

CASSIOPEIA NKANI

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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. Friday Matafwali - District Health Office Medical Equipment Officer (center) together with JICA Cassiopeia Project expert Mr. Kazuhiro Ajiki (right) inspecting the reverse osmosis water system machine received by Matero First Level Hospital

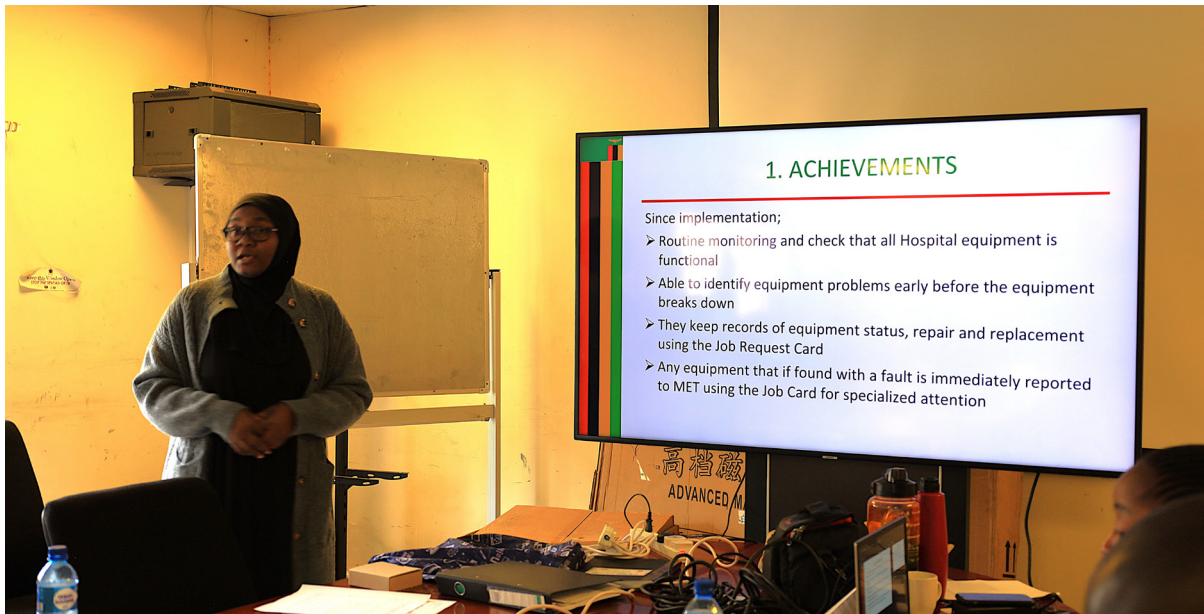
**MATERO FIRST
LEVEL HOSPITAL
RECEIVES
AUTOCLAVE FROM
JICA**



**LUSAKA PROVINCIAL
HEALTH OFFICE
HOLDS QUARTERLY
MEDICAL
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MANAGEMENT
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LUSAKA PROVINCIAL HEALTH OFFICE HOLDS QUARTERLY MEDICAL EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT MEETING WITH MEDICAL EQUIPMENT CHAMPIONS



Samiah Phiri, nurse and medical equipment champion in the ART department at Matero First Level Hospital making a presentation on ME champion achievements at the facility

Following the successful orientation of medical equipment champions at five First Level Hospitals (Chawama, Chilenje, Chipata, Kanyama and Matero), the Lusaka Provincial Health Office (LPHO) and the Lusaka District Health Office (LDHO) held a quarterly joint medical equipment meeting for Medical Equipment Technologists (MET), Bio-medical Engineers (BM) and Medical Equipment (ME) Champions on December 11th, 2025 at LPHO. The meeting was a buildup on the previous month's meeting held on November 13th, 2025.

The November meeting included discussions and presentations on remote maintenance, preventive maintenance log sheet, work record and filing, and analysis of med-

ical equipment failure causes. The December 11th meeting, however, focused mainly on updating the ME champions on changes made to the Planned Preventive Maintenance (PPM) checklist used by the medical equipment technologists and bio-chemical engineers during scheduled maintenance of medical equipment.

The concept of Champions in Medical Equipment Management was first considered by the nursing leaders' quarterly meeting. Then, the JICA Cassiopeia Project short-term expert in medical equipment management, Mr. Ajiki, designed the ME Champion's role with officers of LPHO and LDHO based on the experiences from IPC Champion, during his first assignment to the project from February to May 2025. The ME champions, who are mostly nurses as

end users of equipment, support smoother communication between the workshop and equipment users, and play a key role in promoting routine daily care, fault reporting, and follow-up for repair or replacement of damaged equipment.

During the meeting, frequent causes of breakdown were discussed on the analysis of information recorded in Job-Request Cards. These common causes included electrical faults that stem from spikes and surges, dust, water damage, and user mishandling. Strengthening the MET department's analysis of such causes is expected to support a shift toward a more collaborative medical equipment management system involving ME Champions, MET, hospital management teams, and coordinated action among these stakeholders.

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For ME Champions in particular, this discussion was important as it highlighted how improved handling and daily care may help reduce preventable equipment failure. In addition, MET and Bio-medical Engineers are expected to utilize available data to clearly present and explain equipment management challenges to hospital management and to promote practical interventions to prevent recurring breakdowns.

