “Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)”, and the University Teaching Hospital (UTH) on “medical equipment management practices”. These practices are expected to be replicated in other facilities as well.

The meeting was also an opportunity for the good practices supported by the Cassiopeia Project to be shared across the province. Based on the various presentations and discussions, head nurses from

each of the facilities will work on the agreed action points over the quarter. An exchange program is also planned where they will visit the best performing departments in UTH and Lusaka district facilities.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Simulyamana Choonga, the Provincial Health Director (PHD) at LPHO, urged those present to regulate the use of volunteers in the facilities and not to be dependent on them to run the facilities. He also noted the continued high number of maternal and neonatal deaths, stating that there was need to analyse and work towards reducing the numbers. Dr. Choonga also instructed the nursing officers to conduct patient satisfaction surveys at least twice a year to assess patients' holistic needs. Furthermore, he thanked the JICA Cassiopeia Project for its continued support.

One highlight of the presentations was on the root causes of Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR). It was advised that facilities need to use the root cause analysis when reviewing deaths, looking at the “3 delays” models which includes: delay in seeking care, delay in reaching the appropriate facility, and

delay in receiving adequate care.

The other highlights were on the introduction of Medical Equipment (ME) Champions in the wards as well as Floor Managers. ME champions have been adopted in all five first-level hospitals in Lusaka district. Their primary task is to ensure safe and effective use of medical equipment in the facilities. They work in collaboration with medical equipment engineers, overseeing the maintenance as well as educating other medical staff on the use of medical equipment. It was agreed that the idea of ME Champions should be disseminated to all the facilities including smaller ones in the subdistricts.

Chilenje also shared their achievement on introducing Floor Managers to help enhance clients' care. Some of the roles of Floor Managers are to assist in triaging patients and helping with directions around the facility. The meeting ended with action points to be addressed before the next quarterly meeting to be held in September 2025. These include conducting customer satisfaction surveys, standardization of Cardex forms, and including nursing performance in the data review discussions.



Martha Chabala: Nurse In Charge, Chipata FLH making a presentation on the adoption of floor managers at the facility



Francis Lundulu: Nurse ME Champion, Kanyama FLH making a presentation on his role as a Medical Equipment Champion

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Ms. Matildah Mbebe Nursing Officer at Chilenje FLH presenting at the Nurse Leaders Meeting on June 5th, 2025



Dr. Sophia Msiska Clinical Care Specialist at LPHO presenting JICA Cassiopeia Project progress at the 4th JCC meeting



Mr. Anthony Kazembe Administrative Officer at LDHO talking with participants during the Chelstone Zonal Hospital training on strategic planning and management



Ms. Inutu Mbangweta Chief Nursing Officer at LPHO making remarks during the Nurse Leaders Meeting on June 5th, 2025



Dr. Shula Chanda MS at Kafue General Hospital facilitating during the Chelstone Zonal Hospital training on strategic planning and management



Participants during the 4th JCC meeting at Pamodzi Hotel on June 19th, 2025



Dr. Shinsuke Murai, JICA Cassiopeia Project Chief Adviser speaking during the Lusaka District Health Office Integrated Meeting (DIM) for 2024 Fourth Quarter and 2025 First Quarter

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