

CASSIOPEIA NKANI

Vol. 52. February 2026

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 doing group work during the 5-day Quality Improvement Training held by Kanyama First Level Hospital for the 5 First Level Hospitals in Lusaka District from the 23rd to the 27th of February, 2026

KANYAMA FIRST LEVEL HOSPITAL HOLDS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT TRAINING FOR THE FIVE FIRST LEVEL HOSPITALS IN LUSAKA

LPHO LEADS IPC TEAMS IN STANDARDISING ON DECONTAMINATION AND IPC ROUNDS FOR THE FIVE FIRST LEVEL HOSPITALS IN LUSAKA DISTRICT

CHELSTONE ZONAL HOSPITAL REVISES AND UPDATES 2026 FACILITY BALANCED SCORE CARD



KANYAMA FIRST LEVEL HOSPITAL HOLDS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT TRAINING FOR THE FIVE FIRST LEVEL HOSPITALS IN LUSAKA DISTRICT



Right: Dr. Astridah Maseka, Director Health Services at the Lusaka District Health Office giving opening remarks during the quality improvement training held by Kanyama First Level Hospital

From the 23rd to the 27th of February, 2026, a five-day quality improvement (QI) training was conducted with the participation of staff from various cadres from the five first level hospitals (FLH) in Lusaka District. The training was led by Lusaka District Health Office (LDHO), and its content incorporated proposals developed by Kanyama FLH, which is well known for its quality improvement initiatives. The JICA Cassiopeia Project also supported this timely training organized by LDHO.

The LDHO aim of the 5-day training was to strengthen leadership-driven continuous quality improvement (CQI) implemen-

tation across subdistricts and facilities; to establish functional and accountable quality improvement/quality assurance (QI/QA) structures with clear linkage to management decision-making; to improve use of HMIS/DHIS2 and routine service data to track Balanced Scorecard and Output Based Budget (OBB) performance; to have CQI action plans aligned to district priorities, facility action plans, and budgeted outputs; to improve coordination, reduced silos, and shared accountability across Lusaka District; and lastly, to establish a replicable district CQI learning platform, pioneered by Kanyama First Level Hospital.

Participants included senior managers from

Kanyama Level 1 Hospital and healthcare workers, managers, and CQI focal persons from all subdistricts in Lusaka District, including clinical, nursing/midwifery, planning, health information, and support services cadres involved in performance management and CQI implementation.

Officiating the opening to the training, Dr. Astridah Maseka, Director Health Services at LDHO, told the participants that the training was an opportunity to embed quality improvement into the fabric of our day-to-day activities. "From the Medical Superintendents' offices to the general workers, leadership and quality improvement must come front and centre of our offering to all who walk through our facilities".

Japan International Cooperation Agency

CONT'D

Dr. Maseka further noted that “the world is looking for solutions, and in the health sector, Lusaka District must stand out as an example of ownership, innovation and enterprise”.

The DHS thanked JICA, through the Cassiopeia Project, for being an all-weather friend who not only invested in physical buildings by upgrading health facilities into first level hospitals in the district, but also in training healthcare workers in hospital management both in Zambia and in Japan. Closing her remarks, Dr. Maseka urged the participants to actively engage throughout the training, by sharing their insights and collaborating not

only during the training, but even beyond at their facilities, towards the common goal of improving health outcomes in Lusaka District.

Ms. Mutinta Hambulo, QI Coordinator at Kanyama First Level Hospital and one of the facilitators for the training, thanked the project for the continued technical support they have been offering the FLHs. She hoped that there would be more opportunities afforded to healthcare workers to learn more about CQI and how it can improve health services at the facilities. One of the participants, Ms. Patricia Sawelo, a pediatric nurse at Chilenje FLH, expressed her thanks to LDHO for bring

ing together the hospitals for training in CQI. She also thanked the facilitators for an engaging and informative 5 days, which she noted had sharpened her understanding of looking at gaps and challenges being faced by health facilities and how, as a staff member, they could apply the knowledge gained to look at internal solutions to the challenges being faced.

The training ended with facilities being instructed to finish the QI projects they identified during the training and submitted them for further review by the facilitators and other participants to take advantage of the collaborative nature of the training.

Group photo of participants during the 5-day quality improvement training held at ZAMCOM Lodge in Lusaka by Kanyama FLH for the 5 First Level Hospitals in Lusaka District



LPHO LEADS IPC TEAMS IN STANDARDISING SOPS ON DECONTAMINATION AND IPC ROUNDS FOR THE FIVE FIRST LEVEL HOSPITALS IN LUSAKA DISTRICT

Lusaka Provincial Health Office (LPHO) held a meeting on 5 February 2026 to discuss the standardisation of three standard operating procedures (SOPs) on decontamination, waste management, and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) rounds that have been used for the past three years in the five first-level hospitals in Lusaka District.

