

Implementation of Select Health Projects at Livingstone Central Hospital



***JCTR LIVINGSTONE
OUTREACH TEAM***

2019

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1.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND TO THE SOCIAL AUDIT

Enjoyment of the right to health is still a concern in Zambia and falls below that required for the people to fully enjoy that right and other related rights such as the right to right. Therefore, the projects of building the laboratory, the eye clinic, the dental clinic and the wall fence at Livingstone Central hospital aimed at enhancing access to health in Livingstone by the local people interested the Livingstone JCTR Outreach team. The said structures were meant to be modern facilities that would house all necessary equipment and would provide a wider range of services to three quarters of the population of southern province. This would drastically reduce referrals of patients to the University Teaching Hospital (UTH) in Lusaka.

And over the years, the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) has monitored the use of public financial resources in an effort to foster accountability by public officers. Some works have included analysing issues raised in the Auditor General reports over the year and advocating action on culprits. Hence, undertaking of the social audit by the JCTR Livingstone outreach team to measure among areas, progress on projects and the quality of works. Monitoring of the projects was implemented over a period of 12 months, November 2017 through to November 2018.

2.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE SOCIAL AUDIT

- To ascertain the amount of funds budgeted and released for the projects.
- To ascertain progress on the projects
- To raise community awareness on the projects

3.0 PROJECT MONITORING AND DATA COLLECTION

In order to meet the above objectives, the following activities were undertaken:

1. A concept note on the projects to be monitored as well as a data collection tool were designed.
2. Interviews were held and data collected from key informants. They included the Senior Medical superintendent, Hospital Administration officer and respective Unit Heads at Livingstone Central Hospital and the Dean of Medical School and Vice Dean of Research of Mulungushi University.

3. Complementing face to face interviews held with key informants were project site visits undertaken
4. Interviews were also held with other relevant stakeholders that included the local councilor

4.0 FINDINGS

The overall objective of the Monitoring (Social Audit) was to ascertain the amount of funds budgeted and released and the progress on the projects. The findings were as follows:

4.1 Building of Wall fence

The purpose of building the wall fence was to secure hospital equipment and clients from theft that was being experienced. Construction started in 2016 and was intended to be completed by the mid of the year 2018.

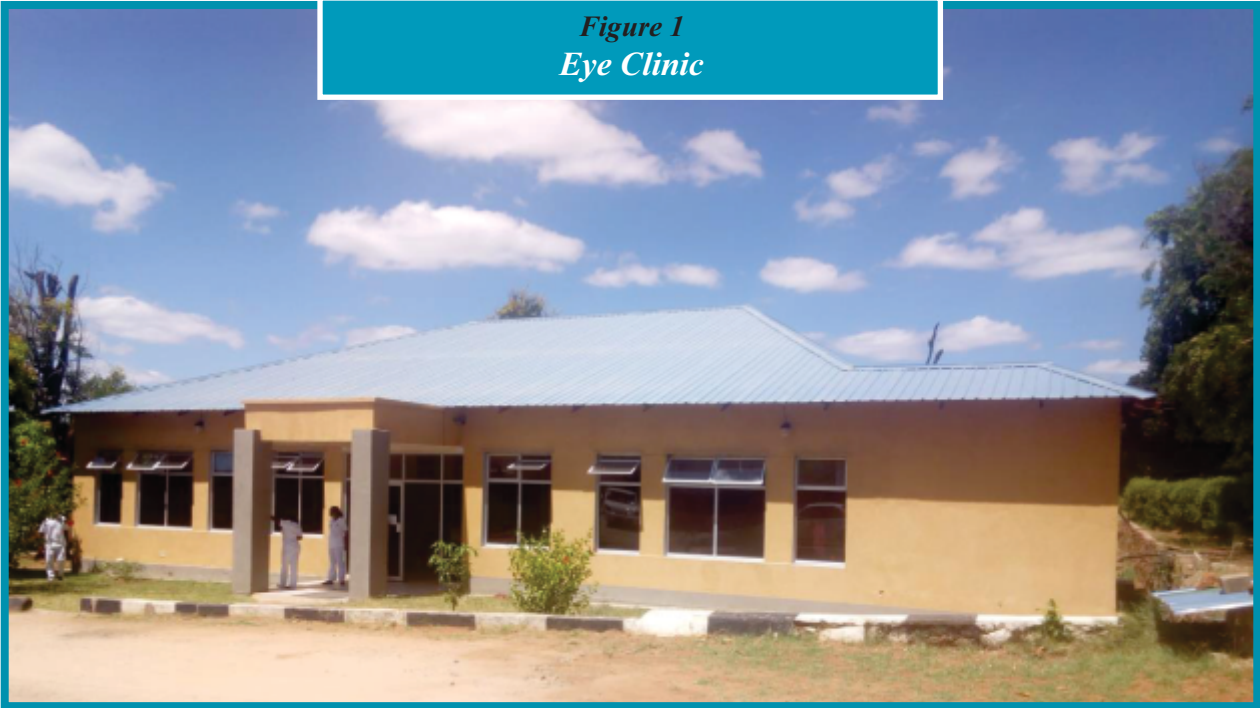
- Interviews and visit to the project site showed that the project had been on schedule and was completed according to schedule and specifications. The traffic of people trespassing had since ceased and theft had reduced

