**Reviewer’s report**

**Title:** The role and scope of practice of midwives in humanitarian settings: a systematic review and content analysis

**Version:** 0  **Date:** 12 Apr 2018

**Reviewer:** Xiaohui Hou

**Reviewer's report:**

The paper undertook a systemic review of the roles of scope of midwives and identified that there are significant gaps in the international guidance that define the scope of practice of midwives in crises. The topic is important and relevant as midwives provide critical roles in such setting and SRH are critical in improving maternal and child health outcomes. However, the quality of the paper can be improved.

**Motivation:** The motivation section can be further strengthened in terms of the overall demand of health workforce in the emergency setting; the shortage of health workforce in general and how midwives can partially fill the gap. The paper also mentioned (page 6) that "there is ambiguity in the delineation of roles and the relationship between SRH cadres such as midwives, doctors, community health workers, and lay health workers". A bit more in-depth context setting in this area can further help the audience and provide more context for the analysis part.

**Method:** The paper has detailed inclusion and exclusion criteria. However, it is not easy to be replicated as the search method is a bit ambiguous in terms of keywords used.

**Analysis:** The paper uses the general framework "before emergency: mitigation and preparedness", "during an emergency: the minimum initial service package" and "after an emergency: recovery and protracted settings". The framework is ok but the analysis is more of the literature review. The content can be synthesized more concisely and sharply so the readers are informed what the key issues are and what are lacking (for example, midwives lack the skills were mentioned in a couple of the places, page 13).

**Discussion:** The discussion part can be further strengthened. First, in some countries, midwives are even not adequately trained or equipped to deliver their daily jobs. This will add the challenges for midwives to deliver in the humanitarian settings. Secondly, who should specify the roles of midwives in the humanitarian setting? What are different roles of international agencies and the national governments? What are the value added of the additional research? After reviewing the papers, what are the types of research which could benefit more to add knowledge to this agenda?
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