



**COSECSA**

College of Surgeons of  
East, Central and Southern Africa



ANNUAL  
REPORT

**2025**









Paediatric Spine Surgery led by Joseph Theuri, Nyambati  
Ogeto & Maawiya Abdurahman  
Kijabe Cure Hospital, July 2025

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***Vision*** → to be the reference surgical body in the region of East, Central and South Africa and beyond.

***Mission*** → to promote excellence in Surgical Care, Education and Training, and Research.

# *Message* from the President and Secretary General

COSECSA marks 2.5 decades of surgical transformation through training, education, examination and Research. With support from our esteemed partners, the College has reached millions of people, especially in communities that are underserved in 24 Countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

**Our Impact:** The College has reached **152** Accredited Training Sites/hospitals, increasing the intake from **300+** registered/enrolled trainees to **420** with a total of **1350** trainees currently undertaking training across the 12 COSECSA Surgical Programmes & **graduated 1048** Surgeons. Trainees in the COSECSA rural, semi-urban and urban hospitals have performed over **695,475 surgical procedures** translating into the number of patients that have accessed surgical care.

**Our Programmes:** Over the 2.5 decades, the College has transformed from just training to supporting trainees, Faculty, Programme Directors and fellows through various programmes including; Scholarship Grants (training & Examination), Women-specific Grants, Leadership Capacity Development - Training of Trainers (ToTs), Online Surgical Lecture Series, Development of Orthopaedic and Trauma Clinical Guidelines, Post Fellowship Programme, Rotation/Exchange Programme, Programme Directors' Clinical Leadership Course (PDiCL) & Annual Subscription Subsidy, Research Programme (Research/Travel Grants, Mentorship, Workshops) and through ECAJS - Promoting Research publication.



**Looking ahead:** For sustainability & continuous strengthening of the surgical capacity in the region, in addition to the above programmes, the College together with the Royal College of Surgeons Ireland (RCSI) under the Collaboration Programme will focus on the Quality of Educators and creating an Academy of Educators; quality of the Examination Process by establishing the Next Generation of Examiners; Improving hospital accreditation systems; and Digitalization and localization to enhance the day-to-day trainee experience.



Prof. Laston CHIKOYA  
*President*

**Gratitude:** COSECSA has reached far but is still moving, it wouldn't have been possible without the generous Collaboration Partners. We extend our sincere gratitude to the Royal College of Surgeons (RCSI) and the Irish Aid for relentlessly walking the journey with us for countless years and to ECSA-HC, American College of Surgeons (ACS), BJS, The Beit Trust, Second Chance, Pan African Academy of Surgeons (PAACS), AO Alliance, Smile Train, UGHE, Operation Smile, KidsOR, ReSurge International, Intuitive Foundation for their support towards all the above activities as well as the College Administration Support.



Prof Abebe Bekele  
*Secretary General*



Surgeons in Action  
July 2025

# The *Problem*

5 billion people globally, lack access to safe, affordable and timely surgical care with the majority being in sub-Saharan Africa. The surgical workforce crisis in the LMICs is marked by a severe shortage of specialists and profound disparities in their distribution. Despite efforts to increase the number of surgeons, population growth continues to outpace gains, leaving billions of people without access to safe and affordable surgical care. The persistent workforce crisis in the COSECSA region is driven by a combination of systemic and local challenges: **Inadequate funding; Surgeon absorption issues; Gender inequity; Systemic weaknesses; Low surgeon density; Extreme disparities; Urban concentration; Gender imbalance; Specialty gaps.**



million surgeons of the above shortage are needed in Africa only



million health workers shortfall must be closed globally



countries with critical health workforce crisis. 36 of these are in Africa



of the global burden of disease is suffered by Africa



of the global health workforce (Africa)



Only invested by Africa in health resources

# Tackling the Problem

COSECSA addresses the above challenge through its core function and mandate of; Training, Education, Examination and Research and under the following key components/ activities;

## ① Accreditation

To facilitate the Training of Surgeons in Member States, **152 accredited training sites** under take COSECSA Programs

## ② Scholarships

support from Collaboration Partners, COSECSA offers scholarships to trainees to enable them complete their surgical training. **130 scholars received support in 2025**

## ③ Training of Trainers

To support the development of our trainers and programme directors, and facilitate quality surgical training in accredited hospitals, **the College has trained 954 trainers**

## ④ Clinical Guidelines

To improve patient outcomes in trauma care, promote efficient and cost-effective treatment strategies, and Standardize clinical practices in healthcare.

## ⑤ Curriculum Reviews & Development

To ensure that educational programs remain relevant, effective, and aligned with surgical evolvments.

## ⑥ Exams Writing & Standard Setting

To maintain high standards in assessment & ensure the exam content remains relevant and aligned with best practices in surgical education.

## ⑦ Essential Surgical Training

To improve access to surgical care in a rural setting by equipping General Medical Officers with basic surgical and referral techniques.

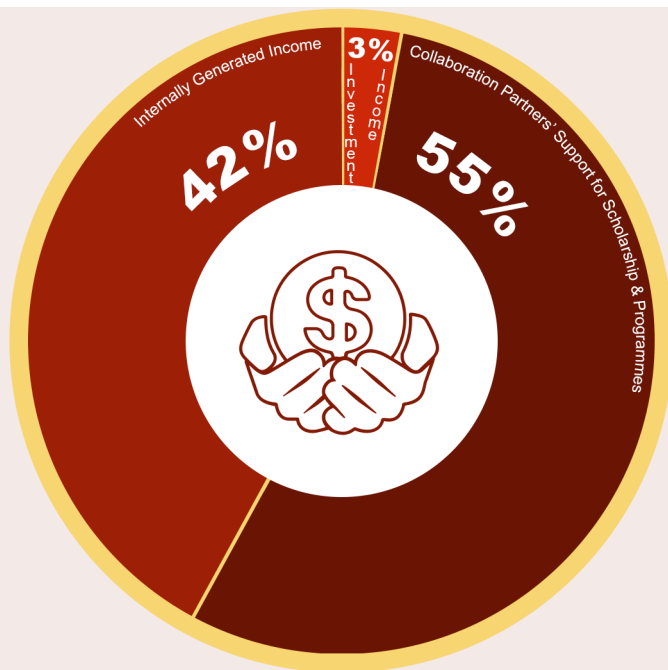
## ⑧ Post Fellowship & Exchange Program

To provide surgeons with additional exposure to a sub-specialty so they can lead, teach, and deliver high-quality care in those areas.

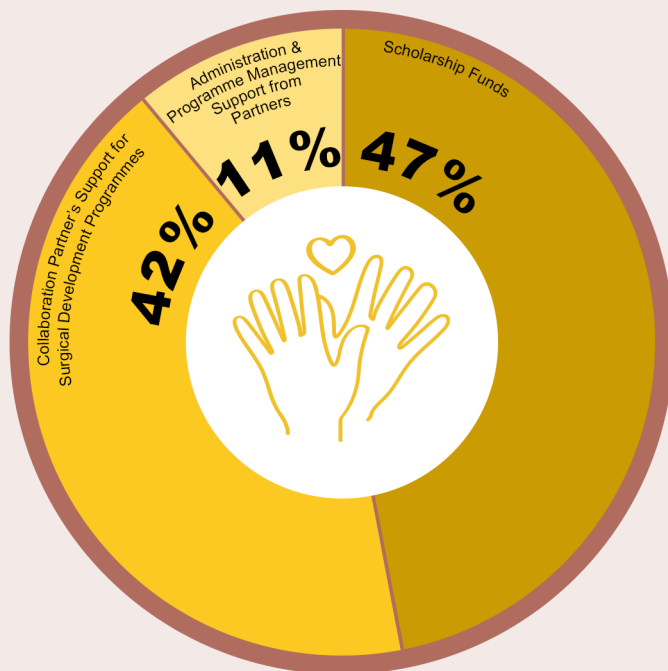
## ⑨ Research & Publication

To strengthen **knowledge generation, management and utilization** to inform decision making and programming in health





How  
*our work is funded*



The  
*Impact of your giving*

# *Our* Partners, Fellows & Supporters...

Your unwavering commitment continues to fuel COSECSA's mission. Your trust, collaboration, and generosity have been the cornerstone of our progress - empowering us to train more surgeons, strengthen health systems, and expand access to safe surgical care across the region. Together, we are not only transforming surgical education but also transforming lives. Your belief in our vision inspires us to strive higher, reach further, and ensure that quality surgical care becomes a reality for every African.

# *The Governance Organs...*

Your visionary leadership and steadfast guidance continue to steer COSECSA toward excellence. Through your strategic direction, integrity, and dedication, you ensure that our mission remains strong, our operations transparent, and our impact far-reaching. Your collective wisdom and commitment uphold the values that define COSECSA driving sustainable growth, accountability, and innovation in surgical education across Africa.

# Highlights from 2025

ESSENTIAL  
HEALTH  
WORKERS  
TRAINED



PART 1  
EXAMS CANDIDATES



TRAINEES

ENROLLED



EXAMINERS

CONFIRMED



**SURGERIES  
LOGGED**

87,423



30



**SURGEONS  
ELECTED INTO COSECSA**

4,160



**PARTICIPANTS  
IN TRAINING  
EVENTS**

28 SURGEONS



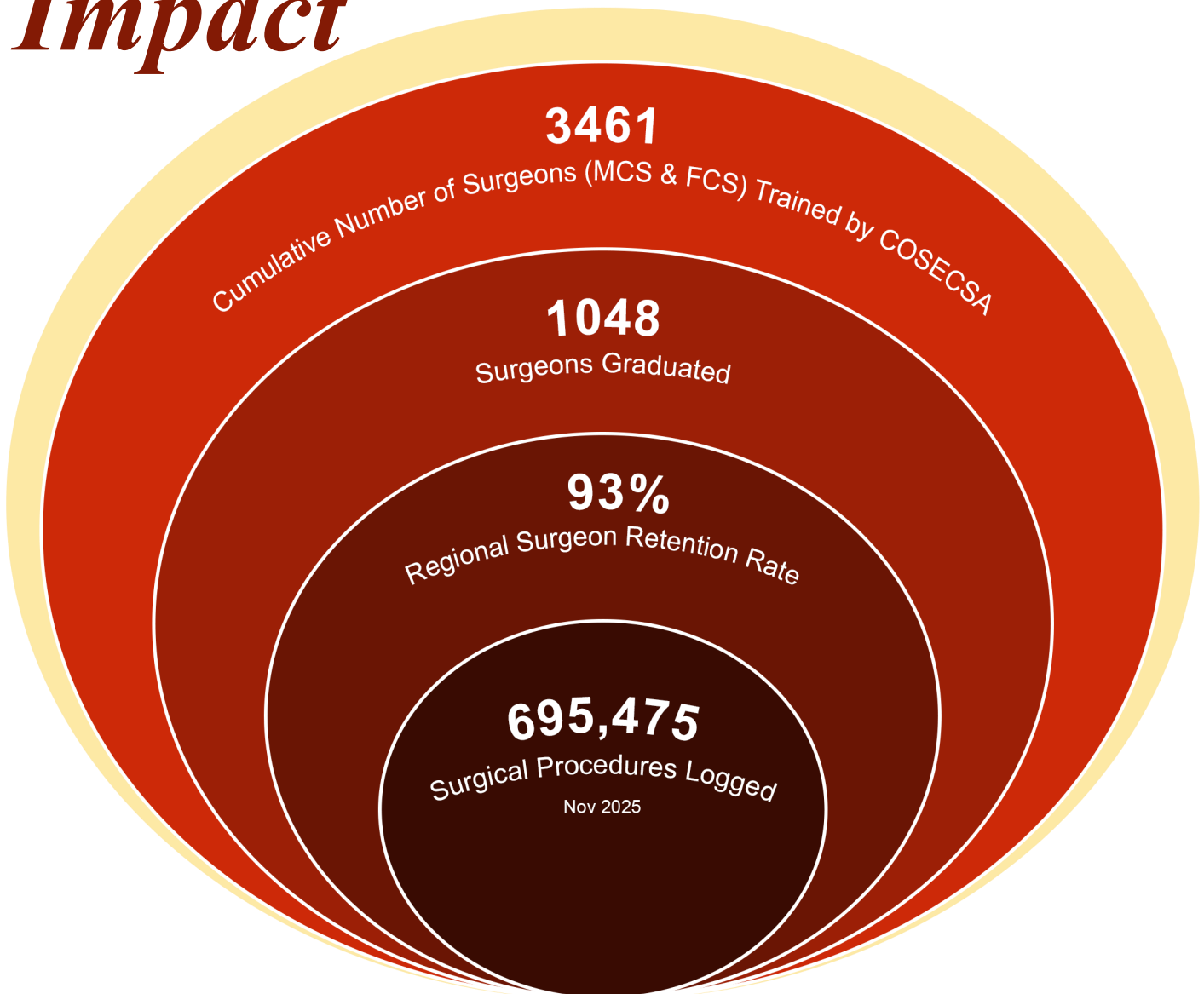
**RECEIVED  
RESEARCH  
MENTORSHIP**





Adamtachew Tamir - Ethiopia  
2025

# COSECSA's *Regional Impact*



# What we do; *Our Main Focus*

## Research and Publications

We facilitate and strengthen knowledge generation, management and utilization to inform decision making and implementation science in the region. Facilitate and support dissemination through the College Journal - ECAJS

## Assessments/Examination

Foster quality in Surgical care through internationally benchmarked surgical exit examinations, and strengthen health systems towards the attainment of the Universal Health Coverage

## Surgical Training and Education

We build the capacity of Human Resources for Health in East, Central and Southern Africa through a 5-year Surgical Training Programme of twelve different specialties and sub-specialties;

|                     |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| General Surgery     | Urology                 |
| Neurosurgery        | Cardiothoracic          |
| Orthopaedic Surgery | Paediatric-Orthopaedics |
| Otorhinolaryngology | Breast Surgery          |
| Paediatric Surgery  | Upper GI                |
| Plastic Surgery     | Surgical Endoscopy      |





## Policy and Advocacy

We foster regional health policy agenda, strategic partnerships and collaboration towards achieving Access to Quality and Affordable Surgery.



## Patient Care

We offer High-quality surgical training which is essential for improving patient care and achieving better patient-centered outcomes. Our surgeons develop strong technical skills, sound clinical judgment, and effective communication abilities, training programs enhance the safety, precision, and efficiency of surgical procedures. Our surgeons are better equipped to prevent complications, make informed intraoperative decisions, and provide compassionate, individualized care. This translates into higher patient satisfaction, faster recovery times, and overall improved health outcomes.





COSECSA Award from the  
Global Surgery Foundation  
for the Most Accessed Course  
on SurgHub  
Harare, Zimbabwe,  
December 2025



ASPIRE Award honoring the  
COSECSA-RCSI Collaboration  
Programme for Excellence in  
Health Professions Education  
Barcelona, Spain,  
August, 2025





# OUR AFRICA

## *Footprint*

24

*Countries in  
Sub-Saharan  
Africa*

### COSECSA

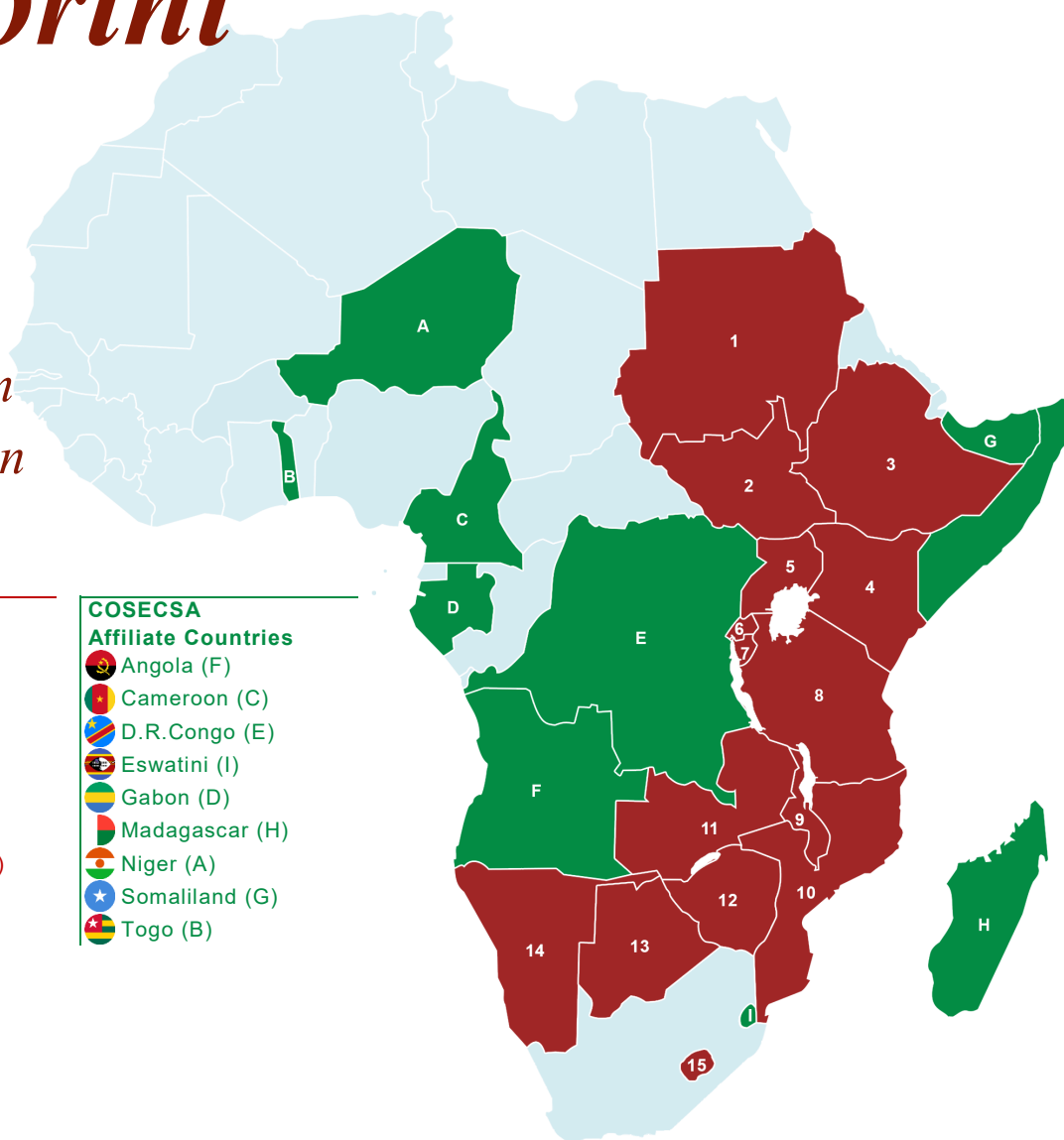
#### Member Countries

- Botswana (13)
- Burundi (7)
- Ethiopia (3)
- Kenya (4)
- Lesotho (15)
- Malawi (9)
- Mozambique (10)
- Namibia (14)
- Rwanda (6)
- South Sudan (2)
- Sudan (1)
- Tanzania (8)
- Uganda (5)
- Zambia (11)
- Zimbabwe (12)

### COSECSA

#### Affiliate Countries

- Angola (F)
- Cameroon (C)
- D.R.Congo (E)
- Eswatini (I)
- Gabon (D)
- Madagascar (H)
- Niger (A)
- Somaliland (G)
- Togo (B)





# Our 2025 *Implemented Activities*

Trainees beginning an Operation  
Kenya, 2025

# Training Site *Accreditation*



**41** Sites assessed in 2025.

**152** Sites now conducting  
COSECSA Training

Accreditation Team Conducts a Site Visit  
Bugando, Tanzania, February 2025



# *Scholarships*



**130** Scholarships Awarded

**622** Scholarship  
Applications reviewed

Scholars at a Cleft Training Workshop  
Kijabe, Kenya, July 2025



# Research *Grants & Workshops*



**13** Grants Awarded

**>230** Participants in  
Research Workshops

Research Methodology Workshop  
Mombasa, Kenya, May 2025

# Trainee's *Exchange* *Program*



Selamawit Wolde, Focus Mawe & Bright Mwafulirwa undertaking Exchanges.

