Reviewer's report

Title: Scaling up of comprehensive EmOC services in rural Tanzania using non-physician clinicians

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Reviewer: David Urassa

Reviewer's report:

General comment
The manuscript is well written and the topic is very relevant for maternal, newborn and child health care.

Specific comments

1. Minor Essential revision

Title.
Reading the title I would expect to find strategies for scaling up the Comprehensive emergency Obstetric Care (CEmOC) services using non-physician to other areas of Tanzania with shortage of Human resource for CEmOC. This assumes that these non-physician are there but are not used for CEmOC. The contents of the manuscripts deal with conducting short course for teams of CEmOC workers. Hence the title does not fully reflect the contents of the manuscripts. I would like to see the word training in the title.

Introduction.

Authors observed that 85% of the major obstetric surgeries in the rural districts are performed by Assistant medical Officers (AMO) indicating that they have enough skills to perform these type of operations even before this training. Also mentioned …the current AMO training need to be strengthened… I would like to know

1. What is the actual weakness in the current AMO training
2. How are the contents, of the three months short course curriculum on CEmOC, differing from the contents of the AMO course curriculum concerning obstetric surgeries?
3. The problem statement is not clearly articulated and therefore the hypothesis for this training program is not clear to me.

Teaching Clinical officers and nurses to be anesthetic assistants and pairing them with AMO to make teams of CEmOC health workers is an innovative idea that has not be given enough weight in the introduction and in the discussion.

Methods
Second paragraph on Training venue and capacity
The 8th sentence- talking about mean delivery and mean caesarean section rate from 2005 to 2008 were 4987 and 25% respectively – This sentence is incomplete and not clear.

2. Discretionary revision

Results
It would be nice to show the potential impact of this training in the indicators for EmOC in the selected regions where these participants came from ( i.e number of facilities that can provide CEmOc per geographical area.

Discussions
Fourth paragraph, last sentence …innovation calls for the global community to consider scaling up training and use of NPCs in addressing the …. The importance of training teams of NPCs for CEmOC has not been given its due weight here.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interest