

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 Kanyama Sub-District Cholera Preparedness workshop that was held from 14th to 17th of October, 2025 in Lusaka.

**KANYAMA
FIRST LEVEL
HOSPITALS
HOLD CHOLERA
PREPAREDNESS
TRAINING FOR
SUB-DISTRICT**

**SATELLITE
PHARMACIES
BRINGING CARE
CLOSER TO THE
PATIENTS AT
FIRST LEVEL
HOSPITALS**

**CHILENJE FIRST
LEVEL HOSPITAL
ORIENT 90
NURSING AND
MEDICAL
STUDENTS IN
INFECTION
PREVENTION AND
CONTROL**

KANYAMA FIRST LEVEL HOSPITALS HOLD CHOLERA PREPAREDNESS TRAINING FOR SUB-DISTRICT



Participant making a contribution during the cholera preparedness workshop for Kanyama Sub-District

Kanyama sub-district, under the auspices of Kanyama First Level Hospital, with technical support from the JICA Cassiopeia Project conducted a four-day training in cholera preparedness from October 14th to 17th, 2025.

Under the guidance of the Kanyama FLH Infection Prevention Control (IPC) team comprising the IPC Doctor – Dr. Ilunga Mutwale, IPC Zonal Environmental Health Technologist – Mr. Ackson Munyama and various facilitators from the sub-district, the participants comprising of laboratory, pharmacy, environmental, nursing, clinicians, administrators, public health personnel.

The training was aimed at equipping all the facilities in the sub-district with information regarding preparedness in terms of logistics (medications, commodities, infrastructure and personnel) as the rainy season approaches which is typically when cholera outbreaks are common.

In light of the challenges highlighted in the last outbreak, senior management at the facilities and led by Dr. Mutwale who is IPC doctor at Kanyama FLH and acting public health specialist for the sub-district decided to hold the training to identify and implement safeguards that can be utilized to stop the spread of the disease if it occurs.

Dr. Mutwale stated that by equipping the health facilities and centers in the sub-district with technical know-how and mobilization of resources, they would act as the first line of defense in any potential outbreak before patient can be transferred to the level one hospital.

Dr. Shinsuke Murai, the Chief Adviser for the JICA Cassiopeia Project noted that the training was timely and essential as we were approaching the season when outbreaks usually occur.

He also noted that by conducting the training, the sub-district was being proactive and taking ownership of the healthcare provision even if there was a possibility of an outbreak occurring.

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Dr. Murai commended and urged the participants to work on the strengths they have and to work on the action points identified in a timely manner.

Also in attendance was the Chief Environmental Health Officer (CEHO) for the Lusaka Provincial Health Office, Ms. Cathel Chiboola who represented the Provincial Health Director. Ms. Chiboola also commended Kanyama FLH team in organizing the training for the sub-district and including all cadres in the training.

She pointed out that the responding to a cholera outbreak is multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary, hence all

cadres play an important role. The CEHO also thanked JICA through the Cassiopeia Project for the continued support.

Some challenges noted across the facilities was the lack of infrastructure to accommodate commodities such as saline and other bulky items needed during outbreaks as well as sourcing of essentials such as granular chlorine, and sufficient personal protective equipment (PPE).

In readiness of the rainy season the participants committed to reactivating the Health Information Teams at the facilities so that they can have a team ready to jump into ac-

tion if any cases were to occur.

The meeting closed was formally closed with a request from the acting PHS to the facilities to implement what was had been discussed throughout the training.



PHARMACISTS FROM LUSAKA DISTRICT GATHER AT LUSAKA PROVINCIAL HEALTH OFFICE FOR QUARTERLY MEETING

Lusaka Provincial Health Office (LPHO) played host to pharmacists from across the Lusaka for the quarterly meeting held on October 28th.

Participants comprised of pharmacists from LPHO, Lusaka District Health Office (LDHO), five First Level Hospitals (Chawama, Chilenje, Chipata, Kanya-ma and Matero), and pharmacists from Chelstone Zonal Hospital, Mandevu and Lusaka Central Sub-District pharmacists.

