

NHS Scotland Global Citizenship Conference 2019

“Developing Sustainable Health Partnerships”

1 November 2019

Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh

Supporting Surgical Services – Ungweru Project

Workshop Outline

This workshop was last years' Poster Winner - the Ungweru project has now been running since 2016 and is trying to improve the ENT Nursing provision in Blantyre Malawi and represents a partnership between ENT in NHS Fife and Blantyre. The programme involves exchanges of staff between the 2 departments and they have been able to utilize the University of St Andrews to facilitate this.

Note:

- Started with a rep talking to a nurse in Kirkaldy
- The rep is Malawian and he wanted to give something back to Africa
- “White Landcruiser syndrome” = operations by international surgeons in developing countries and they weren't allowing any locals in the operating theatre
- Important to find out what a unit needs, don't just send random items
- Didn't need any medical supplies, needed more practical items like shelves
- Surgeons tend to know what they are doing, sometimes it is the nurses that lack organisation
- Got commercial backing from Sheffmed (money and supplies)
- Nurses went over from Fife and tidied / cleaned and implemented a ward round
- Exchange between nurses in wards in Kirkaldy and Malawi
- Training for Malawian nurses in theatres – 400 hours of ENT training and filled in logbook
- May think that doing technologically advanced procedures like laparoscopic cholecystectomy vs. open may not be suitable for places like Malawi but it may have social benefits
- Units don't always need the fancy equipment, sometimes it's the necessitates like cotton buds
- Beware of the politics in other countries which are culturally different
- Malawian nurses who have had training in Kirkaldy have to stay in ENT for a defined period when they return to Malawi (hospital has signed a declaration)
- Ownership is very important – the project has to be owned by the local nurses
- Fundraising is taking place in Kirkaldy and has raised a lot of money
- NHS Fife did not contribute any money to the project but ENT Scotland did
- Inconsistency between NHS boards about allowing staff to go out to Malawi
- Malawian nurses come in on a visiting scholar visa (registered with St. Andrews University)
- Need to check the health status of nurses before they come over to Scotland
- Can have trouble getting foreign healthcare professionals into Scotland
- Even if the project stops now, a big difference has been made.