The meeting was attended by the teams from the 5 first level hospitals (FLHs) in Lusaka district (Chawama, Chilenje, Chipata, Kanyama and Matero), together with teams from Levy Mwanawasa University Teaching Hospital (LMUTH), University Teaching Hospital

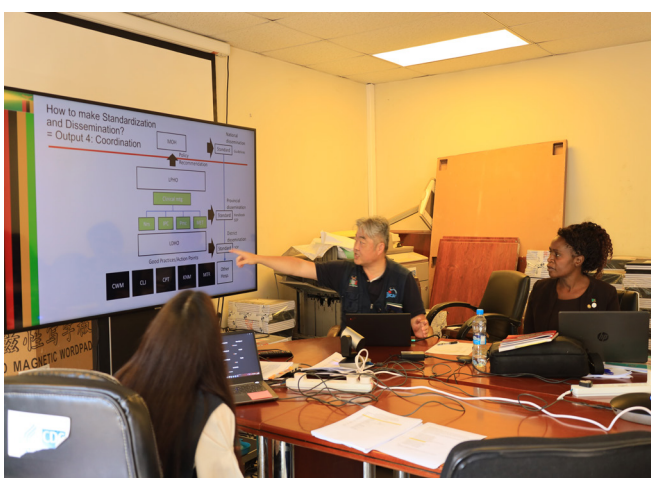
s that included Children and Newborns and Adult, the National Heart Hospital (NHH), as well as Lusaka District Health Office (LDHO) and Lusaka Provincial Health Office (LPHO). Participants comprised environmental health technologists (EHT), infection prevention and control (IPC) nurses and doctors, biomedical scientists, hospital information officers, public health coordinators and theater coordinators.

It was expected that, through province- standardization of the three SOPs originally developed by each of the 5 FLHs with the guidance and support of LDHO and LPHO is a bid in their continued effort to

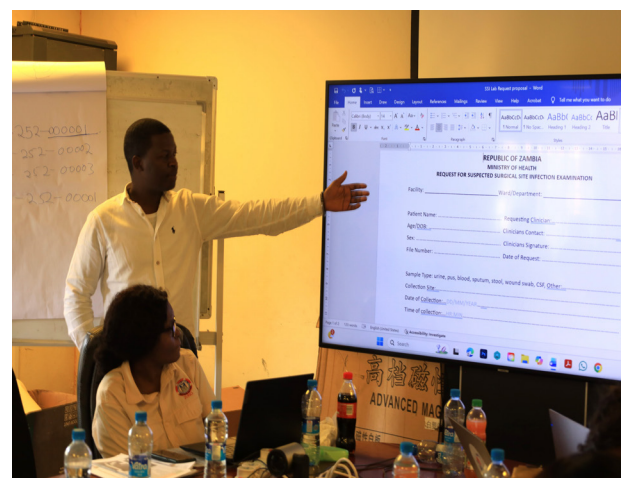
improve patient healthcare and the safety of both staff and patients at the facilities.

Speaking on behalf of the LPHO Provincial Health Director, Dr. Maxine Kayawe, Public Health Specialist, urged the attendees to fully commit to the standardisation process and provide feedback to produce documents that would help protect our patients, staff, and community.

Dr. Kayawe further explained the purpose of each SOP, noting that the decontamination SOP will guide us in properly cleaning and disinfecting equipment and surfaces. The IPC rounds SOP will help us monitor and address infec-



Left to Right: Dr. Shinsuke Murai - Cassiopeia Project Chief Advisor, Ms. Cathel Chiboola - LPHO Chief Environmental Health Officer during the SOP standardisation meeting held at LPHO



Taona Makunika, Biomedical Scientist at National Heart Hospital presenting the newly made surgical site infection lab form to be used in Lusaka province



Dr. Maxine Kayawe, Public Health Specialist at Lusaka Provincial Health Office officiating the standardisation meeting on infection prevention and control SOPs used in the 5 FLHs in Lusaka district

CONT'D

tion control issues proactively. The waste management SOP will ensure we're handling and disposing of waste safely and responsibly.

