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A Health Partnership Scheme programme led by the University of Oxford, the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa, and other key partners.
Aims

Increasing survival rates from serious injuries

Improving musculoskeletal impairment (MSI) care for children affected by club foot, angular limb deformity, infections of bones and joints and other MSIs

Increasing training opportunities in trauma and orthopaedics in the COSECSA region

Strengthening links between UK and overseas health professionals and health institutions

Programme Overview

COSECSA Oxford Orthopaedic Link (COOL) is a multi-country partnership programme between the Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Sciences (NDORMS) at the University of Oxford (based at the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre) and the College of Surgeons of East Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA).

The four-year programme (2012-2016) combines research and training in trauma and musculoskeletal impairment (TMSI) care across nine sub-Saharan countries in the COSECSA region: Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

It aims to meet the critical need for more health workers trained in treating serious injury and musculoskeletal impairment in the region.

Five Activity Streams

1. Epidemiological research into TMSI treatment needs in the region; developing an evidence base to support improved service provision:
   - Key Informant Methodology (KIM) study into general disability in children
   - Review of trauma treatment in district hospitals
   - Survey of TMSI facilities in the region

2. Primary Trauma Care (PTC) courses in every COSECSA country

Training for front-line staff in trauma management, aimed at preventing death and disability in seriously injured patients. Led by PTC country organizing committees (in coordination with a COSECSA country representative). Includes instructor courses.

3. Advanced orthopaedics surgical training courses (1 week)

Course 1: July 2013 & May 2014. Children’s Orthopaedic Surgery
Course 2: April 2014. Spine

4. Clinical Fellowships in Children’s Orthopaedics (up to 6 months)

 Held at Beit CURE International Hospital Malawi, AIC-CURE International Children’s Hospital of Kenya, CURE Ethiopia Children’s Hospital (CECH) & Beit CURE Hospital of Zambia.

5. Strengthening COSECSA’s capacity to develop further trauma and orthopaedics training and research

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