

NHS Scotland Global Citizenship Conference 2019

“Developing Sustainable Health Partnerships”

1 November 2019

Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh

Making it Happen – Surplus Kit Donation

Workshop Outline

This Workshop will take delegates through the ethical and sustainable approach to surplus kit/equipment donation to support their global health partnerships using case studies from Zambia and Uganda.

Note:

- We need to provide the equipment that people need in a sustainable and useful way as otherwise it can end up in a dump behind the hospital.
- A lot of electrical equipment that comes from America doesn't work when plugged in due to the different voltage.
- Whilst equipment is important, people are the real resource - Many people you train with the basics, take the training in their stride and improve beyond this in their own time.
 - Some of the problems you can run into, is medical staff don't use donated equipment due to not understanding how to switch it on. An example of this was when a Scottish engineer working with a hospital in Uganda found out how to switch on a device when he found the manual and that day that machine saved 12 lives.
- Health technology management and Biomedical engineering training is needed for people who we are supporting donated equipment.

Uganda Case Study

- Engineers make sure that the equipment works and then the surgeons step forward to do the surgery. If something breaks during the surgery then the doctor steps back and the technicians fix it during the surgery
- A Defibrillator was not giving the correct voltage for shock therefore it wasn't saving any lives. 6 defibrillators were later donated that were tested and working properly.
- 12 Ventilation machines were not working for 2 years because they were on the wrong time, it just needs education and support on how to work and fix them.

Zambia Case Study

- Supply chain challenge – can buy much LESS with the same value of money in Zambia compared to the UK.
- If you have a good grasp of the local context you are working with then you may be able to get good quality products made locally. However you might need to bring things in from other countries to ensure they are effective and fit for purpose.
- Should you replace local solutions?
 - o You might get a better product but you are then changing the system and stopping the local people from improving their own economy and having their own businesses of creating/developing products and being inventive with what they have.

Questions

How do local hospitals pass on surplus equipment?

- There is a surplus kit list that is matched to the list of WHO to make sure it is ethical
- Contact Kerry Chalmers (Kerry.Chalmers@gov.scot)

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