

**Title:** Perspectives of surgical care providers in Liberia regarding ethical challenges in global surgery collaborations

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**Abstract:**

**Objective:** To understand the ethical concerns, considerations, and priorities in global surgery collaborations from the perspective of surgical care providers in Liberia.

**Background:** As the field of global health continues to develop, including increased consensus on the field's key definitions and priorities, increased attention is being paid to its ethical considerations. Many ethical issues in the field of global health and global surgery have been identified, including dissonance between the assumed needs of communities and local realities, lack of adequate pre-departure training for visitors, and the burden that visitors place on their host communities. However, there is a significant dearth in literature reviews and original research that includes the voices of providers from Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs). Acknowledging the vastness, diversity, and value of the voices of surgical care providers in LMICs, this project seeks to begin to fill this gap in research by centering the voices of surgical providers in Liberia.

**Methods:** Using purposive/convenience sampling methods, we recruited surgical care providers (surgeons, nurses, OR technicians, and others) working in Liberia who have been involved with international partnerships for humanitarian work. Semi-structured interviews are conducted using a structured interview guide with open-ended questions. The interview guide is divided into three sections: provider background and scope of practice; experiences with HIC partnerships; and barriers and facilitators of past partnerships and ethical challenges identified. Interviews are transcribed, made software ready (NVivo12), and analyzed using conventional thematic qualitative analysis. A preliminary codebook will be drafted based on a literature review and review of the interview transcripts.

**Discussion:** While still in the data-collection phase, we hope this project will provide much-needed insight into key ethical considerations within the field of global surgery, prompting reflection on the value of global surgical partnerships and how to best foster supportive and impactful bidirectional co-participatory models.