Author's response to reviews

Title: Community Health Worker's Program in Luanda, Angola: An evaluation of the implementation process

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editors:

Thank you for considering our manuscript “Community Health Worker’s Program in Luanda, Angola: An evaluation of the implementation process” for publication in your journal Human Resources for Health.

We again would like to thank you for this additional review round, and we are glad to know that the reviewers considered that the manuscript has improved. Below, we address the one additional consideration that has been raised by one of the reviewers. In the new version of the manuscript, this additional change is outlined.

Reviewer 3: Paulo Frazão

1. Reviewer comment: The raised issue points to prerequisites related to CHW’s duties. The evaluation of the implementation process shows that ‘years of schooling’ is not sufficient for determining the level of education. So, the manuscript could be benefitted if the authors could give additional information about major abilities that would be needed to selection/training of them (e.g. ability to obtain data, to read, to fill forms among others). Such information could be useful to other countries, especially those that share economic and social similarities with Angola.

Answer: we have added the following passage in the discussion of the manuscript (p. 18): “In the case of Luanda, where low level of schooling of CHWs was identified as a barrier to obtain data and maintain reliable records, we raise the point that years of schooling (as a prerequisite for CHW selection) might not be sufficient to determine a level of educational achievement necessary to fulfill the duties of satisfactory data collection. In the studied context (Angola), the fact of having eight years of schooling does not necessarily mean a good educational level. This is largely a consequence of deterioration of the quality of education during the years of war, which can still be perceived. Thus, in Angola and in similar contexts, additional information about abilities of CHWs in terms of reading and obtaining data, and in filling out forms, for example, could be helpful in the process of their selection and training.”

We hope to have satisfactorily followed this additional advice.

Finally, we are aware that the Ministry of Health of Angola is currently working on the elaboration of a national policy for the implementation of community health workers
throughout the country, for which we believe that the findings of our manuscript are especially relevant and useful.

For these reasons, we hope that your response to our resubmittal will be positive and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Camila Giugliani