

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



Participants at the dissemination workshop of the Surgical Site Infection Surveillance Guidelines and Standards of Procedure at Water Falls Hotel in Chongwe on September 16th, 2025.

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PROVINCIAL
HEALTH
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PROVINCE WIDE
DISSEMINATION
OF NATIONAL
SSI AND IPC
GUIDELINES AND
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PROCEDURE**

**FINALIZATION
OF HOSPITAL
HANDBOOK
INCHES CLOSER
AS EDITORIAL
MEETING YIELDS
FRUIT**

**NURSING
LEADERS
INTRODUCE
COMMUNITY
SURGICAL SITE
INFECTION**



LUSAKA PROVINCIAL HEALTH OFFICE HOLDS PROVINCE WIDE DISSEMINATION OF NATIONAL SSI AND IPC GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS OF PROCEDURE



Participants doing an exercise during the SSI guidelines and SOPs dissemination

From 16 to 19 September 2025, the Lusaka Provincial Health Office (LPHO) held a dissemination meeting for Surgical Site Infection (SSI) Surveillance Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs); the National Strategic Plan for Infection Prevention and Control (2022-2032); and the National Infection Prevention and Control Technical Guidelines for all first level, second and tertiary hospitals in Lusaka province and four general hospitals in four other provinces: Western, Eastern, Southern, and Copperbelt.

This meeting fol-

lowed the successful launch by the Ministry of Health (MoH) on 22

August 2025 of the Surgical Site Infection (SSI) Surveillance Guidelines and SOPs as a national policy. Moving from launch to actual dissemination was a key milestone for the LPHO and LDHO, and the JICA Cassiopeia Project.

Officially opening the dissemination meeting, Dr. Simulyamana Choonga, Provincial Health Director, stated that the rolling out of these three documents, not only within Lusaka's government facilities and district health offices but also to the four other provinces, was a great achievement for the province. He further stated

that since the JICA Cassiopeia Project commenced in 2021, it has worked together with LPHO and LDHO to strengthen hospital management capac

ity in Lusaka District. One such endeavor has been the implementation of the SSI surveillance that has been on going in the five first level hospitals namely Chawama, Chilenge, Chипата, Kanyama, and Matero. It has provided valuable data on infection prevention control and quality of care, hence contributing to the quality of service.

He thanked the project for their continued efforts together with LPHO in drafting the SSI Surveillance Guidelines and SOPs.

CONT'D

He called upon the participants to implement these important documents on the ground, in order to prevent infections and improve health outcomes of the Zambian people.

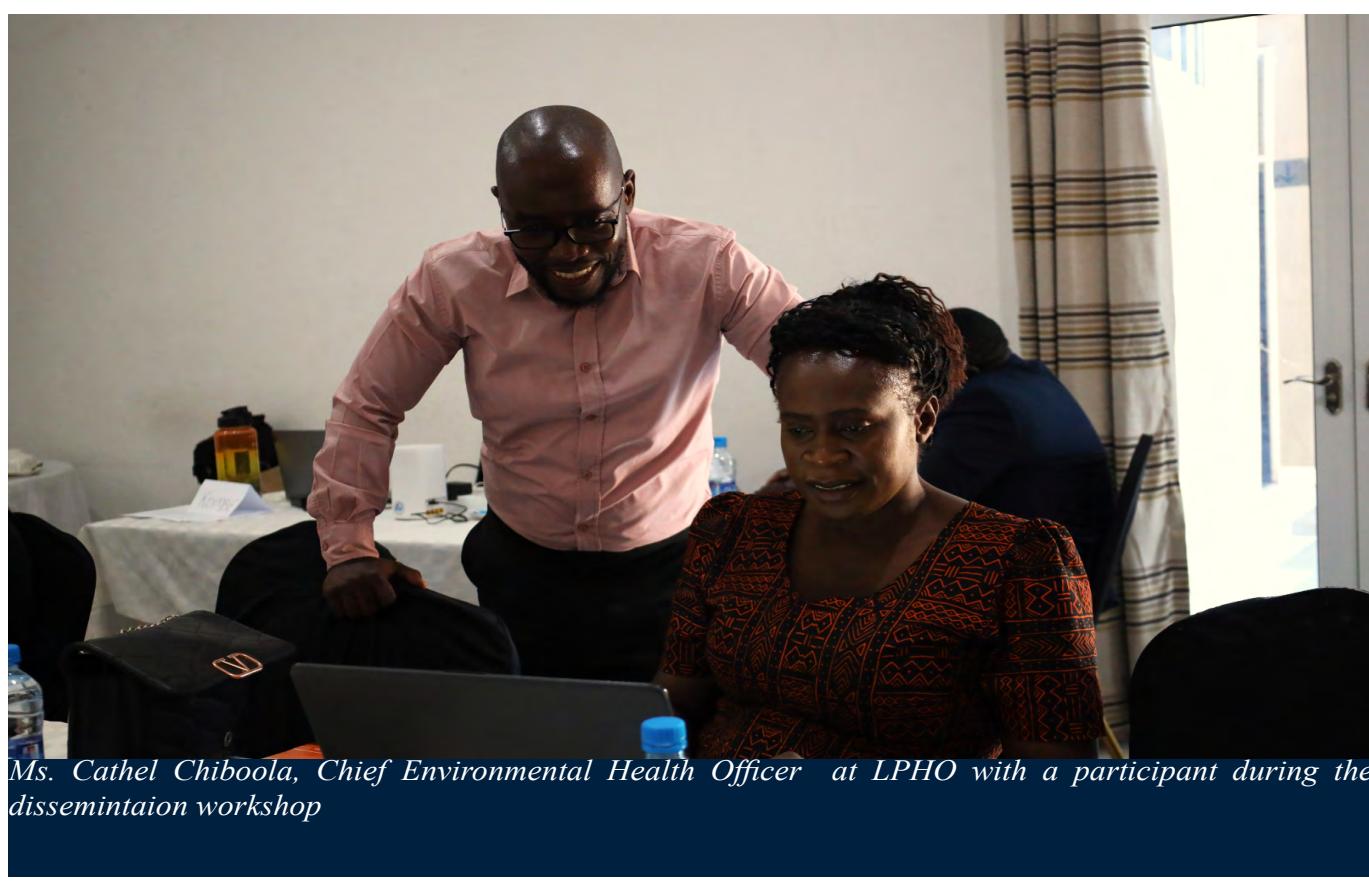
Ms. Cathel Chiboola, Senior Environmental Health Officer at LPHO, thanked the contribution of the Red Cross in the health sector and also for attending the four days of training and dissemination. She also thanked JICA Cassiopeia Project for the continued support not only for training but also for the project activities in the five first level hospitals in Lusaka District, as well as infrastructure development previously undertaken by JICA.

She further thanked the participants and encouraged them to continue learning and engaging activities. She called on them to put the action plans into actuality and participants agreed to submit them by 3rd October for review by LPHO. She explained that these action plans would serve as blueprints for enhancing IPC protocols as well as surveillance of all healthcare acquired infections (HAIs).

Ms. Serah Kalumbilo, a representative from Red Cross Zambia encouraged participant's that whatever had been brainstormed and discussed to be implemented instead of shelving whatever has been shared. As partners, we are encouraged to see the

level of knowledge that was shared by participants and facilitators. And we as partners like to see how the work of the MoH is being carried out and the dedication being shown by the healthcare workers.

Project Chief Advisor, Dr. Shinsuke Murai, highlighted that a distinctive feature of SSI dissemination is that five first level hospitals in Lusaka District already serve as model hospitals where SSI Surveillance Guidelines and SOPs have been in operation. He expressed his hope that these model hospitals will serve as anchors to facilitate wider dissemination of SSI surveillance.



FINALIZATION OF HOSPITAL HANDBOOK INCRESSES CLOSER AS EDITORIAL MEETING YIELDS FRUIT

On 24 September 2025, the Lusaka Provincial Health Office (LPHO) held an editorial meeting for the Hospital Management Handbook.

As part of achieving the purpose of the JICA Cassiopeia Projects, the formation of a Hospital Management Handbook is indispensable. To that effect, the project, in cooperation with Lusaka Provincial Health Office (LPHO), Lusaka District Health Office (LDHO) and the five First Level Hospitals in Lusaka District, and Kafue General Hospital have been in the process of drafting the handbook since 20th December 2024.

The purpose of the Hos

pital Management Handbook is to provide guidance on how hospital management can work towards achieving the hospital's vision and values. By properly setting goals, developing implementation plans, and establishing progress-monitoring mechanisms, hospitals will be able to effectively track progress and outcomes, align activities with objectives, and ultimately achieve their institutional goals.

This editorial meeting was attended by editorial members designated by LPHO, including representatives from LPHO, LDHO, the five First Level Hospitals, Kafue General Hospital, and Chelstone Zonal Hospital.

Participants worked to

edit and finalize the document so that it will serve as a foundation document for the management of first and second level hospitals in Zambia.

The handbook, under the supervision of the Lusaka Provincial Health Director, Dr. Simulyamana Choonga, is scheduled, once completed, to be submitted to the Ministry of Health for review and formal approval.

During the meeting, the editorial team agreed to develop comprehensive and standardized monitoring evaluation criteria so that LDHO and LPHO can monitor the introduction and adherence to the handbook, and so that line managers and heads of departments at hospitals can conduct self-assessments.



Dr. Simulyamana Choonga, Provincial Health Director at Lusaka Provincial Health Office giving the opening remarks



Dr. Shinsuke Murai, Chief Advisor for the JICA Cassiopeia Project making a contributions during the editorial meeting

NURSING LEADERS INTRODUCE COMMUNITY SURGICAL SITE INFECTION SURVEILLANCE PROTOCOLS

On 26 September 2025, nursing staff from Lusaka Province gathered at the Lusaka Provincial Health Office (LPHO) for the 6th Provincial Nursing Leader's Meeting.

Opening the meeting, Dr. Simulyamana Choonga, Provincial Health Director, spoke about the issues that patients still face at health facilities. He emphasized the importance of the proper use of medicines, adequate staffing, and the availability of medical equipment including ambulances. He noted that ambulances procured by the government are playing a significant role in saving lives and that both funding and support from the province are increasing.

He added "In nursing, there is still much more we can do with the resources we already have. There will never be a

time when everything is perfect, but now is the time when resources are better than ever, so there can be no excuses. Now is the time to act." He also commended Chelstone Zonal Hospital on their presentation on customer satisfaction survey and urged them to utilize the feedback provided by patients to improve on what needs to be worked on and to maintain the good that they are already doing.

The PHD told participants that nurses are the core team of the healthcare system. He called on the nursing leaders to be vigilant in supervising their staff, be they subordinates, volunteers or students particularly in safeguarding drugs from pilfering. He stated that there needs to be implementation of drug stock control cards in storage areas and that some of these issues are due to poor supervision.

He also stated that all care for patients is fully documented. The director also lamented that patient care such as bathing patients is being done by caregivers or bed-siders. The nursing officers were told to utilize their staff well and to even engage the students.

He further lamented that the continued loss of mothers and babies was reaching the levels of the previous year at this September, largely from preventable causes. He urged the participants to help the system by keeping each other accountable and improving in the management of cases. "We need to work with our team, the midwives to avoid unnecessary delays in the hospital. People are not dying in the communities; they are dying in our facilities. You can help the doctors to make the correct decisions. It is clearly not acceptable as most of these are preventable".



Ms. Jane Botha Nurse In-Charge at Matero First Level Hospital making a presentation on the work being done by Medical Equipment Champions



Ms. Angela Kapila Nurse In-Charge at Chelstone Zonal Hospital making a presentation on client satisfaction survey undertaken at the facility

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Dr. Ilunga Mutwale, the Assistant Head of Clinical Care and Acting Public Health Specialist at Kanyama First Level Hospital made a presentation to the participants on the background of the Surgical Site Infection surveillance that the first level hospitals in Lusaka district have been undertaking since 2023.

From a public health perspective, he noted the possible limitations of relaying only on passive data collection within hospitals and proposed community-based information gathering as one countermeasure.

To that effect, Ms. Inutu Mabangweta, Chief Nurs

ing Office at LPHO introduced a new initiative to engage public health nurses in following clients that have undergone surgery at health facilities to monitor wound healing and to teach patients how to take care of the surgical wounds.

This is in line with the current practice at the five First Level Hospitals in Lusaka district that have been conducting surgical site infections (SSI) surveillance at the facilities. The public health approach will ensure that all the cases of SSI are captured and time care is provided to the patients who present with SSIs.

Ms. Bertha Phiri, a

public health nurse (PHN) at Chilenge Level One Hospital made a presentation on the parameters of how the PHNs will be working as well as presented an action points for the formulation of a standardized tool to be utilized. This tool will cover the language to use with clients, the procedures to be used when cleaning the wounds, instructions to leave with patients as well as a monitoring tool for the SSI patients located and how that information will be relayed to the SSI team in the facilities.

The provincial health director thanked the project for the continued support through JICA and the work being done on SSI, IPC and QI efforts.



Ms. Inutu Mbagweta Chief Nursing Officer at LPHO giving remarks during the 4th quarter Nurse Leaders Meeting held at LPHO

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Dr. Clive Gosa Senior Monitoring Officer and Ms. Tisiyenji Baloyi Senior Planner at LPHO during the Hospital Management Handbook editorial meeting



Ms. Bertha Phiri Public Health Nurse at Chilenje First Level Hospital making remarks during the 4th quarter Nurse Leaders Meeting at LPHO



Mr. Mundia Kangongwe Principal Biomedical Scientist at LPHO making a presentation during the dissemination of the SSI Surveillance Guidelines and SOPs



Ms. Matildah Mbewe Nurse In-Charge at Chilenje First Level Hospital reading the final actions points raised during the 4th quarter Nurse Leaders meeting held at LPHO



Dr. Ilunga Mutwale Assistant Head Clinical Care at Kanyama FLH making a presentation on Surgical Site Infection during the Nurse Leaders Meeting



Ms. Idah Zulu Senior Nursing Officer at Women and New Born Hospital (University Teaching Hospital) making a presentation on HealthCare Acquired Infections during the SSI guidelines and SOPs dissemination workshop



Ms. Florence Lumbala in-charge at the Cervical Cancer department and Mr. Kenny Chileshe IPC Nurse at Chilenje First Level Hospital during the 4th IPC round