

Training Surgeons in Children's Orthopedic Surgery in Developing Countries:

Children's Orthopedics Education for Developing Nations (COEDN) is a unique full-time Fellowship training model for orthopedic surgeons in developing nations.

The current need for specialized pediatric orthopedic care in sub-Saharan Africa is great. There are only a handful of formal training centers and less than 25 pediatric orthopedic surgeons for a population of over 1 billion. There are studies showing millions of children in need of surgery right now. Over 100,000 in Kenya alone for example.

Our program: Multiple international volunteer surgeon-educators travel to the host country to provide Fellowship level training for 4-6 weeks each- for 3 orthopedic surgeons who are interested in becoming their country's leaders in pediatric orthopedic surgery. We train our trainees hands-on for a total of 12-24 months full time.

Unlike past classic fellowship train-abroad programs, our unique model trains surgeons in-country, in their own operating rooms, with the Fellows being the lead surgeons. The ultimate goal is to have these fully trained surgeons stay on and establish a permanent accredited training center of their own.

With Rotary support, COEDN ran a successful program in Tanzania in 2017-18. The "graduate" surgeons have now trained 3 of their own! We have recently trained 3 surgeons in Uganda and now are ready to begin in Kumasi, Ghana in Jan. 2026, for which we seek Rotary funding. Funding is for our volunteer surgeons expenses- travel, housing, meals and incidentals, and also fees and training support for our Fellows. See: [Matchinggrants.org](https://www.matchinggrants.org). Global project #3703

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Common severe deformities seen and treated.