4.2 Eye Clinic construction and operationalisation

Key findings were that:

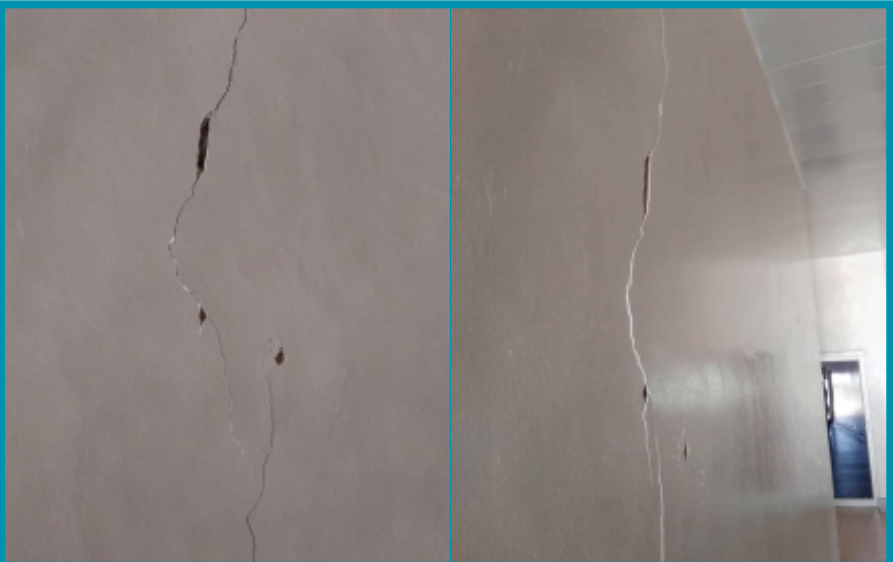
- The project was completed according to schedule.
- Necessary equipment was purchased/acquired in middle of 2016 and was in stock
- The clients were using the facilities. Eye operation theatre was working; the treatment for macular degeneration, Glaucoma treatment and Cataract surgery. For services that the clinic was able to offer, clients came from most parts of southern province and from neighboring Zimbabwe.
- The Staff have experience in all areas of vision/eye.
- The services are affordable by the ordinary persons

*Figure 1
Eye Clinic*



However, although the clinic is fully equipped and has adequate equipment, some rooms lack essential requirements such as air cons, hence some equipment is lying idle and not being used. Manpower is inadequate and although the building was recently built, one can easily notice some cracks on some sections of the building.

*Figure 2
Crack in eye
Clinic Wall*



The construction of the dental clinic commenced in 2015 and completed in 2016 and equipment bought in mid of 2016. Key findings of the social audit were that, the project was completed according to schedule and specifications. And all the requirements were in place, the dental chairs, X-ray dental machine, hand pieces, cleaning cannal root and clients were using the facilities.

Figure 3
Dental Clinic



With new equipment in place the clinic was able to carry out the dental operations and referrals of patients to other hospitals like the University Teaching hospital (UTH) in Lusaka had reduced. And the facility had highly trained and dedicated team of dentists.

4.4 Laboratory

The Laboratory was being built for the Medical School of Mulungushi University for training purposes. Construction started in 2015.

Figure 4
Laboratory



The key finding was that the project was completed by September 2017, according to schedule and specifications. Final touches remaining, that of painting and cleaning outside were found completed at the time of the social audit.

4.5 Operationalisation of Computerized Tomography (CT Scan)

The hospital had challenges in conducting Computerized Tomography (CT Scan) as equipment was very old. However, new equipment was bought at the end of 2016. The key finding from the social audit conducted was that the new equipment was installed and started functioning in 2017. Patients have been able to be diagnosed of all types of diseases and results were collected in short periods of between 15 to 30 minutes.

