

# COURSE REPORT

## MALAWI

8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> September 2014

Report Presented by: Mulinda Nyirenda

### **COSECSA Oxford Orthopaedic Link (COOL)**

This Primary Trauma Care course is part of a project funded through the Health Partnership Scheme, which is funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) for the benefit of the UK and partner country health sectors and managed by the Tropical Health Education Trust (THET). The project is called the COSECSA Oxford Orthopaedic Link (COOL). More information is available at [www.ndorms.ox.ac.uk/cool.php](http://www.ndorms.ox.ac.uk/cool.php).



PTC



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**POST PTC COURSE NARRATIVE REPORT**  
(For PTC Africa 2012-2014 Programme)

**PTC Malawi 8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

The fifth COSECSA/COOL PTC training was held from 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> September 2014. The course was held at Saint John of God conference center in Mzuzu, north of Malawi.

Planning and coordination of the course was done by:

Mulinda Nyirenda - Malawi PTC Faculty Representative

Francis Masoo – Mzuzu Central Hospital PTC course coordinator

Alfred Phiri - Mzuzu Central Hospital deputy course coordinator

The course was mainly conducted by northern region Malawi PTC faculty members who had attended the PTC instructor course and some had taught on a course in 2013. Dr Nyirenda and Dr Carlos Valera assisted in teaching and mentoring the faculty. Dr Deon Louw from Oxford University joined us in mentoring and teaching on the course.

Participants were drawn from public, mission and a few private hospitals in the northern region. Selection of participants was done by heads of hospitals and heads of departments at Mzuzu Central hospital inclusive of all specialties available. All participants were informed of the course one month before the course to provide ample time for preparation of course participation arrangements at institutions to happen in time.

The faculty met on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2014. The objective of this meeting was to revise PTC course ethos, objectives, mode of delivery and faculty governing principles; finalize timetable and prepare venue for the course. The faculty was also able to meet and have a chat with PTC foundation CEO – Charles Clayton and get to know more about PTC foundation.

Once this was completed, the faculty was all set to start the training on Monday.

**Course instructors Day 1-2**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Specialty</b>
Mulinda Nyirenda (Lead Mentor )	Emergency Medicine (Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital - QECH, Blantyre)
Carlos Valera (Mentor)	Surgery (Kamuzu Central Hospital, Lilongwe)
Deon Louw ( Mentor)	Emergency Medicine, Oxford , UK
Francis Masoo (Course Coordinator)	Anaesthesia (Mzuzu Central Hospital)
Alfred Phiri	Paediatrics (Mzuzu Central Hospital)
C H Phiri	Anaesthesia ( Mzuzu Central Hospital)
Edmond Tainga	Orthropaedics ( Mzuzu Central Hospital)
Richard Nyahoda	Surgery ( Mzuzu Central Hospital)
Jessie Chihana	Ekwendeni Hospital , Mzimba( O&G specialist)
Jonathan Chiwanda	Rumphi District Medical Officer

## Name of Participants Day 1-2

Name	Place of work	Speciality	Seniority
Manda, Simion	Rumphi	Surgery/Dermatology	Clinical Officer
Chomo, Austin	Chitipa	Anaesthesia	Clinical Officer
Chirombo, Felix	Mzimba	Surgical	Clinical Officer
Chipula, Onesmus	Mzimba	Paediatrics	Clinical Officer
Munthali, Thumbiko	Karonga	Senior ACO	Clinical Officer
Kadoko, Thaddaeus	Mzuzu Central	Medical	Clinical Officer
Chakhala, Paul	Chitipa	General/Surgery	Clinical Officer
Gondwe, Yonah	Ekwendeni	General	Clinical Officer
Mwale, Sekelerani Henry	Rumphi	General	Clinical Officer
Kamanga, Evablessings	Mzimba	Anaesthesia	Clinical Officer
Kumwenda, Gryson	Chintheche Rural Hospital	General	Clinical Officer
Chirwa, Sangwani	Rumphi	Anaesthesia	Clinical Officer
Kayera, Chancy	Mzimba	General	Clinical Officer
Mazunda, Abel	Nkhata Bay	Orthopaedic	Clinical officer
Chitete, Billy	Mzuzu Central	Mental Health	Clinical Officer
Pheluka, Aubrey	Likoma	General	Medical Assistant
Gondwe, Yankho	Chitipa	General	Clinical Officer
Ngwira Silaji, Chimwemwe	Karonga	Orthopaedic	Clinical Officer
Chilongo, Augustine	Mzuzu Central	General	Clinical Officer



PTC Instructors and Course Participants on Day 1 and 2.

## Contents of the Primary Trauma Care course

### Day 1

The faculty arrived one hour earlier than when the training was due to start. A brief preparatory meeting was held to revisit the timetable. All workstations were inspected to make sure that all training equipment had been setup at stations and the goat chest carcass was thawing in preparation for the chest drain insertion demonstration. Participants started arriving and were registered and seated by 9.05am. The course started at 9.15am.

This course was being held two months after the untimely loss of Dr Daniel Shuma – the northern region PTC course coordinator. After the PTC introduction, Edmond Tainga gave a tribute speech in honour of Dr Daniel and a minute of silence was observed by all.

The course continued with the Local trauma perspective and the MCQ session provided the appropriate stimulation for the participants to become keen to be attentive on the course. They were very interactive; asking questions, shared observations and experiences as lectures were given. The workshops and scenarios were conducted smoothly and enjoyed by participants.

The faculty retained a good team spirit throughout the day. The course was adjourned at around 4:30 pm. The faculty members convened to evaluate the day performance and highlight all areas of improvement. They also revisited Day 2 teaching plan. The faculty agreed to arrive early at the venue the following day to prepare for Day 2.

