The future of skilled and traditional birth attendants in nomadic Maasai communities, Kenya

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Maternal mortality in Kenya is high (360/100,000 live births in 2010). The Kenyan Government actively promotes the delivery of babies by skilled birth attendants (SBAs) in health facilities, and discourages home delivery with traditional birth attendants (TBAs). However, among the semi-nomadic Maasai communities, only 10% of women currently deliver in a health facility. The aim of this mixed method study is to improve understanding of the knowledge, attitudes and practices of SBAs and TBAs, and the barriers and facilitators of facility based delivery in two counties of Kenya, in order to inform the development of an effective collaborative model of maternal and child health care. This presentation focuses on the findings from the qualitative phase of the investigation.

Michelle Kermode has been working in the field of global health research for 15 years. She works with local partners, primarily in India, and more recently in Kenya, contributing to capacity development for research as well as leading a range of research activities in the fields of HIV, mental health and women’s health.

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