

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF SENIOR LEADERSHIP DURING ST6 OOPE IN URBAN WEST AFRICA



MCAI Maternal & Childhealth
Advocacy International

Upgrade of 6000 delivery per year Ministry of Health Maternity Unit to provide Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric Care (CEmONC) and Initiation of Advanced Obstetric Training Programme for Local Junior Doctors and Midwives.

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BACKGROUND

Maternal and Childhealth Advocacy International (MCAI) is a medical charity based in Scotland, UK. The Charity has been active in West Africa for over 10 years with successful programmes including:

- Training Traditional Birth Attendants
- 3 Day Obstetric & Neonatal Emergency Courses: over 800 doctors and midwives have taken part, led by in country team in partnership with ALSG
- Refurbishment of Healthcare facilities
- Support and Advocacy at Ministerial level



THE OSCE

THE BRIEF

To initiate an in country pilot of an Apprenticeship based Advanced Obstetric Training Programme in Brikama Major Health Centre, The Gambia, rural West Africa. The programme had been successfully implemented in rural Liberia.

The Team:

- 3 international obstetricians
- UK Office Logistical Support

Funding:

ALSG, MCAI and Soroptomists International

The Unit:

6000 deliveries per year
14 Midwives, 1 Doctor
Operating theatre closed

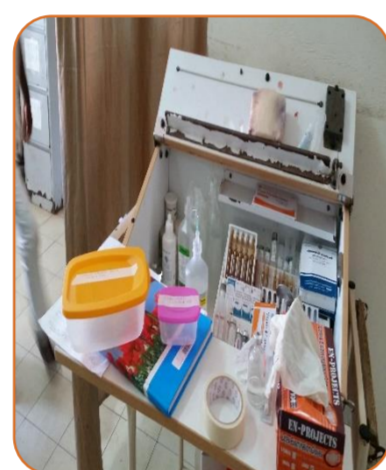
EMERGING CHALLENGES

When we arrived it was clear that significant leadership and investment would be needed before the training programme could run successfully. Here are some examples of significant problems and our key solutions:



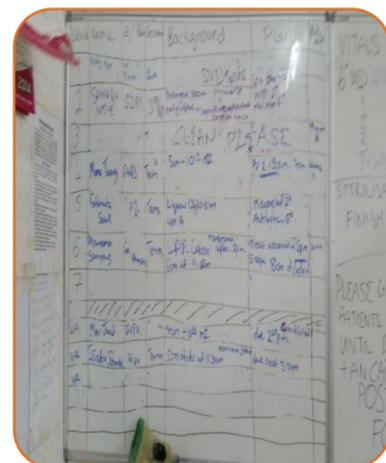
Lack of Organisation

- Bed Numbers and Clip Boards
- Writing MEWS and Treatment Charts/Forms
- Initiating Stock Regulation: prevent stock outs



Poor Clinical Care

- Hands on supervision of doctors and midwives
- Writing appropriate Clinical Guidelines
- Mandatory Training: Skills/Drills & Guidelines
- Provision of essential equipment & medicines



No Handover

- Installed White boards: labour ward & HDU
- Started formal obstetric handover meeting
- Checklists to handover critical equipment



Operating Theatre Closed

- Fumigating the theatre, sorting instruments
- Introducing WHO Safe Surgery including swab counts & pre-incision prophylactic antibiotics
- Basic training in theatre management



Lack of Staffing

- Employing staff & agreeing salaries
- Implementing disciplinary procedures
- Adapting the service to staffing levels
- Successful advocacy for more staff



Dirty Environment

- Deep Clean of the Ward
- Designing and introducing safe sterilisation
- Repairing Roof – sourcing contractor & funds
- Sourcing bleach & cleaning materials

LESSONS LEARNED

Whilst working in Africa, I was faced with many clinical challenges and adapted to limited resources. I have seen the impact of high quality obstetric practice in lives saved and known the heartbreak and frustration of lives lost. I have successfully negotiated leadership challenges which are similar in principle to those encountered by junior consultants in the UK including introducing services and personnel management. I have led innovation and service change with tangible effects.

As a team, we have successfully implemented the programme which is now in its second year with four trainees -three doctors and one midwife.

The unit has improved dramatically and our first graduates are able to cover on call with minimal support. The staff recognize the improved quality of care and have changed the way they work including hourly observations, most of the time.



OUR TEAM

CONCLUSION

Working in a resource poor setting presents opportunities in leadership and management as well as in direct clinical care. A well supported team can be transformative for obstetricians as well as staff and, most importantly, for mothers and their babies.

MCAI ON THE WEB
www.mcai.org.uk



MCAI'S MISSION

To save and improve the lives of babies, children and pregnant women in areas of extreme poverty; by empowering and enabling our in-country partners to strengthen emergency health care.

MCAI have vacancies for Trainers for 2015/16 & 2016/17
For more information go to www.rcog.org.uk search for MCAI
Contact Gemma Sheridan: mail@gemsheridan.co.uk to discuss @ NTC

JOIN THE TEAM???
TAKE A LOOK...

