

Senior Obstetrician

Terms of Reference



Senior Obstetrician, King's Somaliland Partnership

Brief and Terms of Reference

Summary

KGHP is looking for a volunteer Senior Obstetrician to support King's Global Health Partnerships (KGHP) in its maternal health programme in Somaliland. The post holder(s) will join an existing dynamic group of midwives, obstetricians and other maternity colleagues to work in partnership with our colleagues in Somaliland to improve outcomes for mothers and babies and prevent unnecessary maternal and newborn deaths. This is a fantastic opportunity for volunteers with experience in obstetrics and low resource settings to be involved in an exciting new phase of work in the country and to have real impact on outcomes.

This role forms part of the Alborada Trust-funded project supporting the Somaliland Ministry of Health Development and Hargeisa Group Hospital to improve the quality of maternal and newborn care through guideline implementation, leadership development, and continuous quality improvement.

The role combines remote support of approximately 1-2 hours per week with at least one, 2-4 week trip to Somaliland in Jan/Feb 2026 to support activities in Hargeisa Group Hospital.

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 five countries: Somaliland, Sierra Leone, the DRC, Zambia and the Gambia. 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 Somaliland Partnership

The Somaliland Partnership was established nearly 25 years ago and works with the Somaliland government, universities, health facilities, regulators and professional associations, to support health workforce development and service delivery. We work in partnership to (i) improve the quality of higher education and training for health professions, (ii) improve the quality of health service delivery and patient-centred care, (iii) contribute to evidence-based policy and practice across the health system through collaborative research, technical advice and training.

Context

Reducing maternal mortality is one of the greatest health challenges in Somaliland. Despite progress made by the Ministry of Health Development (MOHD) to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal of fewer than 70 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2030, Somaliland continues to have one of highest maternal mortality rates globally. 396 women in every 100,000 lose their lives in childbirth. By comparison, it is fewer than 14 women in the UK.

In Somaliland, most of these women are dying from preventable and treatable conditions. The leading causes of maternal death are postpartum haemorrhage (bleeding), preeclampsia/eclampsia, sepsis (infection) and obstructed labour, all of which can be prevented or successfully treated with quality basic maternal health care. We are working to improve the quality of maternal and obstetric care at Hargeisa Group Hospital, the main national referral hospital in Somaliland, which has about 7,000 births a year. We are building on several years of work which have identified recommendations to improve maternal and newborn care standards.

Recent assessments at Hargeisa Group Hospital identified strengths, including a committed group of obstetricians and opportunities for improved leadership, record keeping, implementation of standardised obstetric guidelines, and enhanced interprofessional collaboration between doctors and midwives.

Aim

We are looking for one or more senior obstetricians to join our existing technical working group of UK NHS volunteers (midwives, obstetricians and other maternal health professionals), to work in partnership with our Somaliland colleagues through a combination of remote support and in-person visits to Somaliland.

Objectives

You will contribute to:

1. **Finalising and implementing safe, standardised obstetric care guidelines** at Hargeisa Group Hospital (HGH), including the rollout of 'low dose–high frequency' skills and drills sessions on the ward.
2. **Strengthening clinical documentation and record-keeping systems** to support quality, continuity, and audit.
3. **Providing mentorship and leadership development** to maternity team leaders (midwifery and medical), supporting them as change agents and fostering a culture of collaborative, continuous improvement.
4. **Developing and embedding quality care systems and processes** shown to improve clinical standards and reduce maternal mortality.
5. **Supporting the induction, mentoring, and ongoing capacity-building of new and existing staff**, including advanced obstetric ultrasound skills for doctors (e.g. foetal abnormalities, Doppler, biometrics).
6. **Contributing to quality improvement and audit initiatives** within the maternity department.
7. **Generating learning and best practices on maternal healthcare in Somaliland**, informing long-term improvements to the maternal health programme

Timing

We are looking for one or two senior obstetricians (equivalent to UK consultant) who can engage with the project by the end of 2025.

Ideally you would be available to undertake a first visit to Somaliland (with other colleagues) in late Jan/early Feb 2026 for a minimum 2-week period.

This is a two-year programme, with an approximate time commitment of 7 hours per month remote support, plus one in-country visit per year.

Skills and experience

- **Qualifications:**
 - Active registration in O&G.
 - Consultant level or equivalent.
- **Experience:**
 - **Essential:**
 - Experience of working in a low-resource setting.
 - **Desirable:**
 - Experience of delivering workshops, training and/or capacity building, ideally in low-resource settings
 - Experience of implementing quality improvement projects.
 - Experience in guideline implementation or quality improvement in maternity care.
 - Strong interpersonal and mentoring skills to work in culturally complex, multidisciplinary settings.
 - Experience in teaching or mentoring clinicians in advanced obstetric ultrasound, including fetal assessment and Doppler skills.
 - Sensitivity to local leadership and systems challenges in low-resource contexts.

Expectations

You will be expected to support this piece of work alongside others, including Somaliland professional colleagues, other members of the technical working group, and the KGHP team, providing technical expertise. There is a strong emphasis on learning from and working with the healthcare workers in facilities, collaboratively designing solutions which are appropriate for the environment.

Volunteers will work in close partnership with Somaliland colleagues, co-developing context-appropriate solutions and maintaining respect for local systems and leadership structures. All engagement will be conducted in coordination with the Hargeisa Group Hospital leadership and the Ministry of Health Development to ensure alignment with national priorities, local ownership, and long-term sustainability.

All candidates that participate in our programmes are expected to attend an induction and read the KGHP handbook. All candidates will be supported to develop objectives for the engagement, which will include objectives for their own professional and personal development. Volunteers are expected to document the work that they deliver for the partnership and will be supported to do so in the form of logs or reports.

Our offer to you

There is no financial remuneration for this role, however, you will have the opportunity to work as part of a dynamic team and contribute to improving health outcomes for a population in need.

All expenses for in-person trips to Somaliland including travel, accommodation, insurance and travel vaccinations will be covered by KGHP at no cost to you.

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. We will be reviewing applications on a rolling basis so 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, “Senior Obstetrician, Somaliland.”

Thank you for your interest in King's Global Health Partnerships.

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