

Surgical Volunteer, King's Kongo Central Partnership

Terms of Reference

Trip Dates: 12th – 25th November 2019
Location: Kongo Central province, DRC

Placement Duration: 2 weeks
Reporting to: Partnership lead

King's Kongo Central Partnership

The King's Kongo Central Partnership (KKCP) is a long-term partnership between the King's Health Partners in London and the Kongo Central Ministry of Health and Education in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Partnering with the provincial ministry, the Université Joseph Kasa Vubu (UKV in Boma) and the Hôpital Provincial de Référence de Kinkanda (HPRK in Matadi), we seek to improve health outcomes in the area of trauma through trauma system development, clinical care, research and training.

The Kongo Central province (formerly Bas Congo) in the southwest DRC has known relative political stability for decades but the health needs of its population are still not met. The main arterial route running through Kongo Central connects the Atlantic port cities of Boma and Matadi with the capital Kinshasa. The burden of trauma due to road traffic collisions along this route is significant. Current medical facilities are ill equipped to deal with the number of injuries and to provide effective care for trauma patients.

Through short-term trips, and in-country volunteer from 2016 to 2017, KKCP has developed a trauma registry, run training courses and workshops (basic surgical skills, hand washing, analgesia), contributed to direct clinical care and the development of local clinic protocols, carried out research in the area of trauma care in LMICs, trained 240 doctors and nurses in Primary Trauma Care and delivered the trauma and orthopaedic curriculum at the UKV medical school.

The Role

KKCP is looking to recruit a surgical volunteer for a short-term trip to Kinshasa, Matadi and Boma 12th – 25th November 2019. As part of a small team, this visit will be focused on delivering contextually appropriate training and education at the four main hospitals in Kongo Central province. There will be a particular focus on the WHO Safer Surgery Initiative. Specific areas of focus will be tailored to the volunteer's expertise but will include at least some of the following:

- Delivery of a basic surgical skills workshop
- Delivery of a safer surgery workshop
- Review of research data related to the trauma registry
- Review of existing clinical protocols and development of new ones
- Relationship building with surgical care providers within the province
- Mentoring of surgical junior doctors

Person Specification

- **Qualifications:** Appropriate medical degree. Post-graduate training in surgery, anaesthesia or emergency desirable but not essential. Diploma in tropical medicine desirable but not essential.
- **Experience:**
 - Essential: Completed F1 and F2. Fluent French. Experience of working in a low-income country.
 - Desirable: Surgical, anaesthetic or ED experience and skills. Experience of running workshops in low and middle income countries
- **Personal Characteristics:** Delivery-focussed, practical, resilient, tenacious, patient, emotionally intelligent, collaborative, quick to make sense of complex issues, culturally sensitive, and possessing excellent listening skills.

Support Provided to Volunteers

The post holder will be provided with: return flights to and from Kinshasa; all in-country travel, food and lodging costs; DRC visa; vaccinations & antimalarials; comprehensive insurance.

To Apply: Submit a cover letter (maximum 2 pages) and CV (maximum 4 pages) to Katerina_anies.peithi@kcl.ac.uk. Please include the role title in the subject line of the email. Closing date for applications Friday 6th September. The recruitment process will be concluded by late September, allowing the successful candidate sufficient time to plan for the trip.