ME champions were also reoriented through the Job Request Card, and were also urged to consistently fill and submit job requests to the MET department. MET Departments were also encouraged to properly file and manage the submitted job request cards for MET department to easily follow up and track. Participants were further encouraged to seek interventions that were less costly such

as purchasing covers for medical equipment to reduce on damage from dust instead of waiting for the equipment to break down and then making interventions.

Mr. Robert Kangwa, an ME champion from Kanyama FLH, shared good practices that have come about with the introduction of ME champions in the facility. He pointed out that there was improved communication between the ME champions and MET, more equipment responsibility among end users, and improved response to equipment reports. Apart from the positives, Mr. Kangwa lamented the issues of having substandard equipment that experienced frequent breakdowns and the lack of financial allocation towards medical equipment to support MET efforts.

Some action points raised to be addressed included for LPHO To advocate for the

full utilization of MET budget allocation in Hospitals, to provide hospital management team with guidelines over procurement of substandard medical equipment and to adhere to equipment specifications as recommended by the MET department, and to introduce standard operating procedures (SOPs) for specific equipment for daily maintenance for users as well as SOPs on how to operate specialty equipment.

The meeting was closed with a farewell note for Mr. Ajiki. In his remarks, Mr. Ajiki shared that the use of ME champions was a first in Zambia and Africa. Therefore, the 5 FLHs were pioneering a concept that would lead to reducing hospital costs and the use of low-cost interventions to prevent medical equipment breakdown.



Left: Dr. Simulyamana Choonga, LPHO Provincial Health Director giving his remarks during the medical equipment meeting held at LPHO
Right: Group photo of meeting participants

MATERO FIRST LEVEL HOSPITAL RECEIVES AUTOCLAVE FROM JICA

The theater department at Matero First Level Hospital (FLH) received an autoclave machine and reverse osmosis (RO) water treatment system on December 5th, 2025, with the support of JICA through the Cassiopeia Project. The machine is intended for the sterilization of surgical instruments and other medical supplies at the facility. This falls within the continued efforts of the Cassiopeia Project to support infection prevention and control activities at the 5 First Level Hospitals in Lusaka district.

Matero FLH Medical Superintendent, Dr. Victor Liyuma, stated that the impact of the new autoclave is immeasurable. He noted that, in addition to the surgical instruments, linen and theater gowns will easily be sterilized, and that strengthened sterilization practices will lead to improved patient outcomes. From an IPC per-

spective, he further observed that there will be a reduction in surgical site infections and improved IPC strategy.

He also spoke on behalf of hospital management saying that “Matero Level One Hospital management wishes to thank JICA for fulfilling their promise of providing an autoclave to our hospital, as this will greatly contribute to improved service delivery to the community. We also want to encourage the project to continue collaborating with First Level Hospitals in order to bring health care delivery as close to the community as possible”.

Apart from the autoclave machine, the project also supported the facility with an RO water treatment system, that filters water before it is used in the autoclave, removing minerals and impurities that can cause equipment failure. The RO system is considered as an important component for stable

operation and extended lifespan of the autoclave under the environment of Matero hospital. The Cassiopeia Project has also been advocating to LDHO for broader encouragement of introduction of RO systems to help protect autoclaves and sustain sterilization capacity.

This support comes at an auspicious time, as the five FLHs in Lusaka (Chawama, Chilenje, Chipata, Kanyama, and Matero) that work with the JICA Cassiopeia Project have been making strides in IPC activities. They have also been working to reduce SSIs by monitoring SSI trends through surveillance and implementing interventions based on the findings. In this context, the provision of the autoclave contributes to strengthening sterilization practices, which are considered one of the key factors in infection prevention efforts at the facilities.



Left to Right: Dr. Shinsuke Murai - Cassiopeia Project Chief Advisor; Mr. Christopher Sinkala - LPHO Chief Medical Equipment Officer and Mr. Friday Matafwali LDHO Medical Equipment Officer



Autoclave machine being offloaded in the theater at Matero FLH

Japan International Cooperation Agency

PHOTO FOCUS



Mr. Aaron Kabwe, Medical Equipment Technologist at Matero FLH orienting Medical Equip champions at Chawama First Level Hospital



A porter in the theater department at Matero FLH removing sterilized equipment from the newly installed autoclave machine



Dr. Shinsuke Murai giving a presentation on project outcomes at the Lusaka District Health Office -District Integrated Meeting on 10th December, 2025



Mr. Aaron Kabwe, Medical Equipment Technologist at Matero FLH orienting Medical Equip champions at Chilenje First Level Hospital



Ms. Rosina Kandyata - LPHO Principal Nursing Officer presenting during the nursing leaders meeting on 17th December, 2025



Mr. Christopher Sinkala - Chief Medical Equipment Officer during the medical equipment meeting held on 11th December, 2025



Michiko Nyanga with the Infection Prevention and Control team at Lusaka District Health Office. From left: Yu Saito -Project Coordinator; Dr. Choolwe Sianchapa -CCS; Ms. Matimba Chizoongo -SEHO; Mr. Newstead Zimba -EHO; Ms.Monde Muyambango and Ms. Mutale Laban - Pharmacist

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