Educational Program Recognition for meeting the *ICM Midwifery Educational Standards*

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- Midwives can provide 90% of essential care for mothers and infants before & after pregnancy.
- MW are cost-effective investment in ↓ maternal and infant mortality.
- Of 73 countries in report:
  - Only 4 have adequate MW numbers
  - 26% have tools or guidelines being developed re: competency/curricula
  - 11% taking steps to align with ICM global standards
  - 53% are responsible for accreditation of providers
  - 70% regulatory body for educational stds
Agreed on minimal:
- **Entry requirements**: post-secondary education
- **Program length**:
  - Direct entry into midwifery: 3 years
  - Post-nursing/health care: 18 months

6 broad standards
- Organization and administration
- Midwifery faculty
- Student body

-- Curriculum
-- Resources, facilities
-- Assessment strategies
Need for a Recognition Program for those meeting ICM Educational Standards?

Internet-based survey asking about:

1. Perceived need for a recognition process
2. Feasibility of educational program to produce a self-evaluation report and needed resources
3. Ideas on how to verify the report and resources
4. Willingness of local midwives to act as evaluators
Distribution of survey invitation

- Announcement about survey in three languages: English, French, Spanish
- Sent to list-serves known to have many midwife educators
  - ICM Educational Standing Committee
  - Global Alliance for Nursing and Midwifery (GANM)
  - Personal outreach especially to under-resourced countries
RESULTS
Countries of Survey Responders
Demographics of respondents

- Total responses: 227 (197) from 58 countries
- Languages of responses:
  - English: 69%
  - Spanish: 23%
  - French: 8%
- 16% (n=37) from non-high resource country
- Type of midwifery education
  - Direct-entry: 50%
    - Program lengths: 6-66 months
  - Post-nursing/health care: 43%
    - Program lengths: 6-48 months
  - Missing: 7%
Need for recognition program

- 79% identified a need
  - 88% for non-high resource countries
  - 77% for high resource countries

- Qualitative comments
  - Common standard is needed worldwide
  - Would help provide uniform processes/standards
  - Identify quality programs for student experiences
Ability to create a self-evaluation report (SER)

■ 78% reported they would be able to create SER
  - 81% of non-high resource countries
  - 90% of high resource countries

■ Required additional resources
  - Financial – 46%
  - Electronic capacity – 36%
  - Additional staff/faculty time: 57%
  - Expert consultation: 40%
Validation process and needed resources

- Nearly all identified an onsite process
- A few described a ‘virtual’ process
- Similar percent identified needed resources as for SER except only 6% identified needing expert consultation.
- 82% thought local MWs willing to be trained as validators but they should be compensated for time.
  - Some concern about honesty/integrity of reviewers
Conclusion

■ Majority of educators want a mechanism to demonstrate the quality of their programs.
  – Surprising given over 75% of respondents from countries with strong accreditation processes
  – Also surprising since some programs did not meet ICM Ed Standards required program lengths

■ Nearly all thought on-site validation ideal

■ Concern about the training, quality, and ethics of reviewers