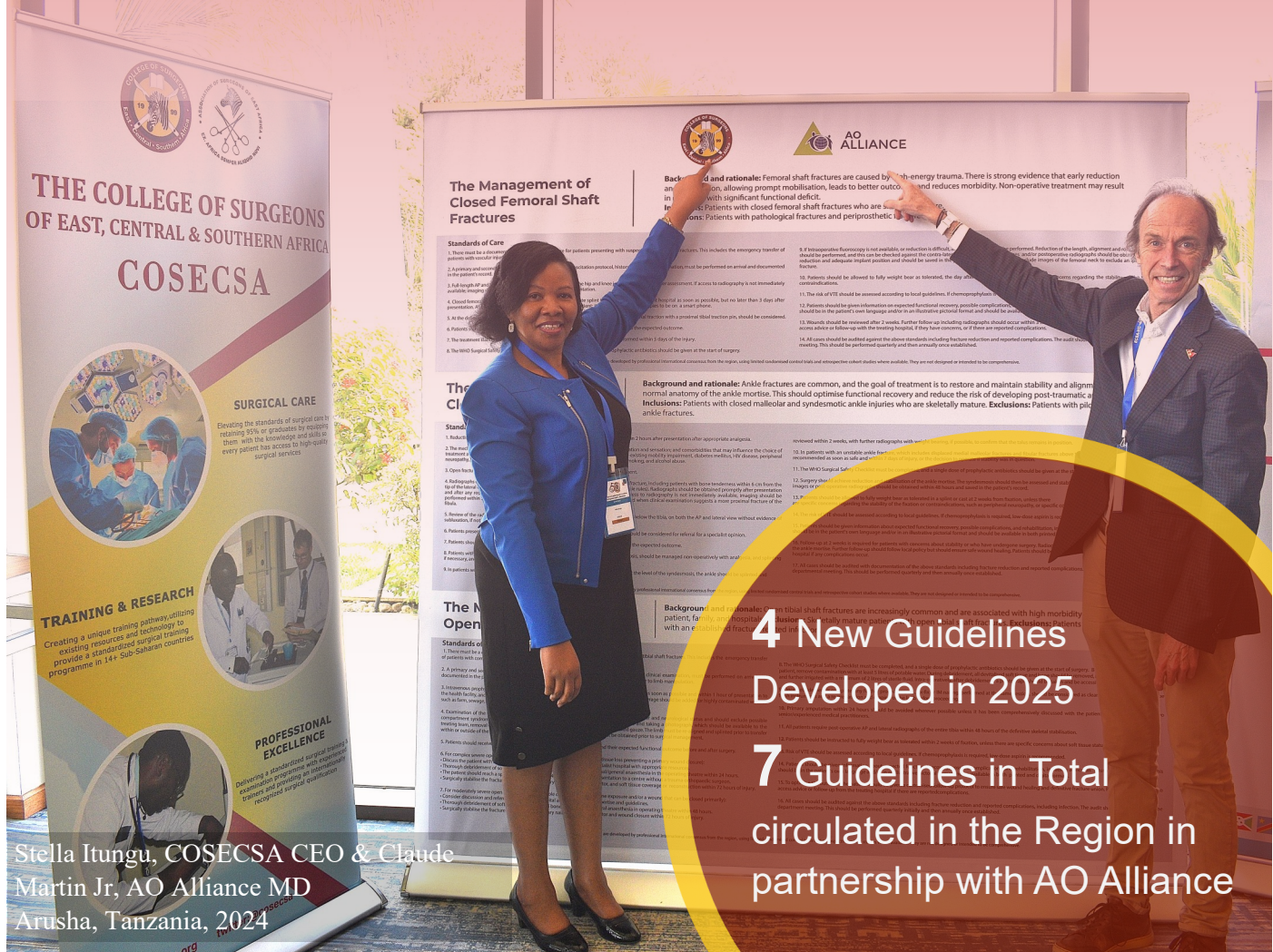


**9** Trainees completed  
Surgical Rotations within  
the Region





# Orthopaedic Clinical Guidelines Development



Stella Itungu, COSECSA CEO & Claude Martin Jr, AO Alliance MD  
Arusha, Tanzania, 2024

4 New Guidelines  
Developed in 2025  
7 Guidelines in Total  
circulated in the Region in  
partnership with AO Alliance



