

## JICA - THE PROJECT FOR STRENGTHENING MANAGEMENT CAPACITY OF THE FIRST LEVEL HOSPITALS IN LUSAKA DISTRICT



*In picture : Inventory Management for Essential Medicines and Medical Supplies (EMMS) workshop delegation from the Five general hospitals, KiZ, ZAMMSA, UNDP, LDHO and LPHO*

**PROJECT CONDUCTS  
WORKSHOP FOR  
INVENTORY  
MANAGEMENT FOR  
EMMS FOR ALL FIVE  
HOSPITALS**

**CHILENJE GENERAL  
HOSPITAL ORIENTED  
ON NEW MEDICAL  
EQUIPMENT  
DONATED BY THE  
PROJECT**

**PHOTO FOCUS  
CHIPATA GENERAL  
HOSPITAL PHYSIO  
RECEIVES NEW  
EQUIPMENT**



## PROJECT CONDUCTS WORKSHOP FOR INVENTORY MANAGEMENT FOR ESSENTIAL MEDICINES AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES FOR ALL FIVE HOSPITALS

In the recent past, we have seen how the debate on the unavailability of essential medicines in health facilities in the country has come on the spotlight. In Sub-Sahara Africa, stock-outs of essential medicines are one of the biggest problems in health facilities. According to research on Inventory Management of Stock-out of essential medicines, the recognized negative impact are morbidity, mortality and disease epidemiology and cited causes are procurement and financing processes, supply capacity and communication.



Mr. Rino Meyers ZAMMSA - EU Project Senior Technical Advisor speaking to participants at the workshop on benefits of eZICS



Chilenje General Hospital team at the workshop



Project Chief Advisor Dr. Masataro with UNDP -Prog. Advisor Health, Energy & Climate Change Dr. Saleban



Chipata General Hospital team at the recently held EMMS workshop at the Sarovar Hotel in Lusaka

**W**hile the government of Zambia through the Ministry of Health is working tirelessly to ensure this issue is resolved, the Project for Strengthening Management Capacity of the First Level Hospitals in Lusaka District is complimenting those efforts through key stakeholder engagement. The key stakeholders engaged include patients, facility staff, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Zambia Medicines and Medical Supplies Agency (ZAMMSA) and Ministry of Health through the Provincial Health Office. The project recently conducted a survey in the target general hospitals to get an idea of what is on the ground when it came to essential medicines and stock management. The results indicated that there was a deficit in the availability of essential medicines, a gap in inventory management, space management and coordination between the facilities and ZAMMSA. Additionally, the project discovered that the stock inventory system is manually managed and this process could cause challenges in the system like the turnaround time per client attended to, inefficient record keeping and demands more manpower. It is against this background that a workshop to engage stakeholders on what possible solutions could be for the current issues being experienced in these facilities. The workshop was held in Lusaka at the Sarovar hotel and in attendance was Kaizen Institute of Zambia (KiZ), UNDP, ZAMMSA, LPHO, LDHO, JICA

Zambia and the 5 target hospitals. The hospitals brought to light the difficulties being experienced with manual systems and shortages of essential medicines. All stakeholders were in agreement of the need to have a digitized system for inventory management. The representative from ZAMMSA Mr. Rino Meyers who is under the TA EU Project enlightened the delegation on an inventory management system called Enhanced Zambia Inventory Control System eZICS. He told the meeting that eZICS had been implemented in Kafue and Chongwe and has proven to be a very efficient system, it shows real-time stocks, the new version can be used on inexpensive android devices, easy to train users and provides efficiency in the dispensary of medicines thereby improving quality of care to patients. Adding to Mr. Meyers presentation was Dr. Saleban who said that eZICS is cloud based and does not require a physical server. This means that it can be accessed from anywhere in the world. In comment, the Chief Pharmacist Mr. Mukesela emphasized the need for digitized solutions for the facilities and he hoped that the installation of eZICS would help resolve existing challenges while Dr. Msiska added that it would help address HR challenges. Another issue discussed was the implementation of 5s activities in all facilities which Dr. Msiska recommended that the facilities emulate Kanyama hospital. When asked if eZICS will replace the current system, he said it most likely will so that users do not have to switch between systems and efficiency is achieved.

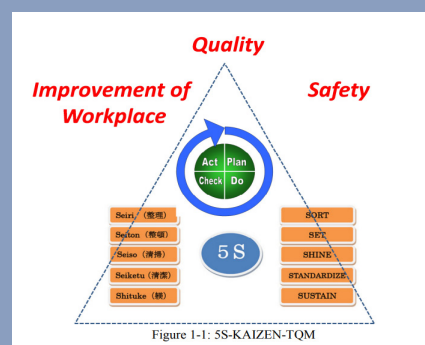


Figure 1-1: 5S-KAIZEN-TQM

Elements of 5s activities that the KiZ will implement in all 5 Hospitals in May 2022 through the project



## CHILENJE HOSPITAL ORIENTED ON NEW MEDICAL EQUIPMENT DONATED BY PROJECT

The correct use of medical equipment is very important to the provision of quality health care services, it extends the lifespan of hospital equipment as well as ensuring safety for both the staff and patients. The project recently acquired medical equipment for the five targeted hospitals and as part of this process it is important that the end users of this equipment are well trained on the correct use and care for the equipment.

As part of its on going process of orienting the users the project conducted an on site training for medical personnel at Chilenje General hospital. Conducting the training of the equipment was a medical engineer expert Mr. Cornelius Mwape. Engineer Mwape emphasised to the medical staff at the facility the need to properly use and care for medical equipment as the incorrect use can be very costly to both the health facility and patients. Commenting on this event, the Medical Superintendent Dr. Mataa expressed gratitude to the project on its commitment to improving quality of care in the facility and for the people of Lusaka. He said he will ensure the equipment is put to good use as well as well maintained by the facility.



*Medical Equipment Engineer Mr.Cornelius Mwape orienting Doctors at Chilenje General Hospital on how to use an ECG machine*



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**Chipata General Hospital receives Physio equipment from the Project**