The team would be small and other than the standardization of the SOPs, participants also discussed the finalisation and utilization of the surgical site infection (SSI) checklist. Although the use of the checklist is under a pilot program at the 5 FLHs, it was noted that not all facilities were using the checklist. Reasons identified included lack of awareness and poor

attitude to adherence. In order to curb this, it was advised that the theatre anchor the document, given that they have the majority input and would be a check on the pre- and post-operative cases through adequate handovers.

Participants also reviewed and approved the SSI laboratory form, which had been jointly developed and proposed to the meeting by the National Heart Hospital, Chipata and Matero FLHs. For suspected SSI cases, it was agreed to maintain the form as is for suspected SSI cases to avoid duplicating work by hav-

ing several forms for different tests on one patient.

Closing the program, Ms. Cathel Chiboola, Chief Environmental Health Officer at LPHO, thanked participants who attended the meeting online and reiterated the continued support of LPHO to ensure that IPC activities in all facilities in Lusaka province were kept active.

CHELSTONE ZONAL HOSPITAL REVISES AND UPDATES 2026 FACILITY BALANCED SCORE CARD

On February 10th, 2026, participants who had attended the Balanced Scorecard (BSC) training held from 24th to 26th of June 2025 at Chelstone Zonal Hospital gathered to revise and update the facility's 2026 Balanced Scorecard. The training had been supported by JICA and the Zambia JICA Fellowship Association (ZAJIFA). During the meeting, participants reviewed the document to reflect achievements made and challenges faced, discuss new objectives as well as strategies to achieving the strategic objectives set in the BSC.

Participants spent time reviewing the BSC and making suggestions to each department on how best to frame strategies and actions to be undertaken to achieve their targets. Objectives ranged from increasing the number of mothers who bring their

children for ANC, reducing complaints from patients concerning wait time, to increasing compliance by food vendors in obtaining health clearance certificates to, streamlining human resources responses to staff queries.

To cap off the meeting, Ms. Kanekwa Nkhoma, Planner at Chipata First Level Hospital, together with the Medical Superintendent, Dr. Nobahle Sibanda, and Mr. Anthony Kazembe, Planner at Chelstone Zonal Hospital, presented the participants with certificates of participation from JICA and ZAJIFA in the BSC training they attended in 2025. Speaking about the certification, Dr. Nobahle Sibanda told the participants that they were part of the very few individuals in the country who had been trained under JICA in the Balance Scorecard. She further stated the importance the Ministry of

Health (MOH) attaches to improving and building capacity in hospital management through collaboration with partners like JICA and noted that BSC was a vital tool to achieving the mission set by the MOH, as well as the vision and values held by the Chelstone Zonal Hospital.

Dr. Sibanda further urged the participants to apply what they had learned in order to make planning more strategic and efficient, in order to bring accessible and affordable healthcare to the community. Ms. Nkhoma thanked the participants for their commitment to embracing the use of the BSC in the planning process to achieve the vision and values the hospital and its staff hold dear. She also thanked JICA and ZAJIFA for the technical and financial support that made the initial training possible.



Right to left: Ms. Angela N. Kapila, Matron receiving certificate of participation from Dr. Nobahle Sibanda, Medical Superintendent at Chelstone Zonal Hospital with Ms. Kanekwa N. Nkhoma, Planner at Chipata FLH



Mr. Anthony Kazembe, Planner at Chelstone Zonal Hospital facilitating the BSC review meeting

Japan International Cooperation Agency

Photo Focus:



Facilitators listening to the presentations during the quality improvement training held at ZAMCOM Lodge by Kanyama FLH



Ms. Cathel Chiboola, Chief Environmental Health Officer presenting during the SOPs standardisation meeting held at LPHO on 5th February, 2026



Heads of departments participating in the Balanced ScoreCard review at Chelstone Zonal Hospital on 10th February, 2026



Presenter from Chilenje FLH presenting their QI project on Neo-Natal Sepsis at the quality improvement training at ZAMCOM Lodge



Kanyama FLH participants doing group work during the quality improvement training



Participants during the LPHO standardisation meeting on infection prevention and control SOPs held on February 5th, 2026



Nobahle Sibanda, Medical Superintendent at Chelstone Zonal Hospital welcoming heads of departments to the Balanced ScoreCard review meeting held on the 10th of February, 2026

Editor and Newsletter Design:

Ms. Kombe Kapatamoyo

Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Shinsuke Murai

CONTACT INFORMATION:

JICA - The Project for Strengthening Management Capacity of the First Level Hospitals in Lusaka District Plot No.11743A, Brentwood Lane, Longacres.

P.o. Box 30027, Lusaka, 10101, ZAMBIA

<https://www.jica.go.jp/project/english/zambia/023/index.html>