



Zambia Anaesthesia
Development Program

IMPACT **20** REPORT **24**



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 Introduction

2 In-country ZADP fellow work

7 Remote ZADP fellow work

9 Collaborations - OAA

11 Collaborations - Global Health Partnerships

13 Trainee spotlight

14 SAZ update

16 ZADP Global Scholar

18 Get involved

20 Thank you



INTRODUCTION

The Zambia Anaesthesia Development Program (ZADP) is a partnership between the Global Anaesthesia Development Partnerships (GADP) and the Society of Anaesthetists of Zambia (SAZ), working hand-in-hand to strengthen safe anaesthesia and critical care nationwide. Since 2012, ZADP has supported the growth of Zambia's anaesthesia workforce through education, mentorship, quality improvement, and research.

In 2024, our focus remained on building local capacity, empowering Zambian-led initiatives, and promoting a culture of continuous improvement. Guided by principles of collaboration and sustainability, ZADP combines in-country and remote volunteering to deliver training, strengthen systems, and support advocacy for safer perioperative care.

This report celebrates the achievements of our partners and fellows over the past year, reflecting the collective commitment of Zambian and international anaesthetists working side by side to ensure safe, high-quality anaesthetic care for all.



IN-COUNTRY ZADP FELLOW WORK

2024 saw ZADP deepen its in-country support for anaesthesia training in Zambia, building on the strong foundations of previous years. ZADP fellows remain embedded within the Department of Anaesthesia at the University Teaching Hospital, working alongside Zambian trainees in theatres, classrooms, and simulation sessions to strengthen both technical and non-technical skills.



Developing skills, confidence, and continuity

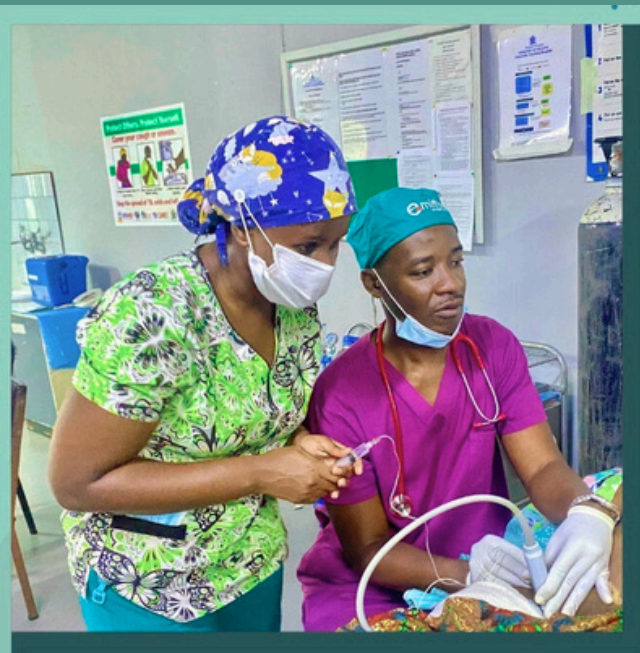
In-theatre teaching remains central to ZADP's work, with fellows providing daily bedside supervision and case-based discussions that strengthen clinical reasoning, communication, and leadership. Simulation continues to play a vital role, helping trainees practise complex scenarios in a safe environment.

A major focus this year has been sustainability – empowering senior trainees and local faculty to take increasing ownership of teaching. Simulation sessions are now often led by senior residents such as Dr Chisaka Chibungo, with local faculty Dr Kalenga and Dr Muzumara guiding debriefs on scenarios including intraoperative hypoxia, difficult airway, and cardiac arrest in theatre.

Regional anaesthesia training

Building on ZADP's emphasis on practical, evidence-based care, residents have expanded their experience in ultrasound-guided regional anaesthesia as part of multimodal analgesia.

Weekly sessions focusing on "Plan A" blocks have equipped trainees to perform regional techniques independently and safely, leading to wider use of regional blocks across UTH and improved patient comfort and outcomes.



Supporting induction and exams

Following the success of the 2023 initiative, ZADP again supported the formal Induction Programme for first-year anaesthesia trainees, introducing core anaesthesia principles through lectures, workshops, and simulation. The course was delivered mainly by Zambian consultants with support from ZADP fellows.

