

Online supplement 1: Context of the intervention and control midwife-led obstetric units

INTERVENTION	MOU A	MOU B	MOU C	MOU D	MOU E
Deliveries 2015	1494	386	1279	658	727
Admissions	6288	1593	2560	1214	1976
Transfers out	3124	391	1026	270	649
Day/night shifts of midwives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-4 midwives/day • 3 midwives/night (labour ward only) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 midwives/day, also sharing duties in primary care clinic • 2 midwives/night (not only labour ward, also sharing PHC duties) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-4 midwives/day • 2-3 midwives/night (labour ward only) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 midwives/day and sharing duties in primary care clinic • 2 midwives/night (not only labour ward, also sharing PHC duties) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 midwives/day, also sharing duties in primary care clinic • 2 midwives/night (not only labour ward, also sharing PHC duties)
Structure of unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open labour ward with allocated admission bed and 9 beds for either labouring or postnatal mothers • Central nursing station close to the entrance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small labour unit with no nursing station • Sharing duties in primary care clinic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admission and examination bed with nursing station in the room • Labour progress room with 3 beds and no nursing station 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open labour ward with mixed labour and postpartum beds close to each other • Nursing station situated at side of room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open labour ward with a few admission and intra-partum beds and a central nursing station • Second ward with postpartum beds
Tasks and workload	Case load : midwife ratio high at times	Case load : midwife ratio low – midwives do not perform enough deliveries to stay clinically competent	Case load : midwife ratio high at times	Case load : midwife ratio low	Case load : midwife ratio manageable

CONTROL	MOU F	MOU G	MOU H	MOU I	MOU J
Deliveries 2015	1336	596	888	497	763
Admissions	3528	1452	4694	875	1959
Transfers out	1100	337	444	227	173
Day/night shifts of midwives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-4 midwives/day • 2 midwives/night (labour ward only) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 midwives/day, also sharing duties in primary care clinic • 2 midwives/night (not only labour ward, also sharing PHC duties) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 midwives/day • 2-3 midwives/night (labour ward only) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 midwives/day, also sharing duties in primary care clinic • 2 midwives/night (not only labour ward, also sharing PHC duties) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 midwives/day, also sharing duties in primary care clinic • 2 midwives/night (not only labour ward, also sharing PHC duties)
Structure of unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labour ward in wing and spread between 8 rooms/wards • Central nursing station in passage near the entrance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small labour unit with no nursing station close by • Sharing duties in primary care clinic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small unit with 4 rooms and a postnatal ward with 4 beds • Nursing station in the passage near the entrance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labour ward in wing with a progress ward, 2 delivery rooms and postnatal ward with 4 beds • Nursing station situated in a separate room elsewhere in the passage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labour ward in a wing with 2 delivery beds and a postnatal ward with 4 beds • Nursing station situated in a separate room elsewhere in the passage
Tasks and workload	Case load : midwife ratio high at times	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case load : midwife ratio low – midwives do not perform enough deliveries to stay clinically competent 	Case load : midwife ratio low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case load : midwife ratio low – midwives do not perform enough deliveries to stay clinically competent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case load : midwife ratio manageable