

Evaluating the implementation of person-centred care - and simulation-based learning in a midwifery education programme in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Submission date	Recruitment status	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered
18/02/2024	No longer recruiting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protocol
Registration date	Overall study status	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan
23/02/2024	Ongoing	<input type="checkbox"/> Results
Last Edited	Condition category	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data
02/07/2025	Pregnancy and Childbirth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Record updated in last year

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

Professional midwives play a crucial role in enhancing the quality of maternal and newborn healthcare, particularly in low-income countries like those in the Central Africa Region. This stresses the importance of addressing the global shortage of adequately educated midwives to meet international standards, highlighting this as vital for achieving Sustainable Development Goals and improving maternal and newborn health outcomes.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the text details significant challenges in maternal and newborn healthcare, including high mortality rates and the impact of healthcare provider interactions on the quality of care. System deficiencies in resource-constrained settings like the DRC may lead to mistreatment and human rights violations.

The concept of person-centered care is used to improve healthcare equity through mutual respect and collaboration between patients and providers. Implementing person-centered care has shown potential in reducing maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality by involving patients as active partners in their care.

Simulation-based learning is a method to enhance clinical competence among healthcare providers, including midwives. This pedagogical approach uses simulated patient care scenarios to improve knowledge, skills, and patient safety. It is particularly noted for its cost-effectiveness and transformative potential in low-income settings.

Lastly, there are major knowledge gaps in midwifery education in the DRC, including deficiencies in the curriculum and a need for more simulation-based learning activities. As a response to these challenges, a midwifery education program at Evangelical University in Africa is focusing on person-centered care and simulation-based learning to meet international standards and improve the quality of care.

The overall aim of this research is to evaluate the implementation of person-centered approach and simulation-based learning in childbirth care as part of the midwifery education program at Evangelical University in Africa in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The specific aims are to validate and culturally adapt the Swedish person-centered care course "Mutual meetings" and to determine the effectiveness of training midwives and gynecologists to function as facilitators in the implementation of person-centered care and the use of childbirth simulation-based learning activities at clinical practice sites for midwife students.

Who can participate?

All midwifery students in the first cohort of the bachelor level midwifery education programme at UEA.

All clinical preceptors in the five clinical practice sites educating the midwifery students during their clinical practice.

All trained facilitators in the testing of the person-centered care training programme "Mutual meetings" or the three simulation courses.

What does the study involve?

The study involves, besides the interventions, focus group interviews with the mentioned participants and a register study of the maternal and newborn register at the five selected implementation sites.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

The benefits of participating are to contribute to generate new evidence which in turn can lead to improved quality in childbirth care. There are no evident risks for the participants.

Where is the study run from?

The Democratic Republic of Congo, South Kivu region.

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?

February 2022 to January 2027.

Who is funding the study?

Gothenburg Center of Person-Centred care (Sweden), United Nations Population Fund DRC, Laerdal Global health and LM international.

Who is the main contact?

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Contact information

Type(s)

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Additional identifiers

Clinical Trials Information System (CTIS)

Nil known

ClinicalTrials.gov (NCT)

Nil known

Protocol serial number

DRC2022

Study information

Scientific Title

Evaluating the implementation of person-centred care - and simulation-based learning in a midwifery education programme in the Democratic Republic of Congo: a study protocol

Study objectives

Our hypothesis is that the implementation of both person-centered care and simulation-based learning in a midwifery education programme by educate facilitators will increase the quality of care in practice, and thereby improve maternal and neonatal outcomes.

Ethics approval required

Ethics approval required

Ethics approval(s)

approved 03/01/2024, National Ethical Committee of Public Health in the South Kivu Province (Av. du Boulevard Nr 2, Batiment de l'hygiene aux frontieres a Labotte, Bukavo, South Kivu, 22222, Congo, Democratic Republic; +243972214863; cnes.sudkivu@gmail.com), ref: CNES 001 /DPSK/219PP/2024

Study design

Exploratory design guided by the principles of an evaluation framework

Primary study design

Interventional

Study type(s)

Other

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Effect of implementing Person-centered care and simulation-based learning in Midwifery education in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Interventions

The intervention involves integrating two profiles into a midwifery education programme aligned with the national curriculum in DRC, namely person-centered care and simulation-based learning. The strategy used for the integration of the two profiles of person-centered care and simulation-based learning, is training facilitators from each clinical site to further ensure effective and sustained implementation.

Intervention Type

Behavioural

Primary outcome(s)

Maternal and Newborn health outcome measured using Birth registers from all five clinical practice sites during 01/01/2022 - 31/12/2022 and 01/01/2024 - 31/12/2024.

Key secondary outcome(s)

Effectiveness of the implemented intervention measured using Focus Group Interviews with Midwifery students, Clinical Preceptors and Facilitators at each clinical practice sites.

Completion date

01/01/2027

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

Study participants will include trained facilitators in Person-centered care and the simulation-based learning courses, clinical preceptors, and midwifery students at the Evangelical University of Africa in Bukavu, DRC. For the register data, all data on registered births at 5 clinical practice sites.

Participant type(s)

Health professional, Learner/student, Service user

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Adult

Lower age limit

18 years

Upper age limit

50 years

Sex

All

Key exclusion criteria

Health care providers including trained facilitators and students involved in the midwifery education programme.

Date of first enrolment

15/09/2022

Date of final enrolment

01/01/2026

Locations

Countries of recruitment

Congo, Democratic Republic

Study participating centre**Evangelic University of Africa**

Quartier Panzi, Commune Ibanda, Bukavu

Bukavu

Congo, Democratic Republic

3323 Bukavu

Study participating centre**Panzi Hospital**

Quartier Panzi, Commune Ibanda, Bukavu

Bukavu

Congo, Democratic Republic

3323 Bukavu

Study participating centre

Celpa Hospital
Bukavu
Congo, Democratic Republic
3324 Bukavu

Study participating centre
Kasenga Uvira Hospital
Quartier Kasenga, Avenue de la Mission, Ville d'UVIRA
Kasenga Uvira
Congo, Democratic Republic
22222 Uvira

Study participating centre
Kyeshero Hospital
Quartier de Goma
Kyeshero
Congo, Democratic Republic
22222 Goma

Study participating centre
CHAI Hospital
Bukavu
Congo, Democratic Republic
3325 Bukavu

Sponsor information

Organisation
University of Gothenburg

ROR
<https://ror.org/01tm6cn81>

Funder(s)

Funder type
Hospital/treatment centre

Funder Name

Gothenburg Center of Person-Centred Care

Funder Name

Laerdal Global Health

Funder Name

United Nations Population Fund, DRC

Funder Name

LM international

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are not expected to be made available due to ethical approval not covering publicly sharing the data.

IPD sharing plan summary

Stored in non-publicly available repository, Not expected to be made available

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Protocol article		31/12/2024	26/06/2024	Yes	No
Other publications	Qualitative process evaluation study	25/06/2025	02/07/2025	Yes	No
Participant information sheet			19/02/2024	No	Yes
Participant information sheet	Participant information sheet	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes
Study website	Study website	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes