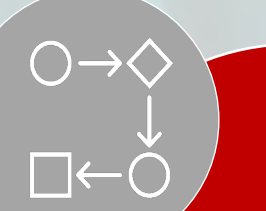


Barriers and Enablers of Surgical Task Sharing in Sierra Leone: a perspective of surgical providers and facilitators

Mirte Langeveld (MD, MPH) & Jurre van Kesteren (MD), Thomas Ashley (MD), Tairu Fofonah (SACHO)

Task sharing, the strategic delegation of responsibilities to less specialized healthcare workers, is a key approach to optimize human resources. In Sierra Leone, Associate Clinicians (SACHOs) perform essential surgical and obstetric care services.

-  **What** Identify the barriers and enablers of the surgical task-sharing system in Sierra Leone.
-  **Why** Task sharing in Sierra Leone holds potential to address the 92% gap in unmet surgical needs. However, the system encounters various challenges that need to be understood and addressed.
-  **How** Conducting a qualitative study involving 22 semi-structured interviews with surgical care providers and facilitators.
-  **Where** Data collection took place at one rural district hospital and one regional hospital in Sierra Leone.



Main barriers

1. Recognition of SACHOs as healthcare cadre
2. Inclusion of SACHOs
3. Integration into Payment System
4. Medical Protectionism
5. Resource Constraints



Main enablers

1. Seeing is Believing
2. Mutual Respect
3. Strengthening of Hospital Surgical Care

Addressing these challenges and capitalizing on enablers may aid in strengthening the surgical task-sharing system in Sierra Leone, to help ensure that surgical care reaches those who need it most.