Of note during the discussion, participants evaluated their departments activities in MTC activities, supply chain updates, medicines stock status, rational use of medicines, progress on action points that arose from the Knowledge Co-Creation Program pharmacists participated in, introduction on the pilot on prescription fill rate (PFR) being undertaken at Chilenje FLH as well as presentations on best practices and challenges.

Kanya-ma FLH was commended for

consistently holding and clinical rounds every week were different cadres (doctors, nurses, lab and phar-macy personnel) make rounds in the various wards to go over patient care plans as well as pharmacology.

Ms. Mwangata Goma head of department at Kanya-ma FLH stated that having a satellite pharmacy in the in-patient department (IPD) makes it easy to conduct rounds as either the nurse in-charge or the doctor making the rounds are able to pass by the office and inform them when this was taking place. One challenge concerning rounds was highlighted where it was noted that sometimes doctors perform the rounds very early in the morning before pharmacists reported for work. LDHO encouraged other facilities should pay a visit to Kanya-ma FLH to participate in the clinical rounds as well as Chawama FLH to visit the satellite pharma-cy and see how it has been incorporated into the IPD department.

The pharmacists agreed to also undertake pilot program on PFR like Chilenje FLH. The goal of the project is to simplify and track the fill

rates of the most prescribed drugs in the facilities which is based on the drugs tracer list. Chilenje FLH will present findings by December 31st 2025 of the data re-view of the on-going pilot project.

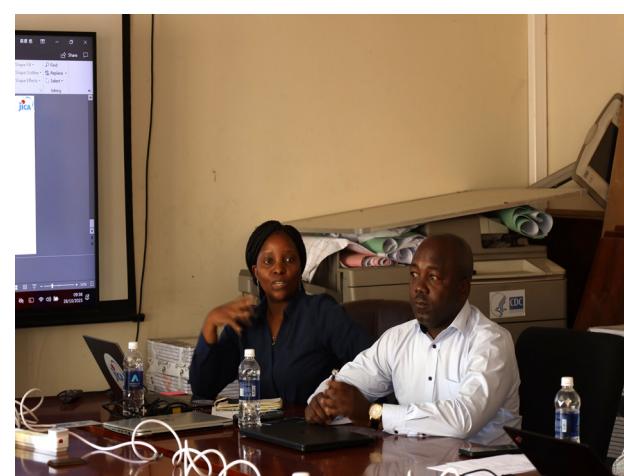
Ms. Mutale Laban and Ms. Agnes Nkhoma, pharmacists from Lusaka District Health Office (LDHO) and Mr. Steven Chisha and Ms. Mum-bi Mushosha, pharmacists from Lusaka Provincial Health Office (LPHO) urged the participants to build on the gains achieved under the JICA Cassiopeia Project but also to find solutions within the fa-cilities to issues that are internal.

Ms. Mushosha encouraged the pharmacists to take advantage of the data they already have through the project to write abstract and confer-ence papers detailing the achieve-ments and challenges they contin-ue facing in executing their duties.

Dr. Shinsuke Murai, JICA Cassiopeia Project Chief Advisor commend-ed the pharmacists on achieving the project indicators and urged them to continue findings ways to improve on the gains they have achieved.



Ms. Mumbi Mushosha pharmacist at Lusaka Provincial Health Office listening to a presentation



Ms. Nkhoma Hachizo pharmacist at Matero FLH and Mr. Vincent Sakuya pharmacist at Chipata FLH

SATELLITE PHARMACIES BRINGING CARE CLOSER TO THE PATIENTS AT FIRST LEVEL HOSPITALS

Chawama First Level Hospital has joined the list of First Level Hospitals (FLH) in Lusaka District who have introduced the use of satellite pharmacies at the facilities. Pioneered by Kanyama FLH, satellite pharmacies are being implemented / used to bring care closer to patients who are admitted at the healthcare facilities.

Speaking to Ms. Siphiwe Makokane, Head of Department for pharmacy, she stated that the introduction of the satellite pharmacy at the health facility has brought about improvement in the care that patients that are admitted receive. Ms. Makokane noted that each patient's medication is pre-packed based on the patients' chart. This has led to accountability as they are able to track how much med-

ication is given to the patient.

She noted that this was of particular importance as pharmacists are able to advise on the patients' treatment plan, focus on pharmacovigilance and also monitor how long the patient has been on the medication and how they are responding to treatment.

Ms. Chimuka Chanda who is the satellite pharmacist also noted that the proximity of the pharmacy to the ward ensures that a pharmacist is able to join the ward rounds and monitor patient treatment from a pharmacist's point of view. She however noted that there was need for more personnel as the satellite pharmacy only operated from 08:00 hours to 16:00 hours and over the weekend, the satellite pharmacy is closed. This was echoed by Ms. Makokane who is a

past participant in the Know Co-Creation Program under JICA were various healthcare workers participate in a three-week intensive training in Japan. She noted that during her training in Japan, pharmacists were mostly focused on patient care than with logistics.

In-Patient department (IPD) Nurse In-Charge, Ms. Malungo Ng'andu said that since the satellite pharmacy has been operational, there is improved communication between the two departments.

Decisions concerning drug availability are based on what is needed on the wards in contrast from before where they would order everything on the drug bulletin list from the bulk stores. Now, she noted, they are trying to meet directly the patients' needs by ordering based on patient charts.



Ms. Malungo Ng'andu IPC in-charge, Ms. Siphiwe Makiwane pharmacy HOD and Ms. Chimuka Chanda pharmacist at the satellite



Mr. Chisha Kalaba pharmacist at Matero FLH at the satellite office

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Despite the welcome addition of the satellite pharmacy, challenges still remain for the department to provide quality care. Ms. Makokane said that the satellite still needed more personnel to enable the pharmacy to be open 24/7 hours.

Matero First Level Hospital has also introduced a dispensary in the IPD high cost and National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIMA) ward at the facility.

Mr. Chisha Kalaba, a pharmacist at the FLH stated that the pharmacy is not operating at full capacity due to lack of storage space in the ward. However, he

also noted that the satellite pharmacy is being utilized by other departments for their NHIMA patients which has led to less people seeking services from the pharmacy located in the out-patient department (OPD).

The nurse in-charge, Ms. Patience Kapesa stated that the dispensary is a reflection of what is available in the OPD pharmacy and that it was working well.

However, she echoed sentiments from her colleagues as she noted that due to limited space, they are unable to store more bulkier commodities and medica

tions thus limiting the care they can provide to patients.

Ms. Kapesa also noted that the dispensary only worked from Monday to Friday from 8 hours to 16 hours and on Saturdays from 8 hours to 13 hours. She stated that with availability of more manpower, the satellite could be manned 24/7 without interruption of services.

Overall, the two facilities have embraced the incorporation of the satellite pharmacies and hope it becomes a standard practice across all facilities that would benefit from it.



A pharmacy student intern from Eden University working in the Chawama satellite pharmacy

CHILENJE FIRST LEVEL HOSPITAL ORIENT 90 NURSING AND MEDICAL STUDENTS IN INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROTOCOLS

The Nursing Officer, Ms. Matildah Mbewe and the environmental health department comprising of Mr. Elias Daka - Zonal Environmental Health Technologist (EHT), Mr. Vernon Mwaba (EHT) and Mr. Clyde Ushibantu - EHT and Infection Prevention Control (IPC) Focal Point Person at Chilenje First Level Hospital (FLH) on October 15th trained over 90 students from four Lusaka based universities in IPC protocols.

The students who are interning at the health facility in different departments for six weeks were oriented in Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on how to correctly carry out decontamination of equipment, waste management, personal and hand hygiene, and the correct use of personal protective

equipment (PPE).

The orienting of new students intending to intern at Chilenje FLH is a mandated of the facility management to improve and maintain IPC standards at the facility. Speaking to the students, the nursing officer urged them to follow the good examples set by their in-charges in the departments they would be assigned to as well as to ask questions if not sure on what to do.

The facilitators from the environmental health department emphasized adherences to waste management protocols as well as the observance of the 5-moments of hand hygiene as they worked.

Part of the orientation included a matching game on waste management that was introduced to EHTs from

Lusaka, Southern, Western and Copperbelt provinces by Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV), Ms. Erica Fujitomi who is volunteering at Chongwe District Health Office during the IPC and Surgical Site Infection surveillance dissemination workshop held last month for FLHs in Lusaka province by the Lusaka Provincial Health Office.

The task of the game is to test participants on correctly assigning pictures of different waste (domestic, infectious and highly infectious) to the correct disposal method.

Students also participated in practical demonstrations of hand washing and correct use PPE before being assigned to the wards where they would serve their internship for six weeks.



Mr. Clyde Ushibantu, Environmental Health Technologist and IPC focal point person at Chilenje FHL starting the IPC straining



Mr. Elias Daka, Zonal Environmental Health Technologist at Chilenje FLH explaining to students the waste management match game

LPHO HOLDS SECOND AND THIRD QUARTER INFECTION PREVENTION CONTROL MEETING



Dr. Ilunga Mutwale, Head of Clinical Care and Acting Public Health Specialist at Kanyama First Level Hospital making a presentation on surgical site infection and infection prevention and control updates for the 2nd quarter

Infection Prevention and Control teams from the five First Level Hospitals in Lusaka District (Chawama, Chilenge, Chipata, Kanyama and Matero), University Teaching Hospitals (Women and New Born Hospital and Childrens Hospital) and the National Heart Hospital were joined by Monitoring and Evaluation Officers and Health Information Officers for the 2nd and 3rd Quarter Provincial Infection Prevention and Control which took place at the Lusaka Provincial Health Officer on October 23, 2025.

The meetings play an important role in sharing best practices and challenges faced by the five FLHs under the JICA Cassiopeia Project. The 2nd and 3rd quarter meetings have also been extended to other facilities particularly on the issues surrounding the Surgical Site Infection (SSI) surveillance that was launched nationally by the Ministry of Health.

Of note in the meeting, most facilities shared challenges holding stand-alone IPC meetings due to competing meetings and other facility programs. However, they have taken initiative by utilizing platforms such as senior management meetings, clinical meetings and daily briefings.

One standout from the meeting Chipata FLH who shared that the combined IPC and SSI meeting is a permanent feature of the hospital calendar. They also shared that for the 2026 budget; IPC has been included as a stand-alone budget line under nursing activities. This has been in response to the challenges faced in implementing IPC activities and the difficult in prioritizing IPC activities (in all five FLHs).

Some challenges shared by the facilities were the lack of swabbing of SSI wounds by clinicians and therefore leading to missed SSI cases. Other issues raised were the lack of adherence to

filling out the SSI checklist intra and post operative procedures; difficulty in holding IPC meetings and lack of microbiology lab.

At the close of the meeting, the participants agreed on actionable points to implement before the end of the fourth quarter. The first action point is for the laboratory team to develop a specific lab request form for SSI cases which will be standardized in book format SSI and introduced across all facilities. The University Teaching Hospitals were tasked to conduct SSI training sessions for staff by the end of November 2025 and each facility is to review the SSI checklist and provide feedback within two weeks.

Ms. Chiboola thanked the participants and urged them to work on the agreed upon action points and provide feedback in the approved timeline. She also thanked the JICA Cassiopeia Project for the continued support in IPC and SSI activities.

Japan International Cooperation Agency

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Ms. Chimuka Chanda, pharmacist at Chawama FLH satellite pharmacy with a nurse from in-patient department ordering patient medication based on patient file



Chilenje FLH matron, Ms. Matildah Mbewe speaking to students during the nursing and medical students' infection prevention and control orientation



Ms. Tamaha Ogawa, JICA Headquarters Officer making remarks at the Kanyama Sub-District Cholera Preparedness Workshop



Dr. Shinsunke Murai, JICA Cassiopeia Project Chief Adviser giving remarks during Kanyama Sub-District Cholera Preparedness Workshop



Ms. Chipulu Habanyama, IPC nurse at Chipata FLH making remarks during the infection prevention and control quarterly meeting



Mr. Prince Bwalya, Environmental Health Technologist (right) with Ms. Joi Nyanga student intern (left) conducting infection prevention and control round at Chawama First Level Hospital on 22nd October, 2025



Dr. Murai (left) with participants (middle) Ms. Racheal Bwalya pharmtech from Misisi mini-hospital and (right) Ms. Agnes Nkhoma pharmacist at LDHO during the provincial pharmacy quarterly meeting held on October 28th 2025 **Japan International Cooperation Agency**