Fellows also supported residents preparing for examinations and dissertation projects, with three new graduates from the University of Zambia's Anaesthesia program in 2024.

CONGRATULATIONS
to Dr Mack Kalenga,
Dr Sara Musalale,
and Dr Maria
Kansenga!



Collaboration and growth

Under the leadership of Dr Hazel Mumphansha-Sonkwe, Head of Anaesthesia Training at UTH, ZADP's in-country collaborations have continued to expand, creating new opportunities for shared learning and professional development.

Partnerships with the US Global Academic Anaesthesia Consortium (GAAC) and Paediatric Anaesthesia Training in Africa (PATA) have strengthened regional and international engagement.



ZADP supported delivery of the first-ever SAFE Paediatrics Course in Ndola, delivered in collaboration with PATA and the Society of Anaesthetists of Zambia. This milestone course equipped 26 anaesthetists and 5 physicians with essential skills to deliver safe paediatric anaesthesia.



In addition, ZADP faculty member Dr David Snell supported Zambian consultants Dr Chalwe and Dr Maszuyo during their visit to the UK through the PATA (WFSA) Paediatric Fellowship. Their participation in the Association of Paediatric Anaesthesia Conference and further clinical exposure provided valuable insights to strengthen paediatric anaesthesia training on their return to Zambia.

BUILDING CAPACITY IN CRITICAL CARE

A consultant's experience in Zambia

Dr Liz Thomas, Consultant in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Medicine, Manchester Foundation Trust, UK

In recent years, ZADP has worked closely with local faculty to strengthen critical care training in Zambia, recognising the limited ICU exposure available to anaesthesia trainees.



Building on this foundation of bedside teaching and simulation-based learning, UK consultant Dr Liz Thomas joined the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at the University Teaching Hospital (UTH) in Lusaka for eight weeks as part of ZADP's ongoing critical care development work.

She provided daily clinical teaching and one-to-one mentorship for anaesthetic registrars, focusing on areas of the curriculum that Zambian trainees found most challenging. Her presence strengthened hands-on learning and built on ZADP's ongoing efforts to enhance critical care services.



“It was a privilege to work directly with UTH anaesthetists, helping to consolidate skills and confidence in such a committed team.”

“

Working in a low-resource critical care environment tested my clinical adaptability and reminded me what really matters in patient care.

”

Dr Thomas's placement provided eight weeks of consultant-level clinical support – a rare and valuable resource in a low-income setting.

Her input helped strengthen decision-making, highlight areas of excellence, and improve communication through simple innovations such as a whiteboard for daily staffing allocations.

She worked closely with ICU nurses, physiotherapists, and registrars from other specialties, supporting multidisciplinary learning and also contributed to the Birmingham City University nutrition project.



Her time in Lusaka demonstrated the lasting value of in-country volunteer consultants in mentoring teams, strengthening local leadership, and supporting sustainable service improvement.

Returning to the UK, Dr Thomas brought home renewed purpose, appreciation for NHS resources, strong professional connections with her Zambian colleagues, and a commitment to champion ZADP's work locally, regionally, and nationally.

REMOTE ZADP FELLOW WORK

Originally introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure continuity of anaesthesia training, the ZADP Remote Fellowship has evolved into a core component of the training program.

In 2024, it continued to play a vital role in supporting anaesthetic trainees in Lusaka and Ndola, complementing in-country teaching and ensuring equitable access to education, particularly in Ndola, where there are no regular in-country fellows.

Throughout 2024, the remote fellowship delivered a substantial program of teaching and exam preparation. A total of 120 hours of online teaching and 7 hours of viva practice were provided for senior trainees, alongside 100 hours of online teaching and 8 hours of viva practice for junior trainees.

220+ HOURS OF TEACHING
15 HOURS OF VIVA PRACTICE
GROWING ZAMBIAN LEADERSHIP



Teaching was delivered by a large and diverse faculty, including remote ZADP fellows and past in-country fellows, Zambian and visiting consultants, in-country ZADP fellows, volunteer facilitators, and colleagues from the Global Academic Anaesthesia Collaboration (GAAC).

“

A key strength of the program in 2024 was the ability of this wide group of educators to work together toward a shared goal: maintaining consistent, high-quality weekly teaching and exam support across multiple sites.

