



The Project for Strengthening Basic Health Care Services Management for Universal Health Coverage in Zambia



GOOD HEALTH FOR ALL

BHC for UHC Project

Japan International Cooperation Agency
ZAMBIA OFFICE



Background

In the Republic of Zambia, improvements in infectious diseases control and maternal, child health are still short from achieving health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 4, 5 and 6 (in 2013, maternal mortality ratio was 280 per 100,000, under-5 mortality ratio was 87.4 per 1,000, and HIV prevalence among 15-49 aged adults was 12.5%, compared to global average of 210, 45.6, and 0.8%, respectively). (WHO, 2013) Though achievements of the MDGs' targets would be difficult by 2015, possible hindering factors for MDGs' achievements have been well discussed. One of the factors is the limited capacity of public services to provide equitable, quality health care services in basic health care services, including maternal complications, diarrheal diseases and malaria among infants and children, maternal and child transmission of HIV in Zambia.

The Government of Republic of Zambia decentralized public health sector management from central to provincial and district governments since 1992, and established free-public health care for primary health care services (including antenatal care, deliveries, treatments for HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis) since 2011 (some rural districts had provided free-public health care services since 2006).

Though the Government of Republic of Zambia makes progress toward achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) as above, more improvements in health system strengthening, such as efficient procurement of medical drugs and supplies, and efficient human resource management have to be made in order to provide quality health care services.

In order to foster the path to UHC, central, provincial, and district governments and health facilities need to accelerate their efforts to utilize limited resources in financial and human resource management effectively and efficiently. However, the capacity of proper management planning for providing basic health care services needs to be strengthened with effective use of health-related information, such as epidemiological and managerial information, to make appropriate planning for quality basic health care services in an effective, efficient, and timely manner.

Through the National Health Strategic Plan 2011-2016, with its vision of "Equitable access to cost effective, quality health services as close to the family as possible", the Government of Republic of Zambia recognizes the importance of strengthening health information management, including collecting and analyzing appropriate health-related information, and to utilize such information to make effective management planning and operations for providing basic health care services.



Under these circumstances, the Government of Republic of Zambia requested a technical cooperation project in order to strengthen the capacity to manage and effectively operate public health care services for achieving UHC in Zambia. With Japan's strong commitment to assist countries achieve UHC, this project aims to strengthen the managerial capacity for public services to provide equitable, quality basic health care services with an emphasis on strengthening utilization of necessary health-related information for proper management planning for basic health care services.



Overall Goal

Access to effective and quality basic health care services for the target areas is improved.

Project Purpose

Capacity of management in all levels of governmental institutions within the target areas for effective and sustainable operation of quality basic health care services based on health information collected and analysed is strengthened.

Activities

- **Developing District Specific Activity Plans (DSAPs)**

The project conducted the baseline survey and identified the bottlenecks of health service management in the each target district. Those districts utilize the findings from the surveys and develop DSAPs which aim to reduce those bottlenecks.

- **Strengthening the management capacity through Plan-Do-Check-Adjust/Act (PDCA) Cycle**

PDCA cycle is a process management tool. The districts follow the four steps, Plan-Do-Check-Adjust/Act, through operating DSAPs. The expected roles of the Ministry of Health and Provincial Health Offices are to provide technical assistance to the District Health Offices in implementing their activities. Their management capacities are also strengthened through supporting DSAP activities following PDCA cycle.

- **Articulating project activities to achieve National Health Care Package (NHCP)**

NHCP is a guideline that sets standards which are the cornerstone of health service delivery at all levels in Zambia. The project plans to reflect the findings acquired through the project on the next revision of NHCP.

Expected Output

1. Ministry of Health (MoH) has better capacity to formulate and facilitate implementation of policies and plans to provide quality basic health care services.
2. Provincial Medical Offices (PMOs) have better capacity in providing technical assistances to District Medical Offices.
3. District Medical Offices (DMOs) have better capacity in planning of health care services based on health management information.

Target Areas

LUSAKA PROVINCE

1. Lusaka District
2. Chongwe

SOUTHERN PROVINCE

1. Choma
2. Kalomo

Implementing Organization

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