

DRC Fracture Care 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 of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ministry of Health since 2015 with a focus on trauma care. We have recently started a new programme of work specifically looking at orthopaedic and fracture care.

The current multidisciplinary working group includes physiotherapists, orthopaedic surgeons and academics and has worked collaboratively to:

- Carry out a literature review of trauma care needs assessments in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)
- Developed a context appropriate tool to assess fracture care in Kongo Central
- Carried out a survey of fracture care in the 31 health zones in Kongo Central

In October 2024, in collaboration with the AO Alliance, a fracture care task force meeting was held in Matadi, DRC with the participation of national and provincial ministry of health, provincial division of health, hospital medical directors and frontline clinicians. We are now developing a roadmap for fracture care in Kongo Central and beginning the next phase of work.

This is an exciting opportunity for clinicians with experience in musculoskeletal care and an interest in global health to work on a developing 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

KGHP has been working in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) 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 trauma care since 2015. Our current programmes include the Safe Surgery Saves Lives initiative and the implementation of the WHO Trauma registry.

The AO Alliance (AOA) has initiatives in Malawi, Ghana, Ethiopia, Gambia, Burkina Faso, and Togo as well as an educational capacity building programme 'Fracture solutions for Africa' in 27 sub-Saharan countries. The fracture care needs assessment was set up as an initial step in establishing an AO Alliance country initiative.

KGHP and the AO Alliance, together with the Kongo Central ministry of health, division of health, healthcare facilities and key stakeholders are working together to finalise a roadmap for fracture care in Kongo Central, DRC. We are looking for colleagues to join the working group to support the next phase of this work.

Aim and objectives

Aims

The main aim of the fracture care working group is to support the development of appropriate fracture care in Kongo Central.

Objectives

The objectives of this work are as follows:

1. Provide expert input and analysis on plans and activities as they develop.
2. Produce data and narrative information on fracture care that can be used for policy development, advocacy, and fundraising.
3. Finalise the draft Kongo Central fracture care roadmap.
4. Support concrete activities (such as training courses) when they arise.

Proposed activities

1. Finalise current assessment of assessment tools ready for publication.
2. Analyse existing trauma care data in Kongo Central Province, including: HPR Kinkanda 2017 Trauma Registry, Safe Surgery data (2018-2023), Sir Halley Stewart Trust Trauma Registry baseline (2023-2024), health zone survey, published data and reports
3. Consolidate evidence and prepare a policy publication
4. Review current roadmap and make recommendations

Timing

Application deadline: Friday 8th November but we will review applications on a rolling basis due to the timeline and needs of the project, so we encourage you to apply earlier.

Start date: As soon as possible.

Placement duration: We are looking for a minimum commitment of 3 months but the time commitment will be variable depending on the programme needs.

Location: Our team is based in London and the DRC. Working group members will support 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 trauma and orthopaedic surgery and in global health
- **Desirable** - Experience working in low-resource settings and knowledge of strengthening health systems. Research experience with relevant publications.

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 to deliver the proposed objectives but will be individually responsible for activity delivery.
- We anticipate this work to be approximately half 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 roles are appointed following an application and interview process, scheduled for a few days after the application deadline. If you are interested in applying, please send your CV and cover letter to kghp@kcl.ac.uk, referencing “DRC Fracture Care Working Group Application.”

The deadline for applications is 23:59 on 8th November 2024, although we will be reviewing applications on a rolling basis due to the timings and requirements of the programme, so we encourage you to apply earlier. Thank you for your interest in King's Global Health Partnerships.

KING'S COLLEGE LONDON
Room 6.01, Addison House
Guy's Campus, Great Maze Pond
London SE1 1UL

E: kghp@kcl.ac.uk

W: kcl.ac.uk/KGHP

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