”

The remote team continued to work towards improving the curriculum to better meet the needs of the trainees, including division of the senior trainees to allow a more tailored approach to training, and continuing to welcome the increasing numbers of graduated physician-anaesthetists to take on facilitator roles on the program.

Moving forward

Looking ahead to 2025, ZADP plans to adapt its remote fellowship with a greater focus on local Zambian delivery - a sustainable and encouraging milestone in the program's evolution. Teaching will increasingly be led by in-country graduate faculty at UTH, reflecting the strength and maturity of local training.

This shift towards a mentorship and advisory role will support Zambian residents while empowering local leadership and ownership of teaching.



OBSTETRIC ANAESTHETISTS' ASSOCIATION

In 2024, the OAA-funded project continued to advance obstetric anaesthesia at the University Teaching Hospital, addressing critical gaps in maternal care and anaesthesia training.



With only two specialist obstetric anaesthetists in Zambia, this initiative is strengthening the role of anaesthetists beyond the operating theatre – improving pre-assessment, patient optimisation, and interdisciplinary collaboration in obstetric care.

Through trainee placements on labour and obstetric wards, supported by ZADP fellows and visiting specialists, the project is expanding hands-on learning, simulation training, and quality improvement activities to advance safety and service delivery for mothers and newborns.



KEY 2024 ACHIEVEMENTS

ZADP fellows delivered a wide-ranging programme of obstetric anaesthesia education, including simulation sessions on maternal collapse and major haemorrhage, in-theatre training, and remote teaching on 16 key topics.

Collaboration with Zambian obstetricians strengthened multidisciplinary teamwork, while new training in transversus abdominis plane (TAP) blocks expanded postnatal pain management skills. These efforts have enhanced clinical competence, promoted teamwork, and advanced obstetric anaesthesia practice at UTH.

A major success was the launch of the Maternal Life Support project, which strengthened collaboration between anaesthesia and midwifery teams and built vital emergency response skills.

In-country fellows and Zambian anaesthesia residents delivered resuscitation (CPR) training to 18 midwives and midwifery students on the maternity unit at UTH.

This initiative provided an excellent opportunity to embed the principles of multidisciplinary teamwork and early recognition and management of unwell patients within midwifery training.



94% of participants felt confident to provide CPR after training, compared with just 12% before.

The project also supported local leadership and quality improvement, with Dr Chalwe Mutesa-Mwewa introducing a structured daily review checklist in the Obstetric High Dependency Unit, reducing patient length of stay and morbidity; this QI initiative was presented internationally at the 2024 World Congress of Anaesthesiologists.

Despite workforce shortages limiting the expansion of anaesthetist presence on the labour ward, the project has laid valuable foundations for safer, more integrated obstetric care. Looking ahead, 2025 will focus on expanding multidisciplinary simulation, resuscitation training, and in-theatre teaching, and continuing to strengthen anaesthetist engagement in obstetric care pathways.



GLOBAL CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME

**Funded by NHS England through Global Health Partnerships
(formerly THET)**

This project aims to accurately assess the current landscape of anaesthesia provision in Zambia through facility and service quality assessments, providing data to support the Society of Anaesthetists of Zambia in advocating for the investments and support needed to fill the most pressing gaps in national anaesthesia capacity.



Global Health
Partnerships
FORMERLY THET

The approach has been designed to grow links between physician and non-physician anaesthetists and to provide multi-cadre training and mentorship.

Key components include:

- Comprehensive data collection to map anaesthesia capacity and gaps.
- Quality improvement training and mentorship for Zambian physician and non-physician anaesthetists, supported by ZADP volunteer faculty.
- Development of a national scope of practice document to clarify roles, guide clinical expectations, and support ongoing professional development for all anaesthesia cadres.

Through this integrated approach, the programme is strengthening the foundations for sustainable, high-quality anaesthesia care across Zambia.

KEY 2024 ACHIEVEMENTS

Quality Improvement (QI)

Key achievements included the successful delivery of QI training, reaching over 200 anaesthesia providers nationwide, surpassing our expectations. The programme combined four webinars with a face-to-face session at the SAZ Conference, enhancing participants' knowledge and skills despite logistical challenges.



