

Press release

For immediate release: 04/03/2026

Life-saving medical and WASH supplies strengthen Lagos' fight against cholera

Over 150,000 units of medical, diagnostic and Water, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) supplies handed over to the Lagos State Ministry of Health to reinforce the frontline response to the national cholera emergency.



- With funding from Japan, UNOPS handed over over 150,000 units of medical, diagnostic and WASH supplies to the Lagos State Ministry of Health to reinforce



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cholera emergency response.

- Benefitting an estimated 17 million people across 5 Local Government Areas mostly affected by cholera, the project provided critical commodities to reduce morbidity and mortality rates.
- The official ceremony held at the Lagos State Central Medical Warehouse marked the completion of the year-long emergency preparedness project and an important milestone in Nigeria's efforts to ensure long-term resilience and preparedness.

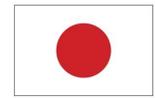
Lagos, Nigeria - The government of Japan and UNOPS have formally handed over life-saving medical and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) supplies to the Lagos State Ministry of Health, reinforcing cholera response and preparedness efforts across Nigeria's most populous state.

The handover ceremony, held on 18 February 2026 at the Lagos State Central Medical Warehouse in Oshodi, marked the successful completion of the project "Emergency Support for Cholera Response and Preparedness in Lagos, Nigeria," funded by the Government of Japan and implemented by UNOPS.

As of late November 2024, Nigeria's cholera outbreak had affected over 77,000 individuals across 31 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), with a reported case fatality rate of 4.5%, resulting in 359 deaths. Lagos State alone accounted for more than 20% of reported cases nationwide, highlighting its critical role in the national cholera response and the urgent need for sustained, targeted interventions in high-burden areas.

UNOPS successfully delivered critical supplies through this project, benefiting an estimated 17.1 million people across five heavily affected Local Government Areas, including Lagos Island, Eti-Osa, Lagos Mainland, Alimosho, and Kosofe. The supplies comprised 56,000 units of medical supplies, 13,000 WASH supplies, 19,600 units of personal protective equipment and sanitation items, and 10,875 units of sample collection and diagnostic equipment. These items are currently providing active support for disease surveillance, case management, infection prevention and control measures, as well as community-level risk reduction.

The handover ceremony was officiated by the Honourable **Commissioner of Health of Lagos State, Prof. Emmanuel Akinola Abayomi**, alongside the **Permanent Secretary of the Lagos State Ministry of Health, Dr. Dayo Lajide** represented through Directors from the Lagos State Ministry of Health. His Excellency the **Ambassador of Japan to Nigeria**,



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Hideo Suzuki, attended with a delegation from the Embassy of Japan and formally handed over the project deliverables to the Lagos State Government, underscoring the strong partnership between Japan, UNOPS and Lagos State authorities in strengthening public health emergency response.

“Japan, which suffered devastating losses from a major cholera outbreak 160 years ago, believes -based on its experience- it must be entirely possible to bring cholera mortality to zero. Japan will continue to work closely with UNOPS and other key partners to achieve this goal and to advance a resilient future for Nigeria, and this project represents an important step toward achieving the goal”, Ambassador Suzuki said.

Through the timely provision of essential medicine, diagnostic, protective equipment and WAHS materials, the project is enhancing frontline service delivery, alleviating strain on the health system and reinforcing preparedness mechanisms to effectively manage future outbreaks. This initiative underscores the critical role of strategic partnerships and international cooperation in enhancing national capacity to respond effectively to public health emergencies and safeguard vulnerable populations.

“Cholera outbreaks require swift, coordinated and well-resourced interventions.” said **Silvia Gallo, Director of UNOPS West Africa Multi-Country Office**. ‘The successful delivery of over 150,000 critical supplies reflects our commitment to efficient procurement and rapid emergency response. Together with our partners, the government of Japan and the Lagos State Ministry of Health, we are helping ensure that Lagos State is better equipped to prevent, detect and respond to cholera outbreaks.’

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About UNOPS

UNOPS offers practical solutions across peace and security, humanitarian and development operations. We help the United Nations, governments and other partners, and its Member States, to manage projects, and deliver sustainable infrastructure and procurement across the world. Read more: www.unops.org.

About the Embassy of Japan

Since the 1960s, Japan has been consistently providing Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Nigeria to support its socio-economic development. The Embassy of Japan in Nigeria plays a pivotal role, coordinating, monitoring, and implementing various grant aid, loan, and technical cooperation projects. Read more: <https://www.mofa.go.jp/region/africa/nigeria/index.html>

About the Lagos State Ministry of Health

The Lagos State Ministry of Health is the state government ministry charged with formulating, implementing, and monitoring health policies, regulations, and quality standards for both public and private healthcare services in Lagos State, Nigeria. Read more: <https://lagosstate.gov.ng/>