Why midwives make a difference to women and newborns: A Malawi context

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Sustainable Development Goals

But......

Health system preparedness?
Health system effectiveness?
Health system capacity?
Challenges Facing Nursing & Midwifery in Malawi - The Big 5

1. Population
2. Disease burden
3. Resources
4. Research
5. Governance
Population (2014 est)

- Malawi is poised to triple population from 13 million in 2008 to 38 million by 2040 (Population -17,377,468)
- More than half of People are younger 18
- Population growth 3.33% and Birth rate 41.8%
- Contraceptive prevalence rate is at 46.1%
- Total fertility rate 5.66 children per woman
- Life expectancy at birth-59.9 (F-61.9, M-58)
Disease Burden

- Demographic and socio-economic transition imposes more constraints
- Double burden of Communicable and Non Communicable Diseases
- HIV Adult prevalence rate of 10.8%
- Tuberculosis and Malaria are still a challenge
- Childhood illnesses-Malaria, diarrhea, nutritional deficiencies, Infant- prematurity, infections
Maternal Mortality Ratio

Maternal mortality in Malawi – trend and projection

Year of survey

Maternal mortality per 100,000 live births

MDG target 155

PoW 1 2004 - 2011

projection 435
Resources

- Health Care financing-Government commitment vs Development partner support
- Critical shortage of drugs and supplies - Stock outs still exist
- Distribution of resources-infrastructure and road networks
- Accountability
- Health worker crisis- recruitment, deployment and retention
Global Health Care Worker Crisis

- 9% of global workforce
- 15% of global burden of disease

Regions:
- South East Asia
- Africa
- Western Pacific
- Eastern Mediterranean
- Europe
- Americas
The Case for Malawi - Focus on Nursing and Midwifery

- Approximately, there are 10,000 nurses and midwives with only 50% in clinical setting

- Vacancy rate for nursing and midwifery positions in the public sector is over 70%.

- Workforce geographical distribution is 74% in urban areas and only serving 19% of the population.
Challenges Facing Midwifery Practice

- Quality of care provided to individuals, families and communities
- Poor remuneration and lack of incentives
- Migration – internal and international migration
- High turnover, Urban vs rural deployment
- Poor work environment linked to lack of resources
- Negative attitude and Burnout
Challenges facing Midwifery Education

- **Quality vs Quantity** - large intakes in colleges
- **Curriculum overload**
- **Inadequate resources** for theoretical and clinical teaching (Faculty, infrastructure, clinical sites and cases)
- Slow academic progression
Research-Evidence Based

- **Limited capacity** and **gaps** in certain areas such

- **Limited utilization of findings** – often not impacting practice, policy & education-gathering dust

- **Limited research funding** – minimal funding from Government and most funding derived from grants and projects

- **Poor coordination and cooperation** on research activities and outcomes
Challenges Related to Governance

- Political will
- Policies governing health care system
- Leadership and management capacity at all levels
- Accountability
- Moral capital
Game Changers

- Strengthening governance and leadership of government Ministries and Midwifery – Public Sector Reform

- Midwives generating evidence to inform policy, action/practice and education

- Multi-sectoral approach is critical

- Strengthening advocacy including involvement of media, Faith Based Organizations, Traditional leaders, WRA
The Importance of Partnership and Collaboration

Great partnerships — share common goals.
KCN WHO CC

- Leadership in Midwifery Triad (Education, Practice and Regulation)
- Faculty development of all educational institutions
- Progressive curriculum development
- Increasing intakes (Q)
- Strengthening Research
- Collaborations
“… we need to rapidly bolster the global health workforce. Africa alone will require one million new health workers...
Without such a dramatic increase in capacity, immunizations will not be administered;…curable diseases will remain untreated; and women will keep dying needlessly in childbirth”
The message