

Join Our Community

To join the Africa Network for Associate Clinicians and be part of our online discussions, please register at:

www.associateclinicians.org

Here you can:

- Keep current with emerging literature on training for priority health services
- Share your associate clinician experience with other stakeholders
- Help us to promote the professional identity of associate clinicians
- Support best practices in training
- Collaborate on research activities

For More Information

Regional Coordinator
Africa Network for Associate Clinicians
c/o Chainama College of Health Sciences
Box 33991
Lusaka, Zambia
info@associateclinicians.org



Funding

The Africa Network for Associate Clinicians is supported by the Averting Maternal Death and Disability Program (AMDD) at the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University (www.amddprogram.org), and funded by the generous support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark (www.um.dk/en).

Sources

- World Health Organization. The world health report 2006: working together for health. Available at www.who.int/whr/2006/whr06_en.pdf.
- World Health Organization. Media fact sheet No. 348 (May 2012). Available at www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs348/en/index.html.

Credits

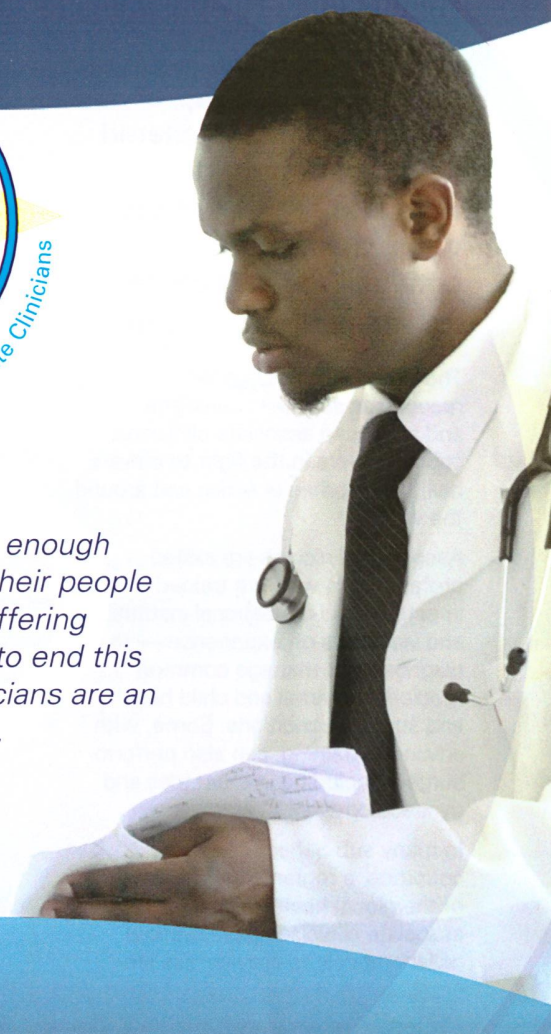
Photography: Fiona Basile, Mark Tuschman
Design: embodyart.org

Africa Network for Associate Clinicians

Supporting Those Who Save Lives



Many countries do not have enough health care workers to keep their people healthy and stop needless suffering and death. But there is hope to end this inequality, and associate clinicians are an important part of the solution.





What Is an Associate Clinician and How Do They Save Lives?

Associate clinicians are an important group of registered and regulated health care providers whose clinical skills often mean the difference between life and death for many global citizens.

The World Health Organization recognises associate clinicians and advanced associate clinicians, critical players in the fight to elevate health outcomes in Africa and around the world.

Associate clinicians are skilled professionals who are trained — in established educational institutions and via hands-on experience — to diagnose and manage common medical, maternal and child health, and surgical conditions. Some, with advanced training, can also perform surgery, including in obstetrics and gynaecology.

In many sub-Saharan African countries, a region with only 3% of the global health workforce, associate clinicians have worked collaboratively to provide this life-

saving care for decades. But their effective service has not been well documented or acknowledged by health systems, particularly at regional and global levels.

Evidence shows that with appropriate training and a supportive working environment, associate clinicians have similar outcomes to doctors when performing emergency obstetric care, along with other types of services. Associate clinicians are also likely to remain in their communities, even in the most remote areas.

Initially seen as a temporary fix when doctors were not available, **associate clinicians are increasingly being recognised as a permanent part of a team of health care providers working hard to expand access to quality care in many regions.**

Now more than ever, associate clinicians must be supported and held up as a strong example of how health care can evolve to serve those most in need.

Associate Clinicians Include:

- Assistant medical officers
- Clinical associates
- Clinical officers
- Health officers
- Medical assistants
- Medical licentiate practitioners
- Physician assistants
- Physician associates
- Surgical technicians
- Técnicos de cirugía

In different countries, these health care providers are known by different names. Collectively, they are called associate clinicians and now speak with one voice.

What's in a Name?

From Non-Physician Clinicians to Associate Clinicians

The term “associate clinicians” was adopted in April 2012, after regional consultation with the clinicians themselves. Formerly known as non-physician clinicians, associate clinicians are now being recognised for what they are: not doctors, but an important part of the health care team committed to better health outcomes for all.

The Africa Network for Associate Clinicians

The Africa Network for Associate Clinicians (ANAC) was formed in 2010 in Lusaka, Zambia. Our purpose is to:

- Strengthen political and professional support for associate clinicians;
- Improve and enhance the quality and development of associate clinician training in priority health services, including emergency obstetric and newborn care; and
- Contribute to an overall reduction in morbidity and mortality in sub-Saharan Africa.

ANAC is a unique regional community that brings together the powerful voices of associate clinicians. We are a global example of what can and must be done to support those who are saving lives — ensuring that all people everywhere have access to quality care provided by skilled professionals.

Led by members from associate clinician training programs in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Tanzania and Zambia, ANAC is comprised of associate clinicians, educators, advocacy organisations and other stakeholders.

Associate Clinicians & Maternal and Child Health

Each and every day, some 800 women die from preventable causes during pregnancy and childbirth. 99% of these deaths occur in developing countries where skilled health care workers are not readily available. The Africa Network for Associate Clinicians brings together members and stakeholders to share knowledge and expertise in associate clinician training and education in maternal and child health and other medical areas — and lives are being saved.