The graphic is a red gift box with a large red bow on top, set against a background of white snowflakes. It features the Zambia Anaesthesia Development Program logo on the top left and the Society of Anaesthetists of Zambia (SAZ) logo on the top right. The main text inside the box reads: 'CHRISTMAS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (QI) TRAINING WEBINAR SERIES' followed by 'Start the New Year with new skills to improve healthcare in Zambia'. Below this, a table lists four webinars, each on a Friday. To the right of the table, the times for the sessions are listed: 18:30 CAT and 16:30 UK, accompanied by a clock icon.

Day	Topic	Speaker
Friday 06.12	Introduction to Audit & Quality Improvement	Dr Mack Kalenga, SAZ Member
Friday 13.12	Teaching, Training & Supervision in Quality Improvement	Dr Sneha Betkekar, ZADP Fellow
Friday 20.12	Using Data to Monitor & Improve Healthcare Processes	Dr Samuel Sibanda, SAZ Member
Friday 27.12	Motivating Stakeholders to Maintain & Measure Change	Dr James Coleman, ZADP Fellow

Of 207 attendees, 154 completed pre- and post-training assessments, with 42% showing improved scores and 81% maintaining or improving their performance.

Capacity assessment

In parallel, ZADP made major progress in mapping anaesthesia capacity nationwide through the adaptation of the Anaesthesia Facility Assessment Tool (AFAT) for Zambia.

Working closely with SAZ and building on a version developed through the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists (WFSA), the team conducted literature reviews and analysis of previous capacity studies to create a streamlined, context-appropriate AFAT aligned with Ministry of Health priorities.

This groundwork in 2024 has laid the foundation for a nationwide rollout of data collection in 2025, which will provide the most comprehensive picture to date of anaesthesia services, infrastructure, and workforce across Zambia.

✓ Complete all four webinars and assessments to receive a certificate valid for CPD/CME points.



REGISTER NOW

TRAINEE SPOTLIGHT

DR OTENG RAMOSEKI

FINAL-YEAR ANAESTHESIA REGISTRAR
UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL, LUSAKA

What was your biggest achievement in 2024?

"Completing data collection for my research project. I'm looking at the effect of adding transversus abdominis plane (TAP) blocks to standard pain management after caesarean section."

I had 110 patients in the TAP block group, so it was a big piece of work. ZADP fellows worked with me in theatre doing the TAP blocks and also taught other registrars to do them, and those patients were included in the study. So we were collecting good data while also building skills across the team."

What has been your biggest challenge?

"One challenge for me has been making sure learning is fully followed through into theatre. Lectures and simulation are important, but as a senior registrar, I learn best when that teaching is reinforced on patients. Getting enough repeated, hands-on practice in theatre really helps build confidence."



How has ZADP supported your training?

"The support from ZADP has been very practical. The viva practice has helped build my confidence and shown me where my gaps are. The in-theatre teaching and hands-on practice have been really helpful for building practical skills. They've also supported me a lot with my research - proposal writing, data collection, dissertation writing."

I think it works best when you're open and specific about what help you need. If you ask and engage, the ZADP fellows respond and the support becomes very tailored to you."

SAZ UPDATE

From the SAZ Executive

Society of Anaesthetists of Zambia in 2024

A year of growth and collaboration

2024 was a year of renewed energy and purpose for SAZ – strengthening partnerships, expanding training opportunities, and representing Zambia on the global stage.

Together, we have advanced our mission to improve the quality, safety, and accessibility of anaesthesia care across the country.

Education and training remained at the heart of our work, with activities spanning Lusaka to Mufulira. Highlights included the first-ever SAFE Paediatrics course in Ndola, with in-country support from ZADP; hands-on regional anaesthesia workshops; and a pioneering perioperative obstetric care seminar advancing maternal health.

Online learning continued through Quality Improvement webinars with ZADP and a Cholera Management series with the Zambia College of Physicians.

The year culminated in our 9th Annual Scientific Conference & AGM in Ndola, themed “*Tiny Patients, Big Responsibilities: Excellence in Paediatric Anaesthesia Care*”, which brought together over 80 participants for vibrant discussions, skills workshops, and knowledge sharing.



SAZ also strengthened its presence globally, representing Zambia at the World Congress of Anaesthetists in Singapore and the All Africa Anaesthesia Congress in Johannesburg – sharing experiences, building partnerships, and advocating for Zambia’s needs on the global stage.

