

Additional UK funding secured to expand obstetric and paediatric anaesthesia courses that have already saved more than 300 lives into more East African nations

The AAGBI (Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain & Ireland) and the WFSA (World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists) are pleased to announce the award of two grants totalling £295,412, through the Tropical Health Education Trust (THET) and UK Department for International Development's Health Partner Scheme, to develop obstetric and paediatric anaesthesia in East Africa.

More than 5 billion people across the world do not have access to safe and affordable anaesthesia and surgery. **Globally there is a shortage of more than 1 million specialist surgeons, anaesthetists and obstetricians.**

This shortage plays a key role in healthcare outcomes in East Africa where there is still a great deal of work to be done to ensure better access to safe obstetric and newborn care for East African women and babies, particularly those in rural areas.

THE SAFE COURSES

The grants will allow the SAFE (Safer Anaesthesia from Education) training courses for anaesthetic officers (non-physician anaesthetists) to be introduced in Kenya, Malawi and Ethiopia and to be expanded in Uganda and Zambia.

The three day courses focus on small group teaching and maximises interaction between faculty and participants. The courses are based on clinical conditions that currently cause **80% of maternal deaths**. Training materials include a manual, videos, protocols, a textbook and drug dose and protocol pocketbook.

The courses were first developed in Uganda in 2011. UK volunteers and Ugandan faculty delivered the training courses to 366 anaesthetic officers between 2011 and 2014.

Logbook review in Uganda has identified more than 300 cases where lives have been saved.

Justine Greening, UK International Development Secretary, explained:

"This new grant will harness the skills and expertise of health workers from all over the UK to help train hundreds of anaesthetists in East Africa."

Anaesthesia is a critical component of safe obstetric and newborn care. Anaesthetists provide anaesthesia for caesarean section and instrumental delivery, and for life-threatening conditions such as obstetric haemorrhage, obstructed labour, ruptured uterus, retained placenta and trauma.

The AAGBI and WFSA are committed to reducing the growing global gap in anaesthesia care, as improvements in maternal and newborn anaesthesia practices in East Africa will save hundreds of lives every year.

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1. For more information on the SAFE Courses, an in-depth explanation of the courses, or to request an interview and pictures please contact Niki O'Brien: comms@wfsahq.org / (+44) 020 7631 8822

2. The Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland (AAGBI) is the professional membership organisation for over 11,000 anaesthetists in the UK and Ireland. The AAGBI promotes patient care and safety, and advances anaesthesia through education,

publications, research and international work, as well as the professional aspects of the specialty. The AAGBI's motto in somno securitas (safe in sleep) encapsulates the major focus of the AAGBI: safety in anaesthesia. www.aagbi.org

3. The World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists is the foremost global alliance of anaesthesiologists, working together with national, regional and specialty organisations to facilitate and promote the highest standards of patient care. The WFSA delivers our mission through programmes that are implemented through partnerships with various organisations that support safe surgery and recognise that safe anaesthesia is an essential element of the same. www.wfsahq.org

4. The Health Partnership Scheme is funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID). To date, nearly 40,000 health workers in low- and middle-income countries have received the training and education necessary to address a wide range of issues, such as maternal and child health, mental health, trauma care and palliative care. Nearly 1,500 UK health professionals have volunteered to deliver this training. HPS is managed by The Tropical Health and Education Trust (THET). <http://www.thet.org/hps>