Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 22 Aug 2018

Reviewer: Jonathan L Ajah

Reviewer's report:

Very good work

A number of my comments have been addressed however I am not fully in concert with your response to my comment on the research question your response;

"We are not advocating choosing midwives above all other healthcare professionals and we do not say this at any point in the paper. Rather we are proposing that midwives can make a significant contribution to the multi-professional team if they are supported and facilitated to work to their full scope of practice. The international midwives' competencies include wider elements of SRH such as family planning, abortion-care and addressing gender-based violence."

As much as I respect your originality I think more evidence needs to discussed in the paper for instance for opting for "real midwives" (who are generally a scare human resource) rather than other nurses or other readily available health professionals for certain aspects of gender based violence or SRH in emergency Humanitarian settings.

I think these are the daily kinds of difficult "choice decisions" managers of Humanitarian crisis face.

"Real midwives" remain a scare human resource even in civilian practice, in Humanitarian crisis they availability is even more limited.

My apologies the statement I had issues with was 86

Midwives are an important component of the humanitarian health workforce due to their position as frontline providers, their geographic and social proximity to the communities they serve, and the alignment of the scope of midwifery practice with objectives and activities of the standard international response to SRH needs in humanitarian settings

The statement;

Their geographic and social proximity to the communities they serve; needs clarification is it compared to other health professionals.
Besides in Humanitarian settings usually health professionals including midwives usually will be from communities other than the ones which usually reside in civilian practice.

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