

# DRC Fracture Care Needs Assessment Volunteer

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Terms of Reference

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### **Volunteer 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.

Working together with the AO Alliance, the first phase of this project is to understand the current evidence base around fracture care needs assessments in low resource settings and the current data that is available relevant to the DRC.

We are looking for volunteers to remotely support the team with this phase. The roles will focus on:

- Literature review of trauma care needs assessments in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)
- Analysis of existing data from relevant sources

This is an exciting opportunity for clinicians with experience in musculoskeletal care 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**

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 will carry out a fracture care needs assessment for Kongo Central, DRC. We are looking for volunteers to initially support the first phase of the work, but with scope to be involved in subsequent phases and be involved for the one year duration of the project.

## Aim and objectives

### Aims

The two main aims of the fracture care needs assessment are to:

1. Describe the delivery of fracture care in Kongo Central province, from time of injury to end of rehabilitation
2. Propose areas of intervention to improve care

### Objectives

The objectives of this work are as follows:

1. Collect, analyse and interpret data on the current delivery of fracture care from roadside to rehabilitation
2. Produce data and narrative information on fracture care that can be used for policy development, advocacy, and fundraising
3. Bring together key international and local stakeholders involved in fracture care delivery to discuss findings of fracture care assessment, agree priority areas for improving fracture care, and plan implementation of proposed interventions

## Proposed activities

- Support and collaborate with the KKCP team to develop a **review** of the fracture and trauma care needs assessments in LMICs. This will include:
  - Conducting a desk / literature review on available evidence
  - Consolidating evidence and making recommendations
- Support and collaborate with the KKCP team to **analyse** trauma care data in Kongo Central Province. This will include:
  - Reviewing data from the following sources: HPR Kinkanda 2017 Trauma Registry, Safe Surgery data (2018-2023), Sir Halley Stewart Trust Trauma Registry baseline (2023-2024), published data and reports
  - Consolidating evidence and make recommendations

## Timing

- **Application deadline:** We will review applications on a rolling basis due to the timeline and needs of the project.
- **Start date:** As soon as possible.
- **Placement duration:** We are looking for an initial commitment of two months to design the assessment, but we are open to having volunteers involved for the duration of the one-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 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 of volunteers to deliver the proposed objectives but will be individually responsible for activity deliver.
- 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 volunteer roles are appointed following an application and interview process. If you are interested in applying, please sign up to our volunteering platform and apply online: <https://kghpvolunteering.kcl.ac.uk/> We will be reviewing applications on a rolling basis due to the timings and requirements of the programme. Thank you for your interest in King's Global Health Partnerships.