Looking ahead to 2025, SAZ will continue advancing perioperative medicine, fostering innovation, and promoting education.

With the 10th AGM and Scientific Conference on the horizon, we aim to expand access to training, strengthen advocacy for anaesthesia as a human right, and launch an Innovation Hub to showcase technological and clinical advances.

“As we learn together, we grow together. The progress we’ve made in 2024 will echo for years to come – advancing safer, more accessible anaesthesia care for all.”

Dr. Sompwe Lupwasha Mwansa, SAZ President



ZADP GLOBAL SCHOLAR CAMPAIGN

Zambia takes its place on the global anaesthesia stage

Following the huge success of the 2023 Global Scholar fundraising drive, ZADP went far beyond its original goal of funding one trainee – enabling three Zambian anaesthesia residents and a training programme lead to attend and present at the World Congress of Anaesthesiologists (WCA) 2024 in Singapore, as well as supporting three additional anaesthetists to participate virtually.

This milestone widened access to global learning and strengthened Zambia's presence on the international stage.

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed – including Africorp Healthcare Systems Limited for their generous donation, and the Emirates Airline Foundation, whose ongoing support made it possible to provide return flights from Lusaka to Singapore.





Dr Chalwe Mutesa-Mwewa, Dr Christian Bagayamukwe, and Dr Mack Kalenga proudly presented original research and quality improvement work from Zambia, drawing interest from international peers and showcasing the growing strength of the country's anaesthesia training programme.

<-- Dr Chalwe Mutesa-Mwewa presenting an obstetric quality improvement project at the WCA 2024.

GADP Trustee and Head of Anaesthesia Training at the University Teaching Hospital, Dr Hazel Mumphansha-Sonkwe, also attended the WCA, where she received a *Distinguished Service Award* from the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists (WFSA) in recognition of her outstanding leadership and lifelong commitment to advancing safe anaesthesia in Zambia. Her unwavering and tireless dedication has been instrumental in the growth of anaesthesia, and we celebrate and salute her achievements.



GET INVOLVED

How you can support ZADP

Fundraising is one of the most powerful ways you can support our work.

Securing funding for health partnership work is increasingly challenging, and your help means we can continue strengthening safe surgery and anaesthesia in Zambia in the most effective way possible.

ZADP's work relies entirely on grants and donations – your help truly makes the difference.

Thank you to all those who generously shared their birthday celebrations with us in 2024!



Lesley's birthday fundraiser for Global Anaesthesia Development Partnerships

Fundraiser for Global Anaesthesia Development Partnerships by Lesley Crichton

£183 of £100 raised



WAYS TO HELP

There are many ways to support ZADP - big or small, every action counts



Donate

Make a one-off or regular monthly gift via

JustGiving



Fundraise

Host a bake sale, take on a challenge, or celebrate a special occasion in support of ZADP



Shop with purpose

Raise free donations every time you shop online! Click **Easyfundraising**

SCAN ME!



Stay connected

Follow us on social media & sign up for our **newsletter** for the latest news



Send e-cards

Reduce waste and make a difference:

DontSendMeACard.com



Thank you to all our star bakers who raised funds on World Anaesthesia Day 2024!



DOWNLOAD OUR FUNDRAISING GUIDE

Find ideas, inspiration & resources to help you get started!

Thank You

ZADP would like to thank the following organisations & collaborators for their support in 2024.

Society of Anaesthetists of Zambia

The Departments of Anaesthesia and Critical Care
of University Teaching Hospitals, Levy Mwanawasa
University Teaching Hospital, Ndola Teaching
Hospital, Zambia

World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists

The Emirates Airline Foundation

Obstetric Anaesthetists' Association

International Relations Committee of the
Association of Anaesthetists

Global Health Partnerships (formerly THET)

NHS England

Royal College of Anaesthetists, Global Partnerships

Global Anaesthesia, Surgery and Obstetric
Collaboration

Safe Anaesthesia Worldwide

World Anaesthesia Society

Global Academic Anaesthesia Consortium (GAAC)

Africorp Healthcare Systems Ltd

All supporters who have so generously donated
funds or time to support the work of our partnership