

FACT SHEET – ELSSA & EONC in South Sudan

WHAT

EONC - Essential Mother (Obstetric) and Newborn baby (Neonatal) Care Courses – are training courses for Midwives, Clinical Officers and Doctors which address the major causes of maternal and neonatal deaths and morbidity: - Haemorrhage, Sepsis, Eclampsia, Obstructed Labour, Miscarriage and Newborn resuscitation. EONC courses are used widely in Africa and have been proven effective. The EONC course uses a mixture of adult learning techniques – lectures, inter-active scenarios, practical skills and drills training. Included in the programme are: -

- Adult resuscitation using the ABC process – airway, breathing, circulation
- Management of Shock & Sepsis
- Resuscitation of Newborn-HBB
- Eclampsia and Severe Pre-eclampsia
- Partogram and obstructed Labour (prevention of obstetric fistula)
- Assisted Vaginal Birth
- Management of Miscarriage

WHY

South Sudan has some of the worst rates of Maternal and Newborn deaths in Africa, an estimated 2,054 women dying for every 100,000 births (UNDP, WHO Country Cooperation Strategy data 2014). It is said: -

‘A girl has more chance dying in childbirth than finishing secondary school’

The long war for independence, the recent inter-tribal conflict has resulted in immense problems of internally displaced persons/refugees and a very fragile health care system largely dependent on International Aid Organisations.

Ensuring that the South Sudanese midwives and Doctors have the necessary skills is vital.



EONC courses were introduced into South Sudan over the last 3 years by a UK/Northern Ireland Charity – **Essential Life Saving Skills for Africa- ELSSA**. To date 146 South Sudan health professionals - 49 doctors, 16 clinical officers and 73 midwives and 8 midwifery tutors have attended the ELSSA EONC and have gained additional knowledge and skills. The value of EONC courses is established beyond question, pre- and post course assessments show significant increases in knowledge and skills. Increasing the neonatal resuscitation skills will alone save many lives.

PARTNERSHIPS AND SUSTAINABILITY

An important objective of the ELSSA team is developing and mentoring South Sudanese facilitators. This is the vitally important group, who with support; will roll out the EONC courses to the regional centres and primary health care facilities where the major beneficial impact will occur. A number of South Sudanese facilitators have been recruited and with training will develop as effective teachers.

ELSSA is committed to jointly assess needs and develop the programme and strategy with its South Sudan partners.

- The ELSSA EONC programme has been approved by the Minister of Health, South Sudan; Dr Reik Gai Kok and a partnership agreement was signed May 2017.
- The South Sudan College of Physicians and Surgeons, aims to develop a postgraduate medical education programme and centre (PGMEC), on the Juba Teaching Hospital (JTH) site.

- The Juba College of Nursing and Midwifery (JCONAM) is our longstanding partner, principal Mme Petronella Wawa, has hosted the EONC programme since its inception in this superb teaching facility.



EFFECTING CHANGE

Changing practice is always difficult and resistance is usual; can only be achieved by education, demonstration and leadership. This requires an enthusiastic group of properly trained skilled health care workers who with support and time will effect change. The first steps have been taken, many more steps are required – one small step at a time.

MENTORING & 'BUDDYING'

This is an exciting area of strategic development for ELSSA which could be a powerful tool in the solution to the problems inherent in supporting essential post-graduate training in Africa. With internet and internet based telecommunications it is now possible to have distance tutorials, lectures or more importantly 'one to one' interactions, sharing of professional knowledge, advice and skills. ELSSA in partnership with the South Sudan College of Physicians and Surgeons plans to develop its internet presence to provide a mentoring network.

AIMS of ELSSA - ESSENTIAL LIFE SAVING SKILLS FOR AFRICA (Charity No. NIC100712)

1. Training -Promote and develop high quality health care and professional skills training for low resource countries or regions. Initially concentrating on South Sudan
2. Sustainability - develop a core group for health care facilitators and trainers within the country or region who would sustain ongoing programmes of skills, training and post-graduate development.
3. Mentorship - Promote the development of training internet based learning and mentorship.
4. Partnerships with Local Stakeholders - relevant government statutory bodies, local communities, non-government organisations, existing medical education structures, organisations and institutions.

USE OF DONATED FUNDS

ELSSA receives funds from personal donations, funding raising activities and some funding bodies e.g. BMA Humanitarian Fund. There are no paid employees, all ELSSA facilitators are volunteers and are unpaid. Travel, living expenses are reimbursed at standard economy rates and a nominal subsistence provided when possible. Course attendees do not receive attendance money, but may receive token support towards travel expenses.

All monies donated are used directly by ELSSA not by a third party and are fully accountable, transparent and subject to UK accountancy practices and standards. This minimises the endemic problems of loss of charity funds due to corruption and graft often encountered in funding projects.

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THIS PROJECT & DONATE

- Through VirginMoneyGiving.com – Select charity - Essential Life Saving Skills for Africa
- Through our Internet site - www.elsafrica.org
- Directly to the Charity - ELSSA, 144 High Street, Holywood BT9 8HS – Please complete a gift aid form as well
- Contact email- info@elsafrica.org we will send you detail of how to donate

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