Table 1: Summary of Key Social Audit Findings

Title of Social Audit	Initial Status and Year conducted	Progress 2017	Progress 2018
Monitoring building of	The project Started in 2016 and was intended to be completed by the mid	Interviews and visit to the project showed that it was on track. What remained was to complete the	Completed

wall fence at Livingstone Central hospital	of the year 2018 The social audit was conducted in 2017	building/completing constructing the eastern side of the hospital which was hoped to be completed by first quarter of 2018. What was remaining was to add four lay bricks.	
Monitoring construction and operationalisation of Eye Clinic at Livingstone Central hospital	The project Started in 2015 and completed in 2016 The social audit was conducted in 2017	Key findings were that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project was completed • Necessary equipment was purchased/acquired in middle of 2016 • And the clients were using the facilities. Eye operation theatre was working; the treatment for macular degeneration, Glaucoma treatment and Cataract surgery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Though fully equipped and has adequate equipment, some rooms lack essential requirements such as air cons, hence some equipment is lying idle and not being used. • Manpower at the clinic is inadequate • Though the building was recently built, it is not difficult to notice cracks on section parts of the building
Monitoring operationalisation of the Dental Clinic at Livingstone Central hospital	Construction started in 2015 and completed in 2016 and equipment bought in mid of 2016. All the requirements were in place, the dental chairs, X-ray dental machine, hand pieces, cleaning cannal root, compressors and the operating room was functioning The social audit was conducted in 2017	Key finding was that, this project was completed and the clients were using the facilities. With new equipment in place the clinic was able to carry out the dental operations without referrals of the patients to UTH in Lusaka. All the dentists were highly trained and had regular training in latest dental technology The facility had dedicated team of dentists	

Monitoring construction of Laboratory at Livingstone Central hospital	<p>The Laboratory was being built for the Medical School of Mulungushi University for training purposes. Construction started in 2015</p> <p>The social audit was conducted in 2017</p>	The project completed in September 2017. Final touches remaining were of painting and cleaning outside	Completed
Monitoring Operationalisation of new Computerized Tomography (CT Scan)	<p>The hospital had challenges in conducting Computerized Tomography (CT Scan) as equipment was very old</p> <p>The New equipment was bought at the end of 2016</p> <p>The social audit was conducted in 2017</p>	<p>The new equipment started functioning in 2017</p> <p>Patients have been able to be diagnosed of all types of diseases and the outcome of results was being done in short periods of time of between 15 to 30 minutes</p>	Patients have been able to be diagnosed of all types of diseases and the outcome of results was being done in short periods of time of between 15 to 30 minutes

5.0 OTHER FINDINGS

- The hospital has inadequate number of specialised doctors and public and theatre nurses.
- The infrastructure of the hospital need expansion to suit the growing population in Livingstone and Southern Province in general
- The School of Medicine of Mulungushi University still need more financial resources to build the lecture theatre, additional laboratories and class rooms
- Building the school of medicine within the Central hospital premises will add value and enhance the services to be provided by the Central hospital in Livingstone and Southern Province in general and enhance local people's access to quality health care services

6.0 CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED

It proved to be a challenge to access information related to the budgets of the projects. The research team was referred to the National Coordinator at Ministry of Health headquarters Lusaka on the budget issues which also proved to be a challenge. Equally, no budget information was given on

the Mulungushi University Laboratory at the Central hospital. The research team was referred to the vice chancellor in Kabwe which also proved not to be easy.

7.0 CONCLUSION

The projects that were undertaken, nearly all of them got completed and were functional and improved service provision in areas such as dental and vision maintenance. However, to increase community awareness on the available services, there was still need for wide sensitisation on the available services at the Livingstone Central hospital. There was still need for more work in other areas where the hospital lacked, such as the limited number of specialists at the eye clinic.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to actualize the dream of enhanced access to quality health care services by Livingstone residents and surrounding communities, the following measures would be necessary.

- The wider community has to be aware of the progress of the projects at the central hospital and on the available services following completion of implementation of interventions such as operationalisation of the dental and eye clinics. There is need for increased information dissemination through platforms such as community radio
- Government needs to make available more financial resources to Livingstone Central hospital to enable essential requirements such as aircons at the eye clinic be acquired so that the clinic becomes fully operational. Financial resources are also required to enable proper maintenance of the eye clinic to secure the building.
- Government needs to become pro –active in supervising works on public projects to ensure quality works are done
- There is need to deploy more and increase the number of specialised personnel in health centres. In the case of Livingstone central hospital, more personnel are required at the eye clinic and generally at the hospital in terms of numbers of doctors and nurses if access to quality health care services is to be attained
- There is need for government to build more Infrastructure e.g. bed space for men and women at the Livingstone central hospital so that more people could have access to quality health care services.

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