



CASSIOPEIA NKANI

Vol. 14 December 2022

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



Dr. Pateo, Dr. Chongo and Dr. Norizuki presenting laptops to the Five General Hospitals during the Medical Equipment Management Feedback Workshop held on 8th December, 2022 at Radisson Blu in Lusaka that will be used to help strengthen Medical Equipment Quality Improvement

JICA CASSIOPEIA PROJECT CONDUCTS MEDICAL EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT FEEDBACK WORKSHOP FOR THE FIVE GENERAL HOSPITALS

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL IMPLEMENTATION MEETING CONDUCTED AT LUSAKA PROVINSIAL HEALTH OFFICE

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PHOTO FOCUS 5S AT KANYAMA GENERAL HOSPITAL



JICA CASSIOPEIA PROJECT CONDUCTS MEDICAL EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT FEEDBACK WORKSHOP FOR THE FIVE GENERAL HOSPITALS

The Third pillar of the Cassiopeia project focuses on Medical Equipment Management at the five hospitals namely; Chilenje, Chawama, Kanyama, Matero and Chipata for quality of care and achieving UHC. It is important for Quality Healthcare Services that Medical Equipments are well maintained and ready for use anytime.



Mr. Shiota assisting participants with the group discussion

The term ‘Medical Equipment’ includes a wide range of instruments, equipments, machinery and apparatus used for medical purposes in a health facility. Good medical equipment management is necessary to keep equipment in ready-to-use condition. The demand for medical equipment is increasing in Zambia and the costs are increasing as well. Also the gaps between the needs and the resources is widening, hence, Medical Equipment Management is essential to ensuring that the equipment continues to function effectively and is in good working condition

To manage medical equipment effectively, proper maintenance can extend the life circle of the equipment which is essential for providing quality health services.

The objectives of the workshop conducted at Radisson Blu in Lusaka, Zambia on 8th December, 2022 by JICA through the project Cassiopeia; were to share the feedback from the 5 general hospital’s action points which were created in the last Medical Equipment Management workshop which was held on 4th May, 2022. The other objective was to introduce a standardized way of medical equipment management from the Lusaka Provincial Health Office (LPHO), to guide hospitals and their medical equipment management committees, to have a clear workplans and to develop more concrete action points of medical equipment and ensure transition on implementation of this action plan through the standardized management.

In a speech read on behalf of the Provincial Health Director by Dr. Chongo, Head of Health Promotion, Environment and Social determinants of Health, he thanked JICA through the proj-

ect of strengthening management in the five general hospitals in Lusaka. JICA project conducted this workshop to ensure that the equipment are well planned and budgeted for, procured and operated by the right people.

Dr. Norizuki, Project Chief Advisor informed the participants that quality of care in the five general hospitals is important and the management of essential medical equipment in the hospitals. He mentioned that medical equipment committees did not exist in some hospitals, but now the hospitals have medical equipment committees which is a huge progress in the five general hospitals. He continued to say that the project has been working with senior management using the balanced score cards to make sure that everything that is remaining in the balanced score cards is achieved, and it is sustainable for the hospitals.

He further said, “Visualization is at the start of medical equipment management and this is the reason why the meeting has been conducted, to know the current working status of the equipment in hospitals to help capture important data.” He pointed out that reporting correctly to senior management and the Provincial Health Office will also help in supporting the hospitals to maintain good communication and supervision which is important for quality service delivery. Therefore, good governance, good visualization based on data and capacity building by continuous training and education are the three components for quality care.

During the workshop a handover ceremony was conducted in which each General Hospital namely; Chilenje, Chawama, Kanyama, Matero and Chipata received a laptop which will help strengthen Medical Equipment Quality Improvement.



Dr. Chongo giving a speech at the Medical Equipment Management Feedback Workshop



Mr. Sinkala, Head of Medical equipment at LPHO giving a presentation



Lusaka District Health Office Director Dr Msiska and participants participating in the Medical Equipment Management Feedback Workshop Discussion



Participants pose for a group photo at the Medical Equipment Management Feedback Workshop

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL IMPLEMENTATION MEETING CONDUCTED AT LUSAKA PROVINSIAL HEALTH OFFICE

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) is a vertical discipline that affects all patient care activities in healthcare settings. IPC and Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) are an essential component of healthcare quality and patient safety aimed at strengthening healthcare delivery. Effective IPC program includes building a workplan with all healthcare personnel playing their part to prevent the spread of pathogens.

The priority focus of WASH related Infection Prevention and Control are access to safe and adequate water, hand washing, appropriate sanitation, medical waste management, cleaning and sterilization. Good Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) practices with WASH requires a coordinated and continuous approach to ensure reduction of health care acquired infections to patients, healthcare workers and the community at large.

In this vain, the Lusaka Provincial Health office in conjunction with JICA held the IPC and WASH meeting for the Five General Hospitals at the Lusaka Provincial Health Office.

The objective was to understand the scope of IPC, to share the action plan for improving IPC implementation at the Five General Hospitals and to share the check list for WASH infrastructure and medical waste management baseline information.

In a speech read on behalf of the Lusaka Provincial Health Director, Dr Chongo said, "Infection Prevention and Control in relation to Water, Sanitation and Hand Hygiene in hospital settings is important." Hospitals are the main healthcare facilities for the risk of acquiring infections during healthcare delivery and constitute a major challenge worldwide.

Most of the hospital staff in Lusaka district have been oriented in IPC and WASH, however, challenges of the hospital associated infections, frequent outbreaks, unsafe care and spread of infection in the community remain a major concern in the Province.

Therefore, implementation of IPC programs in hospitals require introduction of IPC healthcare packages, hospital management commitment, improvement of compliance with hand hygiene, healthcare waste management, healthcare associated infections (HCAI) Surveillance, appropriate use of antimicrobials, translation of operational research results into practice and upgrading the capabilities of Microbiology laboratory. Focusing on infection control, hospitals with limited resources can improve the quality of healthcare services delivery in the future.

If IPC has been effectively implemented, healthcare associated infections, Anti-Microbial Resistance, Disease outbreak such as Cholera, Ebola, Severe Acute Respiratory infections (SARS) including Covid 19 and many other preventable infectious diseases are reduced, which will result in improved occupational health and safety,

and staff satisfaction to provide quality and safe healthcare services, and leading to increased uptake of facility-based Healthcare services.

Dr. Chongo then thanked JICA and Japanese government for the support and contribution towards strengthening healthcare delivery system through the phase I and phase II of the grant aid project for upgrading Lusaka health centers to district hospitals.

He also encouraged hospital management teams to work together and successfully implement IPC healthcare package for it is a practical, evidence-based approach proven to prevent patients and healthcare workers from being affected by preventable infections.

Dr. Norizuki, Project Chief Advisor, in his presentation on the IPC activities and the importance of IPC measures said that infection prevention and control is very important for the quality of care of the general hospitals and it includes all healthcare workers, patients, students and the community. Hand Hygiene practices should be put into considerations during all patient care and when performing health care tasks according to WHO's 5 moments hand hygiene.

Five (5) laptops were handed over to the five (5) general hospitals which will go towards the improvement of infection prevention and control. It is the duty of each healthcare worker to be aware of their individual responsibilities for maintaining a safe environment for patients and staff.



Dr. Norizuki, chief advisor of Cassiopeia project handed over laptops for Ms. Alvenia, IPC focal point, Dr. Chanda, Medical superintendent of Chawama general hospital, and Dr. Chongo at the Infection Prevention and Control Implementation Meeting



The Infection Prevention and Control Implementation meeting participants pose for a group photo

INTERVIEW LPHD ON PROJECT EXPECTATIONS AND CHANGES OBSERVED IN THE FIVE GENERAL HOSPITALS

The Cassiopeia Project met with the Provincial Health Director (PHD), Dr. Consity Mwale to get the ministry's remarks on the expectations of the project and the changes which have been observed so far since the start of the project for strengthening capacity of management in the five general hospitals.

He said he was very excited to have an all-weather partnership with JICA, because it is an essential tool that helps the Ministry deliver quality healthcare services to the people in the Lusaka province. Through the JICA project for strengthening management capacity of the general hospitals as the name Cassiopeia explains helps us meet our core objectives of delivering quality healthcare services for the people in Lusaka province. The project has some offshoot benefits which come from capacity building of management and the collaboration between the public health teams and the general hospitals.

The teams at the general hospitals are responsible for providing technical support and mentorship in the surrounding facilities so that the knowledge and skills are transferred concerning management of the supply chain, positioning of the medical equipment and maintenance especially with

issues of infection prevention particularly in the era of Covid 19 when public health security has been a key priority.

Dr. Mwale further added that since the project started, the teams are now focusing more attention on the use of information that they generate to analyze the facility level, to understand what could be the gaps and how to respond and manage the gaps. He gave an example of the past supply chain and management which was focusing on what he called the central and mid-level management of the supply chain and what got to the facility was not much the center of focus.

However, with the coming of the project it was realized that they also needed to ensure that at the last point of giving drugs to the public, at the dispensary in the ward and in the local bell store, there is need for accountability. He mentioned that this has improved and hopes that it can continue to be strengthened more with the staff so that drugs are accounted for across the supply chain from the central level, middle level which is the provincial level, the district level, the facility level and within the facility in the various areas where these commodities are utilized such as the labor ward, out-patient department and in the ART unit.

Furthermore, the Doctor said that the other area where change has been seen is infection prevention and control (IPC) and how to triage or isolate and manage the general flow regarding those likely to be more infectious and the less infectious. The emergencies which should not go straight through the general flow of patients now has a clear demarcated system in each of the five general hospitals where the clients will be identified at the point of entry and

given the appropriate triage so that they are attended to almost immediately. The triage system has helped to manage the general public in hospitals, and Dr. Mwale added that the Cassiopeia project with JICA support has been very instrumental in strengthening how to triage the infectious cases particularly Covid 19 and the emergencies.

Therefore, capacity building has been developed and as a ministry we have continued to provide technical support and mentorship not only in the smaller facilities like the health centers and health posts but also in the big hospitals like Matero General Hospital, where there are departments like obstetrics and gynecology. He further emphasized that as capacity is being built in the general hospitals it is the responsibility of the all staff to oversee the operations of the facilities that refer patients to the general hospitals.

The Doctor expressed gratitude to the Japanese people and the Japanese Government for partnering with the Zambian people and the Zambian Government.



Lusaka Provincial Health Director (LPHD)
Dr. Consity Mwale

PHOTO FOCUS: 5S Activities at Kanyama General Hospital



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The significant contributions through 5S (Sort, Set, Shine, Standardize and Sustain) initiatives in the the Five General Hospitals leads to production of quality safety and effective utilization of the workspace for sustainable Performance.