# MCS & FCS *Part I* *Examinations*

**300** Candidates Passed  
the Exams in **20** Countries  
**152** in MCS, **148** in MCS

Candidates Sitting the Part I Examinations  
KUTRRH, Kenya, September 2025

# Examination *Case* *Writing Workshop*

**25** Surgical Specialists  
refined the COSECSA  
Exams Policies & Standards

Panel Heads & Specialists Meet & Greet  
Nairobi, Kenya, June 2025



# Paediatric *Examiners* *Workshops*



**9** COSECSA Paediatric  
Specialists Capacity  
Development

Paediatric Surgeons in Attendance  
Blantyre, Malawi, September 2025



# Country Representatives *Workshop*



Country Representatives &  
Executives Engaged in  
College Orientation

Country Representatives in Attendance  
Nairobi, Kenya, June 2025

# Participation *at* *Global Forums*

**11 FORUMS  
ATTENDED BY  
COSECSA  
EXECUTIVES**



Opening of the Cleft Care  
Centre (Smile Train)  
Kamusi, Ghana, June 2025



Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh - RCSEd  
Triennial & International Conference  
Edinburgh, Scotland, June 2025



ECSA-HC Best Practice Forum  
Port Louis, Mauritius, August 2025



Inaugural Pan-Africa Plastic  
Surgery Conference  
Kigali, Rwanda, February 2025



Japan Surgical Society Annual Congress  
Sendai, Japan, April 2025

Myriad USA Annual Study Visit  
New York, USA, April 2025





# Our 5-Year *Strategic Outlook*

## **BUILDING ON 25 YEARS OF ADVANCING SURGICAL EDUCATION, EXAMINATION AND RESEARCH IN THE EAST, CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICA.**

As COSECSA embarks on the next phase of its journey, our commitment to advancing surgical excellence in East, Central, and Southern Africa remains resolute. Building on a legacy of transformative growth and measurable impact, the 2026–2030 Strategic Plan focuses on deepening our influence across the surgical ecosystem; strengthening systems, empowering professionals, and expanding access to safe, affordable, and equitable surgical care. We recognize the dynamic global and regional context in which we operate, marked by economic pressures, demographic change, and evolving health priorities, and we are prepared to respond with agility, innovation, and collaboration.

Over the next five years, COSECSA will scale its capacity-building initiatives through digital transformation, expanded training networks, and enhanced accreditation systems to ensure the highest standards of surgical education and practice. We will invest in research, knowledge exchange, and innovation to generate locally relevant solutions to Africa's most pressing surgical challenges. A renewed emphasis on equity and inclusivity will guide our efforts to empower women, rural providers, and underrepresented groups, ensuring that the benefits of our work reach every community. Our continuous professional development programs, mentorship networks, and post-fellowship pathways will nurture the next generation of surgical leaders equipped to drive change across the continent.