## **Day 2**

The faculty members arrived early and proceeded to prepare for day 2 sessions. Teaching aids and equipment were placed in appropriate stations. The course started at 9am as per timetable.

The faculty displayed different types of lecture delivery to make sure participants remained awake, focused and enthusiastic on the lecture laden morning of the course. As usual, participants were very keen and excited with the scenarios sessions. The posttest MCQ revealed an average 17% improvement in the participants' knowledge. The course feedback session was conducted in the PTC style and comments are in the table below.

What was good	What can improve
Learning the systematic approach	Increase time for skills stations
Venue conducive for learning	
Practical sessions	
Excellent facilitators	
Excellent time management	

Course certificates were then issued. Participants were reminded to attend the PTC instructor course on day 3 if still possible.

Day 1 and 2 course participants and faculty

## **Day 3 (Instructor course)**

The contents of the instructor course were standard (attached program).

All participants were from the Day1/2 cohort.

The trained instructors were:

Name	Institution	Speciality	Position
Manda, Simion	Rumphi	Surgery/Dermatology	Clinical Officer
Chakhala, Paul	Chitipa	General/Surgery	Clinical Officer
Gondwe, Yonah	Ekwendeni		Clinical Officer
Mwale, Sekelerani Henry	Rumphi	General	Clinical Officer
Chirwa, Sangwani	Rumphi	ACO	Clinical Officer
Chitete, Billy	Mzuzu Central	Mental Health	Clinical Officer
Gondwe, Yankho	Chitipa	General	Clinical Officer

The participants enjoyed the instructor course content and appreciated the skills taught. The workshops were the highlight of the day. Participants required more guidance and time to practice teaching a scenario. At the end of the day, the confidence evaluation survey indicating ability to teach and deliver a PTC lecture, run a trauma scenario and discussion group improved remarkably

The newly inducted instructors then started preparing to facilitate the course on Days 4 and 5. Dr Alfred Phiri would now coordinate the next course. New instructors were paired up with old instructors for mentorship for the next 2 days. After allocation of lectures, workshops and scenarios was done, the faculty prepared the venue for the next set of participants.



PTC Faculty members (old and new)

### **DAYS 4/5**

The participants for the course were as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Place of work</b>	<b>Speciality</b>	<b>Seniority</b>
Simfukwe, Samuel Atupele	Karonga	General	Clinical Officer
Ngalamila, Noel	Mzuzu Health Centre	General	Clinical Officer
Mwamlima, Lucky	St John Hospital, Mzuzu	General	Clinical Officer
Nyirenda, Symon	Mzuzu Central	General /surgery	Clinical Officer
Malili, Aziel	Mzuzu Central	General	Clinical Officer
Zgambo, Bright	Karonga	General	Clinical Officer
Tembo, Ellen	Nkhata Bay	Anaesthesia	Clinical Officer
Kasambara, Blessings	Chitipa District	General	Clinical Officer
Mponya, James	Mzuzu Central	Obs & gynae	Clinical Officer
Mkandawire, Emmanuel	Nkhata Bay	General	Clinical Officer
Chatsika, Elizabeth	Mzimba North	Mental health	Clinical Officer
Mbowe, Michael	Mzuzu Central	Anaesthesia	Clinical Officer
Mwakasungula, George	Ekwendeni	General	Medical Assistant
Kalizga Mkandawire, Martha	St John Hospital, Mzuzu	Anaesthesia	Clinical Officer

### **Day 4**

The new instructors met early that morning and had a review of the timetable and their roles and responsibility. Each new instructor was assigned and informed of who was their mentor. The individual mentoring debriefing sessions were to be done immediately after a session that the new instructor had conducted. All equipment and material were put in readiness for the workshops and scenarios. The timetable started at 9am with introductions and the pre-test MCQ.

The new instructors delivered the lectures with power points successfully. Participants were eager and keen to learn the course content. The skills station and scenarios were well facilitated. The new participants struggled with the scenarios though seemed to

be enjoying the sessions. It was agreed that the instructors will repeat the demonstration scenario the next day for clarity on this practical session during the faculty meeting at the end of the day.

### **Day 5**

The day started as per timetable. Instructors were able to keep the class awake and engaged in the lecture rich morning. A demonstration scenario was done before starting scenarios in the afternoon for the participants to enhance their comprehension of how to apply the primary and secondary survey skills practically. This was greatly appreciated by the participants and their performance improved a lot.



Course instructors performing a demonstration scenario to participants.

A post-test was done at the end of the day. While the scripts were being marked, the participants gave the feedback below:

Feedback day 4/5	
What was good	What can improve
scenarios	Increase time for course
Facilitators good and friendly	Start course earlier in day
Time management	
Summaries at end of lectures	
Teaching materials were available	

The MCQ results showed a average 11 % improvement in knowledge for the group. Certificates were given to participants and the course session was completed. Faculty remained behind to have a final faculty meeting and pack teaching aids and equipment.

### **Acknowledgements:**

All northern region district health officers and the hospital director for Mzuzu Central hospital are greatly appreciated for allowing participants to attend course and supporting them while attending the course in Mzuzu.

Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital Management is greatly appreciated for providing the vehicle used for transport to and fro Mzuzu by the local mentors, Dr Louw and Mr Clayton.

The northern region faculty did an amazing job in hosting and conducting these PTC courses.

Experience and wisdom provided by mentors like Dr Valera and Dr Louw is priceless and strengthened the confidence and knowledge of the northern region PTC faculty. PTC foundation support to run these courses is very much appreciated by the Malawi PTC faculty. Mr Clayton's visit was a big encouragement to the faculty.

Mulinda Nyirenda  
**PTC Malawi course coordinator**