



SENIOR PROGRAM MANAGER: WOMEN'S SURGICAL CARE

POSITION DETAIL

Job title: Senior Program Manager: Women's Surgical Care

Organisation: Lifebox

About us: Global nonprofit making surgery and anaesthesia safer worldwide

Team: Programs

Reporting to: Chief Program Officer

Line Managing: Program Managers and Coordinators

Key relationships: Lifebox Program, Clinical, M&E, Finance, and HR teams; Ministries of Health; Professional Societies; Implementing Partners; Senior Clinical Lead, Women's Surgical Care;

Location: Remote (Africa/Europe time zones) with international travel

Contract: Full-time

Background

Lifebox is a growing and dynamic global health non-profit dedicated to saving lives by improving the safety of surgery and anaesthesia around the world. Co-founded by Dr. Atul Gawande, Lifebox works to increase anaesthesia safety, reduce surgical infection rates, and strengthen operating room teamwork through tools, training, and partnerships. Since its founding in 2011, Lifebox has worked in over 116 countries and trained more than 14,400 healthcare providers. Lifebox is registered as a charity in Ethiopia, the UK, and US, with over 50 staff and affiliated faculty, and an operating budget of nearly \$4M supported by individual donors and foundations. To learn more, see: www.lifebox.org

Purpose of the Role

The Senior Program Manager: Women's Surgical Care is a senior strategic role requiring an experienced program manager with demonstrated expertise managing large, multi-country health programs and complex partnerships.

The Lifebox women's surgical safety programs spans multiple countries, multiple Ministry of Health partnerships, professional society collaborations, fellowship program coordination, and extensive device and tool distribution across the spectrum of women's surgical care—including maternal health, obstetric and gynaecologic surgery, trauma surgery for women, breast disease, cancer care, and emergency surgical conditions. This scope requires dedicated senior oversight to ensure strategic coherence, operational excellence, and program impact.

The Senior Program Manager: Women's Surgical Care provides strategic direction, program oversight, and operational leadership for Lifebox's women's surgery programs. Acting as the primary programmatic coordinator between the Chief Program Officer, Global Clinical Director, Senior Clinical Lead for Women's Surgical Care, program managers, country teams, partners, and implementing facilities, the postholder ensures safe, integrated delivery of all women's surgical safety activities.

Working in close partnership with the Senior Clinical Lead, Women's Surgical Care, this role manages all programmatic and operational elements while the Clinical Lead provides technical and clinical direction. Together, they ensure women's surgical care initiatives integrate clinical excellence with programmatic quality and operational efficiency.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Senior Program Manager: Women's Surgical Care leads the global rollout of women's surgical care programs, managing all programmatic, operational, and partnership coordination. The postholder oversees multi-country implementation, ensures alignment between program and clinical components, and drives quality, efficiency, and strategic growth.

The role is responsible for:

- Managing multi-country implementation
- Overseeing program grants and budgets
- Coordinating country-level partnerships and stakeholder engagement
- Ensuring programmatic delivery of women's surgical safety interventions
- Supervising implementation teams
- Ensuring data-driven adaptive management

Key Responsibilities

- 1. Strategic Leadership & Multi-Country Program Oversight**
 - Lead strategic planning, sequencing, and rollout of women's surgical care activities across implementing facilities, ensuring alignment with Lifebox's 2025-2030 Strengthening safe Surgical Systems (S4) Strategy and cohesive program vision.
 - Anticipate and manage program risks through proactive mitigation planning.
- 2. Program Implementation & Coordination**
 - Oversee programmatic delivery of women's surgical safety activities including training logistics, quality improvement programs, simulation coordination, safer surgical pathways, and perioperative safety tool distribution.
 - Coordinate closely with the Senior Clinical Lead and Global Clinical Director to ensure clinical-programmatic alignment and high-quality implementation across all countries.
 - Develop and maintain project management systems (timelines, workflows, milestones, reporting) and ensure consistent application of program standards, SOPs, and implementation protocols.
 - Lead cross-country communication, learning initiatives, and internal coordination meetings.
- 3. Grant Management, Budget Oversight & Donor Compliance**
 - Provide grant delivery management supporting women's surgery programs, leading development of workplans, budgets, procurement plans, and financial forecasts in close collaboration with finance team
 - Ensure grant compliance, donor alignment, sub-award management, and contractual adherence.
 - Coordinate production of donor reporting (narrative, indicator dashboards)
- 4. Partnership & Stakeholder Management**

- Manage operational partnerships with Ministries of Health, OBGYN and surgical societies, professional associations, academic institutions, and implementing NGOs, including MOUs, joint planning, and accountability mechanisms.
- Oversee coordination with fellowship programs and surgical/OBGYN training partners.
- Represent Lifebox on programmatic matters at national, regional, and global platforms, including coordination meetings and planning forums.

5. Team Leadership & Staff Development

- Supervise program managers, coordinators, and implementation staff, providing coaching, mentorship, and professional development opportunities.
- Foster a collaborative, high-performance team culture through regular meetings, performance reviews, and structured communication.

6. Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning & Adaptive Management

- Work with M&E colleagues to ensure strong programmatic indicator frameworks, data collection systems, and facility-level reporting using DHIS2 or similar platforms.
- Use data for adaptive management, timely decision-making, and operational quality assurance.
- Lead documentation of programmatic lessons learned, case studies, and donor updates, contributing to dissemination through operational reports and program briefs.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Essential

- Master's in public health, global health, health systems strengthening, international development, or related field.
- Minimum 8 years of progressive experience in program management within global health or health systems, including multi-country implementation.
- Demonstrated experience managing complex grants (multi-country, multi-component).
- Strong track record working with or alongside Ministries of Health, clinical networks, or professional societies.
- Experience supervising and developing multi-country or remote teams.
- Excellent project management, budgeting, analytical, and reporting skills.
- Strong understanding of women's health, surgical safety, perioperative care, or health systems strengthening in LMICs.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Fluency in English.

Desirable

- Experience in women's quality improvement or surgical systems strengthening.
- Experience working with surgical clinical teams and/or OBGYN.
- Familiarity with LMIC health systems
- Additional languages: French, Spanish, Amharic, Portuguese, or others relevant to program countries.

Attributes

- Strong commitment to the Lifebox mission of improving surgical safety for women globally.
- Strategic thinker with excellent operational execution.

- Culturally sensitive, collaborative, and adaptable.
- Highly organized, proactive, and solution oriented.
- Able to manage complexity, competing priorities, and dynamic program environments.

APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply please email your CV and a cover letter as a single document stating your motivation for the position and how you meet the selection criteria to opportunities@lifebox.org.

Please note the following:

Correspondence will only be entered with candidates who have been short-listed. If you have not received a reply within two weeks of the closing date, please consider your application as unsuccessful.

Closing date: 16 February2026

Applications received after the closing date may be considered until the post is filled.

Lifebox is an equal opportunity employer and values diversity