

DRC Trauma Registry Working Group

Terms of Reference



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Member Brief and Terms of Reference

Summary

Kings Kongo Central Partnerships (KKCP) has worked in partnership with the Kongo Central Province, southwest Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ministry of Health since 2015 with a focus on injury care. A programme to implement the WHO Trauma Registry in the DRC started in September 2023 and will run for two years.

In the first phase of this project, the working group focused on understanding the current context, both in the DRC and in lower and middle-income countries (LMICs) more widely. The working group has started:

- A feasibility assessment of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Clinical Registry in LMICs
- A situational analysis of trauma care data in the Kongo Central Province

We are now looking to expand the working group to support subsequent phases of the project including additional training and the development of an implementation toolkit. This is an exciting opportunity for clinicians with experience in emergency medicine and an interest in global health to work on a new project in the DRC.

King's Global Health Partnerships

King's Global Health Partnerships (KGHP) works with health facilities, academic institutions, and governments to strengthen health systems and improve the quality of care in four countries: Somaliland, Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia. We bring together health, academic and international development expertise from King's College London, the UK's National Health Service (NHS) and our international partners to:

- Educate, train and support healthcare workers
- Strengthen healthcare and training institutions
- Enhance national health policies and systems

Our programmes are delivered by volunteers, with educators, researchers, health professionals, managers and health sector leaders taking up volunteering placements to deliver technical advice, teaching, training, and distance mentoring and on the job support to their counterparts in the global south.

King's Kongo Central Partnership

Kings Kongo Central Partnership

KGHP has been working in the Democratic Republic of Congo to help strengthen the health system and improve the quality of care since 2015. We work in the Kongo Central province, in the southwest of the country where there is a high burden of trauma due to road traffic collisions on the arterial route connecting the Atlantic port cities of Boma and Matadi with the capital Kinshasa. We work with our partners to provide education and training of healthcare workers, and to strengthen the trauma system, clinical services, policy and research. Key partners include the provincial Ministry of Health and Education, the Hôpital Provincial de Référence de Kinkanda (Matadi) and the Université Joseph Vubu (Boma). These institutions provide services for a population of 6 million.

Context

The King's Kongo Central Partnership has been supporting the provincial ministry of health in emergency care since 2016, initially through the Primary Trauma Care course. We are now working directly with the Programme National des Urgences et Action Humanitaire to support the implementation of their emergency care road map. As part of this work, we will be studying emergency care data in the province and implementing the WHO Clinical Registry at Kinkanda Hospital in Matadi.

A trauma registry is a system that enables the collection of data on injured patients to support the monitoring and evaluation of quality of care, as well as the development of treatment and prevention interventions. In high-income countries, trauma registries have significantly contributed to the reduction of injury morbidity and mortality. There are few examples of successful registries implemented in Sub-Saharan Africa, and they are often limited to single health facilities during a defined research period with no sustainable long-term plan.

The current two-year project is working to develop a low-cost and sustainable model for implementing a trauma registry in the DRC, as well as to generate knowledge and learning on the implementation of a trauma registry to share with health practitioners more broadly.

To implement this project, we will be using knowledge to action framework methodology to study the implementation of the WHO Clinical Trauma Registry at a tertiary level hospital in the Kongo Central Province. There are seven phases to the framework of the project:

1. Problem identification
2. Adapt knowledge to the local context
3. Assess barriers to use of knowledge
4. Tailor and implement the intervention
5. Monitor knowledge
6. Evaluate outcomes
7. Sustain knowledge

We are looking for volunteers to join the existing working group to support subsequent phases of the project.

Aim and objectives

We are initially looking for volunteers to support the existing group complete the following two outputs:

- A feasibility assessment of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Clinical Registry in LMICs
- A situational analysis of trauma care data in the Kongo Central Province

The working group will also support subsequent activities in the implementation of the trauma registry.

Proposed activities

- Support and collaborate with the KKCP team to develop a **feasibility assessment** of the WHO's Clinical Trauma Registry in LMICs. This will include:
 - Conduct a desk / literature review on available evidence
 - Create a framework of who should be interviewed and develop interview tools
 - Work with the project implementation team to conduct supplementary interviews with practitioners who have experience with the WHO Clinical Registry in LMICs
 - Consolidate evidence
- Support and collaborate with the KKCP team to develop a **situational analysis** of trauma care data in Kongo Central Province. This will include:
 - Remotely support the project implementation team to carry out an assessment of trauma care and trauma data capture at a provincial hospital in Kongo Central
 - Remotely support the In-Country Coordinator to carry out an assessment of trauma care and trauma data capture in 31 health zones in the DRC
 - Consolidate evidence and create a situational analysis of trauma data in the province
- Support and develop **training** materials for DRC healthcare workers including:
Triage and how to do bedside observations
- Support and collaborate with the KKCP team and the WHO to develop an **implementation toolkit** for low resource settings.

Timing

Application deadline: We review applications on a rolling basis due to the timeline and needs of the project.

Start date: As soon as possible.

Placement duration: We ask for a minimum commitment of three months to help support the implementation of the trauma registry remotely, but we are open to have volunteers involved for the duration of the two-year project.

Location: Our team is based in London and the DRC. These volunteer roles will be supporting the programme in the DRC remotely from the UK.

Skills and experience

Qualifications: Clinicians, including doctors, nurses or allied health professionals.

Experience:

- **Essential** - Experience working in emergency medicine and in global health.
- **Desirable** - Experience working in low-resource settings and knowledge of strengthening hospital systems. Experience of implementing data improvement projects in LMICs.

Personal Characteristics: Reliable, hardworking, enthusiastic and solution focussed. You will need to believe in the value of partnership working and be able to demonstrate this through your work. You will have strong interpersonal skills and experience working in a multi-cultural team.

Language:

- **Essential** – working proficiency in English
- **Desirable** – working proficiency in French

Expectations

- You will work together as a team of volunteers to deliver the proposed objectives but will be individually responsible for activity deliver.
- We anticipate this work to be approximately a day a week on average but this will be flexible.
- We anticipate regular fortnightly meetings with the project implementation team to troubleshoot and check progress as well as guide activities.

Our offer to you

You will have the opportunity to work as part of a dynamic team and contribute to improving health outcomes for a population in need. In addition, there is strong evidence that health partnerships like ours do not only benefit people in low-resource settings. They also bring real benefit to NHS staff and services as well as citizens in our partner countries. Among others, these benefits include the opportunity to develop:

- Leadership skills
- Skills in interdisciplinary team working
- Knowledge and skills in innovation and quality improvement
- Clinical and teaching experience
- Cross-cultural experience
- Personal resilience and efficiency

Application

All volunteer roles are appointed following an application and interview process. We will be reviewing applications on a rolling basis due to the timings and requirements of the programme, so we encourage you to apply early. If you are interested in applying, please send your CV and cover letter to kg hp@kcl.ac.uk, referencing “DRC Registry Working Group Application.” Thank you for your interest in King’s Global Health Partnerships.

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