ISRCTN10049855 https://doi.org/10.1186/ISRCTN10049855

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

Submission date
18/02/2024

Recruitment status
No longer recruiting

Registration date
23/02/2024

Overall study status
Ongoing

Last Edited
02/07/2025

Condition category
Pregnancy and Childbirth

[_] Prospectively registered
[X] Protocol
[_] Statistical analysis plan
[_] Results
[_] Individual participant data
[_] 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 a 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-Centered care (Sweden), United Nations Population Fund DRC, Laerdal Global health and LM international.

Who is the main contact?
Frida Temple, frida.temple@gu.se

Contact information

Type(s)
Public, Scientific

Contact name
Mrs Frida Temple

ORCID ID
https://orcid.org/0009-0001-2933-5280

Contact details

Arwid Wallgrens backe, House 1,
Gothenburg
Sweden
413 46
+250786900603
frida.temple@gu.se

Type(s)
Principal investigator

Contact name
Dr Malin Bogren

ORCID ID
https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2432-8097

Contact details
Arwid Wallgrens backe, House 1
Gothenburg
Sweden
413 46
+46 738099508
malin.bogren@gu.se

Additional identifiers

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

Primary study design

Interventional

Study design
Exploratory design guided by the principles of an evaluation framework

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
Study website	Study website	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes