**Risk assessment for BSSH / LION Project, Lilongwe, Malawi, 2023 – 2027.**

This risk assessment process is designed to support and inform staff volunteering on behalf of the British Society for Surgery of the Hand.

When you complete the risk assessment you should take into account:

* Current Events
* Advice provided by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office FCO - <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>
* Advice provided by BSSH LION team

This risk assessment must be agreed and signed off by one of the LION project senior leadership team before any trip can take place.

**Trip overview**

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| **Name of Volunteer** |  |
| **Date from and to:** |  |

BSSH LION Hand Surgery Service – LION Unit, Kamuzu Central Hospital, Lilongwe Malawi

Local Contact – Boston Munthali - LION Hospital Medical Director Tel: 0991 279219

Accomodation – Benetolo House, Plot 43/2/133, Ufulu Road, Area 43 Lilongwe, Malawi

**Country-specific risk assessment – Malawi, Lilongwe Area.**

L = Likelihood of risk. 1-Most unlikely 2-Unlikely 3-Likely 4-Most likely

S = Severity of harm. 1-Trivial 2-Slight 3-Serious 4-Major

R = Risk rating, L x S. 1-2 Minimal risk; maintain existing control measures. 3-4 Low risk; review existing control measures. 6-8 Medium risk; improve existing control measures. 9-16 High risk; improve control measures immediately; consider ceasing activity until risk reduced

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| **Hazard** | **Who might be harmed/ affected** | **Risk rating** | | | **Mitigation Measures** |
| **L** | **S** | **R** |
| Crime | Volunteer | 2 | 2 | 4 | Self awareness, and care in unfamiliar situations or environments. Good security at volunteer’s accommodation and workplace. Avoid travelling alone and in unsafe areas where possible |
| Kidnapping | Volunteer | 1 | 2 | 2 | Self awareness, and care in unfamiliar situations or environments. Good security at volunteer’s accommodation and workplace. Avoid travelling alone and in unsafe areas where possible |
| Terrorism | Volunteer | 1 | 1 | 1 | Attention to official advice and warnings |
| Conflict | Volunteer | 1 | 1 | 1 | Attention to official advice and warnings |
| Infrastructure | Volunteer | 2 | 2 | 4 | Care when travelling. Avoid high risk areas and modes of transport |
| Cyber Crime /  Fraud | Volunteer | 2 | 2 | 4 | Care with credit card use and on line transactions. Avoid carrying valuables / excessive cash. Password protect. Store confidential patient and project information in appropriate areas (eg hospital, secure accommodation) |

**Project – specific risk assessment**

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| **Risk Assessment** | | | | | |
| **Hazard** | **Who might be harmed/ affected** | **Risk rating** | | | **Mitigation Measures** |
| **L** | **S** | **R** |
| Tiredness leading to accidents | Volunteers | 2 | 2 | 4 | Volunteers to take appropriate breaks and rest days with compensatory days off as required after nightime / weekend work. Use EWD as a guideline |
| Slips, trips and falls | Volunteers | 2 | 2 | 4 | Regular inspection of work and living spaces with issues to be raised with hospital or house maintenance man for rectification.  Beware of wet or rain soaked surfaces, particularly at KCH. |
| Manual handling | Volunteers | 1 | 2 | 2 | Members to assess weight of any materials prior to manual handling to judge the safest way to approach the task and ask for assistance where required |
| Accidental injury or sudden illness | Volunteers | 2 | 2 | 4 | In the event of an accidental injury or sudden illness to a volunteer, follow local guidance from LION colleagues and project lead as appropriate. Travel insurance in place.  Emergency contact details to be kept up to date in BSSH records along with any ongoing medical conditions. |
| Mental health health issues amongst volunteers – depression, loneliness, isolation, feeling overwhelmed, stress | Volunteers | 3 | 2 | 6 | The project is modelled on team working and inter-personal support and learning. Good communications and strong support from UK. Comfortable, secure accommodation. Partners / visitors permitted. Volunteers are not expected to work beyond their clinical competencies. If clinical workload becomes overwhelming, the LION CEO will be asked to assist with triaging decisions |
| Adverse weather, notably heat exhaustion and excessive rain | Volunteers | 2 | 1 | 2 | Volunteers to pay attention to personal hydration and carry drinking water with them, particularly when travelling.  Suitable clothing / umbrellas / footwear for torrential rain |
| Moderate prevalence of HIV in population (9%), risk of exposure during surgery | Volunteers | 1 | 3 | 3 | Appropriate safe surgery precautions to be taken in theatre.  Post exposure prophylaxis available |
| Malaria is endemic in area | Volunteers | 2 | 2 | 4 | Volunteers recommended to take appropriate anti-malarial prophylaxis |
| The Covid risk in Malawi is low | Volunteers | 2 | 2 | 4 | Volunteers recommended to be vaccinated against Covid and wear PPE when indicated |
| High incidence of Cholera in Lilongwe | Volunteers | 2 | 2 | 4 | Avoid potentially contaminated water and foodstuffs. Water filter provided at volunteers’ accommodation |
| Driving in unfamiliar environment, poor road conditions and dangerous drivers.  Low velocity driving (< 45mph)  High velocity driving (>45mph) | Volunteers | 3  2 | 2  3 | 6  6 | Robust project vehicle provided. Extreme care must be taken when driving project vehicle. Familiarisation with driving conditions prior to driving. Initially drive supervised by more experienced volunteer. Try not to drive alone. Driving at higher speeds not recommended. |
| Stings, bites or other injury from insects or wild animals | Volunteers | 4 | 1 | 4 | Mosquito nets provided in accommodation and malaria prophylaxis recommended. Volunteers advised to use other means to avoid bites (avoid high risk areas, use of appropriate clothing, insect repellent). Caution advised near wild animals, including dogs |
| Use of facilities and resources at Benetolo House | Volunteers | 2 | 2 | 4 | Familiarisation with house, guidance notes, and information in project handbook. Any faults or risks to be reported to the on-site domestic staff for repairs. Security concerns to be raised with the BSSH LION management team for consideration of additional measures |
| Clinical challenges out-with the experience of the volunteer or local team | Volunteers and local surgeons / therapists | 3 | 2 | 6 | Fortnightly MDT meetings to discuss difficult cases. MDT whatsapp group in place for rapid advice. Rotation of volunteers allows some cases to be delayed until an appropriate surgeon arrives. Accept that not all cases will be able to be treated / salvaged |

**Personal risk assessment – eg as a result of specific health issues or dietary requirements**

**Please fill in this section to make BSSH aware of any specific risks you feel you may face.**

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| **Risk Assessment** | | | |
| **Hazard** |  | **Mitigation Measures** |
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**After completion please sign and return electronically to BSSH secretariat LION project administration.**

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|  | **NAME** | **SIGNATURE** | **DATE** |
| **VOLUNTEER** |  |  |  |
| **AUTHORISER** |  |  |  |

Final, SMF, JJ, MW, SM. 5/2/23