Author's response to reviews

Title: Integrating national community-based health worker programmes into health systems: a systematic review identifying lessons learned from low- and middle-income countries

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Author's response to reviews: see over
The Editor, 
BMC Public Health

Dear Sir / Madam, 

Re: Submission of manuscript: “Integrating national community- based health worker programmes into health systems: a systematic review identifying lessons learned from low and middle income countries.”

Reference is made to the above subject matter.

Kindly be informed that we are submitting a manuscript on “Integrating national community-based health worker programmes into health systems: a systematic review identifying lessons learned from low and middle income countries” for consideration for publication in the journal.

The paper is relevant to public health research as it explores using a systematic review methodology factors that influence integration of national CBHWs in health systems in low and middle income countries. Four national CBHW programmes namely the Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) in India, Community Health Agents (CHAs) in Brazil, Health Extension Workers (HEWs) in Ethiopia and Lady Health Workers (LHWs) in Pakistan met the inclusion criteria.

We emphasise the need for being aware of the factors that influence the integration process as well as adopting a stepwise approach to the scale up process in order to positively shape the pattern and extent of integration process of national CBHWs in health systems. Awareness of the factors that influence the integration process is important as this can guide development and implementation of strategies for effectively facilitating the integration process of national CBHWs thereby making the programmes more responsive towards primary health care and public health in general.

We would greatly appreciate if our manuscript could be favourably considered for publication, as by systematically highlighting the factors that affect the integration process in Brazil, Ethiopia, India and Pakistan, this work provides analytic generalizations that would provide useful insights to other low and middle in countries that are planning to develop and integrate national CBHWs in health systems.

Your’s faithfully, 

Joseph Mumba Zulu, 
Lecturer, University of Zambia, and PhD student