

Rwanda Report 2023

Our first visit to Africa since Covid-19 stopped all travel for a number of years! We set off for Rwanda at the beginning of September, using their own airline, on good authority that it was good (and it was) – on a direct flight from Heathrow which saved a lot of hanging about at hub airports.

Dot and Kate have been to Rwanda before and were pleased to be returning. Mona had not travelled with FoAN before, so although very well -travelled otherwise, just not with FoAN on one of our African visits.

We had been told that we were unable to have the nurses from the District hospitals, just a week before we travelled, so it was with some interest that we turned up on Monday morning at the hospital to find out who we would be teaching! We were delighted to be told that we would be delivering training to six new recruits, who's first day it was in theatre, and a couple of experienced members of staff too.

They were a bright bunch of participants, and we sped through the education with the occasional hiccups (but not as many as in the past) with lots of intelligent questions from the newbies. They were excited to be starting new jobs and we are pleased to be able to set them on their way with a good induction course.



During the week we were able to meet with the Director of Nursing who encouraged a visit to the Ministry of Health to meet with the Director of Workforce Development. It was duly arranged, and we visited the Minister with Dancille, Theatre Matron from the hospital. He is a Doctor and has

previously worked at CHUK, so we understood each other from the beginning. The meeting went well and we are to write a proposal in order to get their support for a future visit which will be for the District Hospital perioperative staff.

We enjoyed supper with our two Rwandan Clinical Ambassadors on Thursday evening at the hotel and despite a very noisy table due to the TV and a full restaurant, it was a very pleasant evening catching up with them and renewing links and friendships.

The Director of Nursing, the Matron and Theatre Manager were all able to be present for the closing ceremony and certificate presentations which was excellent, given how busy they all are. We are most grateful for their organisation to ensure our week went smoothly.



We look forward to our return before too long.

Kate Woodhead- October 2023