Reviewer's report

Title: Critical Maternal Health Knowledge Gaps in Low- and Middle-Income Countries for the Post-2015 Era

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Reviewer: Ana Pilar Betran

Reviewer's report:

This is a commentary on the results of a survey conducted by MHTF on the priorities for knowledge generation and evaluation for Maternal Health research development post 2015 MDG finishing line. It presents a contextualized synthesis of the results of this survey including interesting quotes from respondents. This is an important subject and the commentary is well written and structured. I do not have any major issues of concern.

With regard to the methods, was a specific questionnaire sent to the experts? If so, what questions were asked? Were they open questions or a list of topics? Could this information be provided as supplementary material?

Authors mentioned over-medicalization and more specifically increasing rates of unnecessary caesarean section as a crucial issue that has not received adequate attention. In this respect, I would like to mention that on 10 April 2015, WHO released a Statement on Caesarean Section Rates in which WHO proposes the use of the Robson classification system as a global standard for assessing, monitoring, and comparing caesarean section rates within facilities overtime and between facilities and to understand what groups of women are driving the increase (http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/maternal_perinatal_health/cs-statement/en/).

As the authors state, in 2014, the results of a large international survey and prioritization exercise were published [Reference 9]. I wonder how authors related to this published survey or if they consider their survey as a small-scale confirmation of some of the issues raised in the former.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests