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Midwifery matters

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Midwifery matters

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‘Midwifery matters more than ever,’ states the landmark *Lancet* series on midwifery (Anonymous, 2014). *The State of the World’s Midwifery 2014* estimates that midwives who are well educated, trained, licensed and regulated are capable of providing 87% of the essential sexual, reproductive, maternal and newborn healthcare services that improve pregnancy, birth and postpartum outcomes, and increase access to universal health coverage (United Nations Population Fund, 2014). Such a workforce can respond to the fundamental needs of women, babies and families that are, still too often, not met with skilled, compassionate care. Given the current emphasis on midwives as pivotal in strengthening health systems and service delivery throughout the world, Jhpiego, an organisation long supportive of nurses and midwives, has carefully examined the components of a sound approach to training and educating midwives. Midwifery education is the foundation supporting the development of midwives who can provide skilled care upon graduation, and are poised for careers in which they influence the availability and accessibility of high-quality care through example, leadership and advocacy.

In 2012, Jhpiego developed a conceptual model for organising its work in pre-service education (Johnson et al., 2013). The model, developed after an integrative review of the literature to determine the characteristics of high-quality pre-service education, depicts the essential inputs and influencing factors that determine an educational system’s ability to produce

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