Reviewer’s report

Title: Lessons from a Training Needs Assessment to strengthen the capacity of Routine Immunization Service Providers in Nigeria

Version: 0 Date: 23 Feb 2018

Reviewer: Svea Closser

Reviewer's report:

This paper addresses an important and under-studied issue: the quality of training of health staff in EPI. Nigeria, since it accounts for so much vaccine preventable disease, is an important place to do such research. The paper would benefit from revisions digging deeper into the very interesting data presented and relating it more strongly to the existing literature on this topic.

The methods and approach of this paper are logical and appropriate, and the findings are important. The place to start in digging deeper into these issues might be the discussion, which as it stands re-states material already available in other parts of the paper. It would be wonderful to see a discussion that really engages with the health systems issues involved here, particularly as those were mentioned in the FGDs. Could the authors present more of, and discuss more deeply, the FGD data relating to logistics and politics? These issues could be related to the larger health systems literature. It would also be extremely helpful for the authors to present realistic ways forward, considering the real systemic challenges health workers (and those training them) face. Given what the authors heard from the workers they interviewed, how could workers best be supported through training? What steps could reasonably be taken in the Nigerian context, from the point of view of the health workers? Table 1 seems to suggest that this data is there, but it is not currently developed.

Additional background information on the Nigerian health system would also be useful early in the paper and help frame this discussion.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?  
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?  
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown? 
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
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I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
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