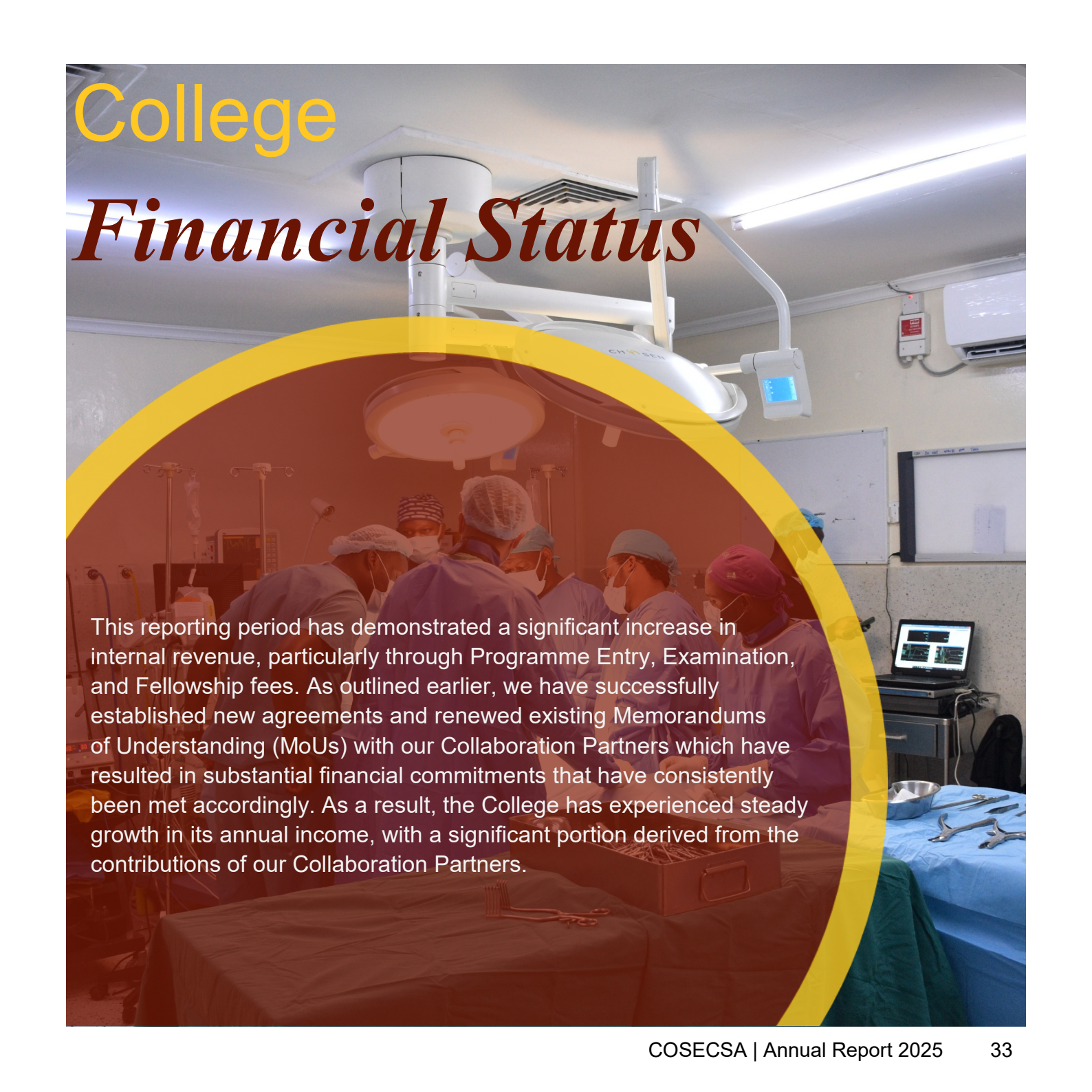


Sustainability and impact will remain at the heart of COSECSA's vision. We will strengthen institutional resilience through strategic partnerships, diversified funding, and evidence-driven governance. By aligning our programs with national and regional health priorities, COSECSA aims to reinforce health systems and contribute meaningfully to universal access to surgical care. By 2030, we envision a stronger, interconnected network of skilled surgeons, well-resourced training institutions, and thriving surgical ecosystems that deliver quality care to every African in need. Through foresight, collaboration, and unwavering dedication, COSECSA will continue to transform surgical care, turning ambition into action and excellence into equity.



*Over the next five years,  
we will deepen our impact,  
empowering professionals  
and expanding access to  
surgical care across  
Africa.*



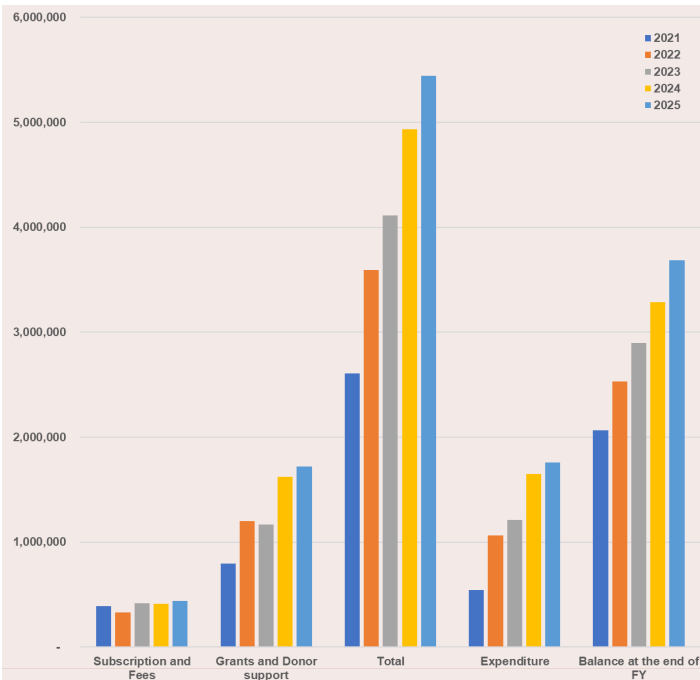


# College

## *Financial Status*

This reporting period has demonstrated a significant increase in internal revenue, particularly through Programme Entry, Examination, and Fellowship fees. As outlined earlier, we have successfully established new agreements and renewed existing Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with our Collaboration Partners which have resulted in substantial financial commitments that have consistently been met accordingly. As a result, the College has experienced steady growth in its annual income, with a significant portion derived from the contributions of our Collaboration Partners.



