JOB DESCRIPTION

Job title: Perioperative Anaesthesia Fellow
Location: Malawi – Lilongwe (preferred), Blantyre or Mzuzu
Organisation: Lifebox Foundation
Reporting to: Senior Anaesthesia Lead
Key relationships: Global Clinical Director; Training Co-Ordinator; Clinical and Programme Teams; Ministry of Health; Anaesthesia Associations; Biomedical Engineering Teams; participating Facilities
Time commitment: 3 days per week
Travel: Approximately 15 – 20 % Domestic Travel
Duration: 8 months (effective from November 2026 – June 2027)
Position: 1

About Lifebox

Lifebox is a growing and dynamic global health non-profit founded by Dr Atul Gawande, dedicated to saving lives by improving the safety of surgery and anaesthesia around the world. 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 14,000 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

Improving Anesthesia Safety in Malawi

Supported by the Guernsey Overseas Aid and Development Commission, this project aims to improve surgical safety in Malawi by equipping 10 hospitals with capnography devices and strengthening the capacity of anaesthesia providers to use these devices effectively. The project will assess equipment gaps and facility needs, guide allocation, deliver practical training, and provide follow-up support to promote routine and sustainable use.

Monitoring and evaluation will assess device functionality and utilisation, changes in provider knowledge, confidence and clinical practice; and barriers to sustained implementation.

The project objectives are to:

- Improve patient safety through the introduction and routine use of capnography monitoring in participating facilities.
- Enable early detection and management of respiratory complications.
- Strengthen safe anaesthesia practices in participating facilities.
- Build sustainable clinical capacity through training, ongoing support and effective equipment utilization.

Position Overview

Lifebox seeks a motivated and experienced anaesthesia or perioperative healthcare professional to coordinate and support implementation of the Guernsey Capnography Project in Malawi. Working with Lifebox teams, the Ministry of Health, Anaesthesia Associations and participating facilities, the Fellow will focus on device gap assessments, capnograph allocation, provider training, follow-up monitoring, stakeholder coordination and anaesthesia safety research.

The position is open to appropriately qualified physician anaesthesiologists, anaesthesia clinical officers, nurse anaesthetists and other anaesthesia professionals with relevant clinical and coordination capabilities.

Key Roles and Responsibilities

Device gap assessment and allocation

- Assess the availability, functionality and utilisation of perioperative monitoring devices, particularly capnographs, at hospitals within scope.
- Analyze device gaps alongside anesthesia workload, services provided, staffing and training needs.
- Work with Lifebox and hospital teams to identify appropriate centers for capnograph allocation, considering clinical need and the capacity to support routine use.
- Prepare a device gap assessment report and recommendations to guide distribution across the 10 participating hospitals.
- Coordinate capnograph distribution with Lifebox's program team and participating hospitals.
- Support hospital teams to integrate capnography into routine anesthesia care.

Provider training and follow-up monitoring

- Plan and deliver training on capnograph use using Lifebox training materials adapted to the local context.
- Assess provider knowledge and practical skills before and after training and maintain training records.

- Conduct follow-up visits and regular communication with participating hospitals to assess device functionality, availability and routine use.
- Collect baseline and follow-up information on providers' knowledge, confidence and anesthesia monitoring practices using agreed tools.
- Identify barriers to use, including equipment faults, consumable shortages and additional training needs, and support corrective action.
- Share findings with Lifebox and facility teams to guide improvements and sustained use.

Anesthesia Safety Research

- Contribute to anesthesia safety related research proposals, protocols, data collection tools and required approvals.
- Support approved data collection, analysis and interpretation while maintaining confidentiality and data quality.
- Contribute to reports, abstracts, presentations or manuscripts as needed.

Project Co-ordination and Reporting

- Develop and maintain an eight-month implementation plan with agreed milestones and deliverables.
- Coordinate with Lifebox teams, the Ministry of Health, Anaesthesia Associations and participating facilities.
- Participate in project and Lifebox team meetings and provide progress updates.
- Prepare monthly reports on assessments, distribution, training, follow-up, challenges and recommendations.
- Maintain accurate project documentation, share information promptly and escalate implementation risks.

Position Requirements

- A qualified physician anaesthesiologist, anaesthesia clinical officer or nurse anaesthetist
- Current registration or authorisation to practise with the relevant regulatory body in Malawi, as applicable.
- Relevant clinical experience providing anaesthesia or perioperative care in Malawi.
- Demonstrated competence in research methods, including study design, data collection, analysis, interpretation and research ethics.
- Experience or demonstrated interest in provider training, quality improvement and medical device implementation.
- Ability to prepare clear reports and communicate findings effectively.

- Availability to travel to participating hospitals and dedicate the agreed time to completing the eight-month fellowship.

Fellowship Benefits and Professional Development

- Hands-on experience in program delivery, operations management, and research in surgery and anaesthesia, with a focus on low-resource settings.
- Comprehensive mentorship and technical support from Lifebox's global team, including senior clinical leaders, innovation experts, researchers and program staff.
- Opportunities to contribute to impactful, publishable academic work and collaborate with an international network of clinicians, researchers and global health stakeholders.
- Monthly stipend of $500 USD, payable following submission and approval of the required monthly activity report in accordance with Lifebox processes

Accountability

Direct accountability is to the Lifebox Anesthesia Lead with close collaboration with Training Co-Ordinator and Malawi based Senior Program Manager and Program.

Application Process

To apply please email your CV and a cover letter as a single document explaining your motivation and how you are best suited for this position to opportunities@lifebox.org.

Please note the following:
Correspondence will only be entered with candidates who have been shortlisted. If you have not received a reply within two weeks of the closing date, please consider your application unsuccessful.

Closing date: 28th October 2026

Lifebox is an equal opportunity employer and values diversity