Author's response to reviews

Title: Code E.4 Human Resources for Maternal Health: Multi-purpose or Specialist?

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Many thanks for the useful comments and suggested changes. We have considerably shortened the length of the article by working at editing, streamlining sentences, removing duplicate statements and useless sentences. The paper is now 16 pages instead of 21. We have repositioned paragraphs or chapters that were not in the logical flow.

From the introduction, we have positioned this particular "pillar" of the strategy to reduce maternal mortality as one of three, mentioning that family planning keeps the first place.

The issue of midwives working in teams has been emphasized, as well as the issues of delegation of authority and task shifting, and the issue of positioning midwives in the health systems.

It would not have been possible to list all the essential tasks and skills that a midwife should be able to perform but we have indicated references to that effect.

We have addressed the issue of needing BOTH quantity and quality in the conclusion of the article.

We have reviewed and checked all the references.