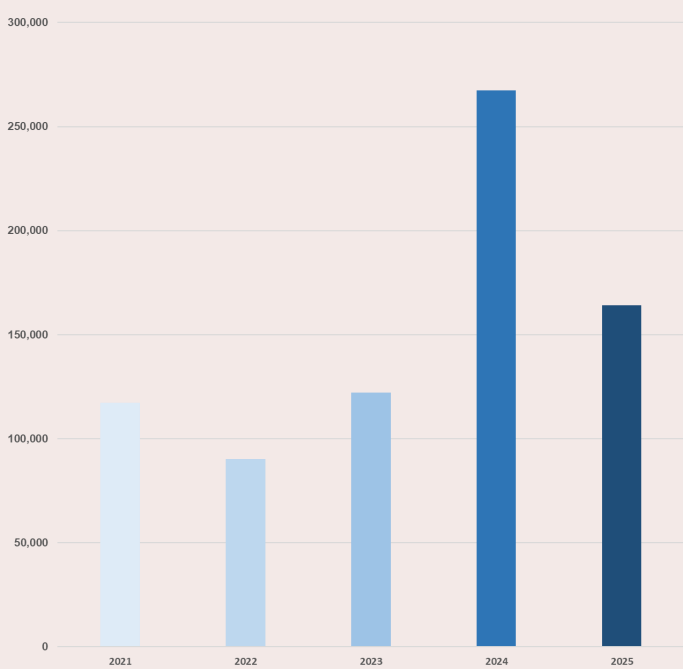


# Income & Expenditure

## *Analysis*

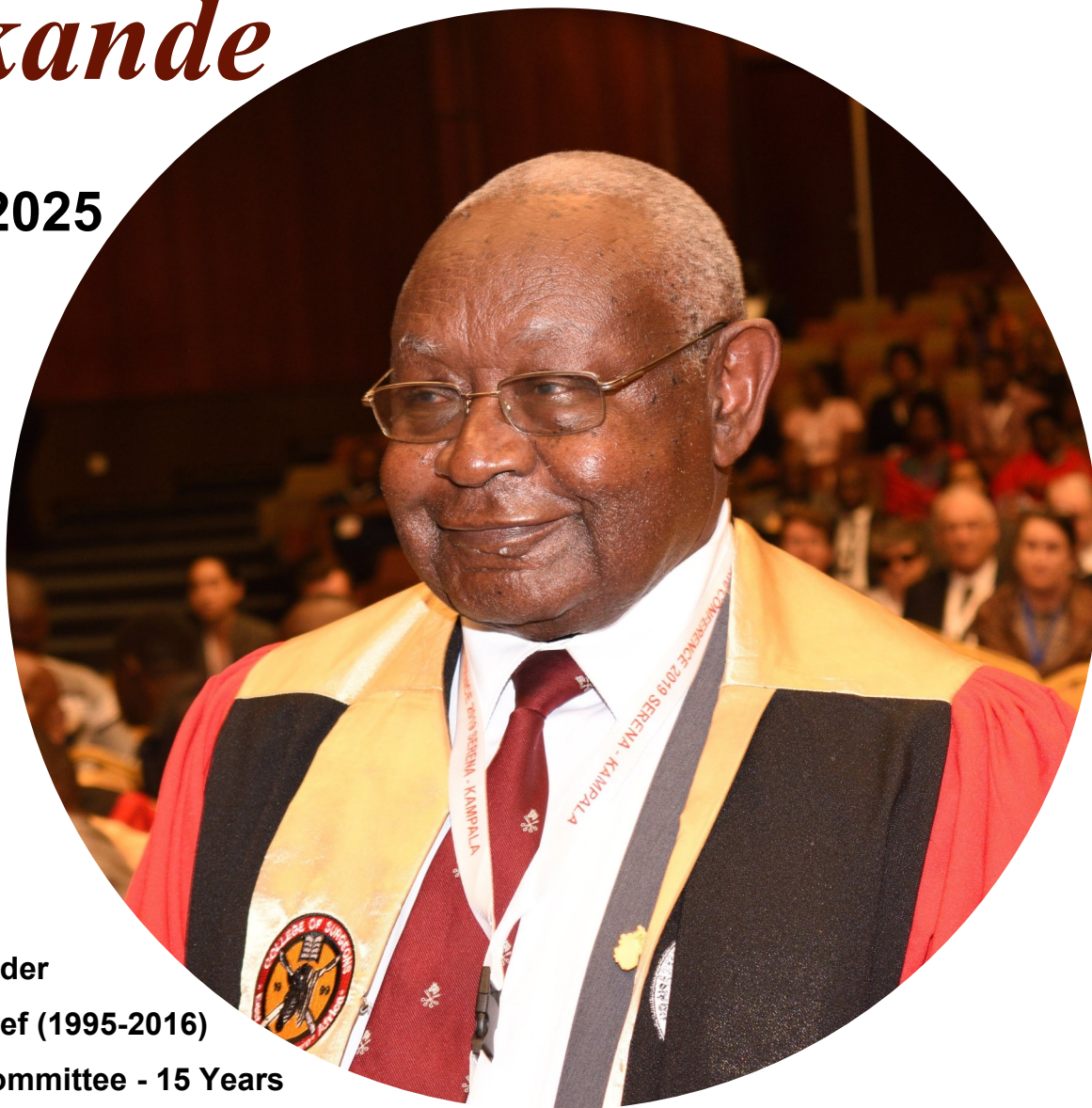
# Council Meetings

## *Cost*



# Prof *Ignatius* *Kakande*

**1942 - 2025**



**ECAJS Founder**

**Editor-in-Chief (1995-2016)**

**Executive Committee - 15 Years**



*WISA*

taking the road  
less travelled

# Empowering *Women in Surgery*

[womeninsurgeryafrica.org](http://womeninsurgeryafrica.org)







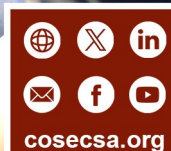


To promote - **Health Professions**  
To promote - **Education & Research**  
To Advance - **Surgical Practice**



#### SECRETARIAT

ECSCA-Health Community, 157 Olorien, Njiro Road  
P.O. Box 1009, Arusha, Tanzania  
[info@cossecsa.org](mailto:info@cossecsa.org)



#### DONATE

Transform surgical education and healthcare with us  
<https://bit.ly/48bc4rw>