

The COOL Health Partnership Scheme Programme works across the ten countries of the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA) to support multi-level training and epidemiological research into trauma and musculoskeletal impairment (TMSI).

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Overview:

COSECSA Oxford Orthopaedic Link (COOL) is a multi-country partnership programme (2012-2016) between the Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Sciences (NDORMS) at the University of Oxford (Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre) and the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA), which includes Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Aims:

Increased survival rates from serious injuries

Improved care for children affected by musculoskeletal impairments (MSIs)

More training opportunities in trauma and orthopaedics

Strengthened partnerships between UK and overseas health professionals and health institutions

Primary Trauma Care (PTC) Training



In the past 24 months, over 1550 front-line health workers across 10 COSECSA countries have been trained in trauma management, through 46 PTC courses led by teams of PTC country organising committees, COSECSA representatives, and volunteer local and international PTC instructors. Over 450 new local instructors have been trained, leading the cascade of trauma training to rural areas, to train staff in 150+ hospitals. Course participants surveyed after 6 months report many examples of individual and departmental improvements to trauma management. In the next year, PTC country teams aim to increase the sustainability of the trauma training and maximise its impact on local hospitals.



Epidemiological Research

- Report released on results of Key Informant Methodology (KIM) study in Malawi (left) into the prevalence of childhood disability, to inform improvements to services for children with disabilities
- Capacity survey of TMSI care (facilities, workforce & equipment) in the COSECSA region—results forthcoming
- Burden of trauma in 4 district hospitals in Malawi—retrospective review of medical records completed
- New trauma registry at Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital, Blantyre
- 14 COSECSA surgical trainee trauma research grants to develop regional research capacity in TMSI

Orthopaedic Surgical Training



Advanced Orthopaedics Courses

Through COOL, senior local and international faculty have run four regional orthopaedic courses for COSECSA trainees in paediatric orthopaedics, spine surgery and hip and knee arthroplasty.

Clinical Fellowships in Children's Orthopaedics

Over 34 surgical trainees have taken up clinical fellowships (up to six months) in children's orthopaedics at four CURE International teaching hospitals in the region (Malawi, Kenya, Ethiopia and Zambia).



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