



# A Policy Brief on Comparative Medicine in the Democratic Republic of Congo: An African Regional Analysis,

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## Abstract

Comparative medicine studies in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) analyse variations in disease patterns, healthcare delivery, and therapeutic outcomes across its regions. This analysis is fundamental for formulating context-specific policies to improve maternal and reproductive health services. This policy brief synthesises evidence from comparative medicine studies within the DRC relevant to obstetrics and gynaecology. Its objective is to identify systemic strengths, persistent gaps, and actionable policy opportunities to enhance women's healthcare across the nation's diverse regions. A desk-based review and synthesis of published and grey literature on comparative medicine within the DRC was undertaken. The analysis focused on studies comparing health indicators, service delivery, and outcomes across different provinces, healthcare sectors, and population groups. Pronounced urban-rural disparities exist, notably in access to skilled birth attendance, where coverage in some rural provinces is less than half that of major urban centres. Recurrent themes include resource inequity, fragmented referral systems, and the disruptive impact of regional conflict on service continuity as primary barriers to equitable care. Comparative analysis demonstrates that geographical and socio-economic disparities are primary determinants of maternal health outcomes in the DRC, beyond clinical capacity alone. A uniform national policy approach is insufficient; regionally differentiated strategies are necessary. Policymakers should prioritise decentralising specialist training and incentivising healthcare worker retention in underserved regions. Investment must focus on strengthening integrated referral pathways and tailoring supply chains to address distinct regional logistical challenges. comparative medicine, health policy, Democratic Republic of Congo, maternal health, health systems, regional disparities This brief provides a consolidated analysis for policymakers, translating comparative medical research into specific, actionable recommendations for reducing regional inequities in obstetric and gynaecological care in the DRC.

**Keywords:** *Comparative medicine, Healthcare delivery, Disease patterns, African regions, Democratic Republic of Congo, Regional analysis, Health systems*

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