Reviewer's report

Title: Health systems performance in sub-Saharan Africa: governance, outcome and equity.

Version: 2 Date: 1 March 2011

Reviewer: Jose Luis Alvarez

Reviewer's report:

I appreciated the efforts of the authors to meet the reviewers requests and I acknowledge the methodological limitations of this kind of studies.

After re-reading the manuscript I accept the authors explanations to my concerns; I know this is not a methodological article but the new tone of "association" instead of "casual relationships" seems fairly well. I think as the authors have stated that

"one should not turn away from analyses of observational data because the data themselves are imperfect" or the crosssectional design leads to cautious conclusions, rather this is a big first step in this line of study.

Just as a discretionary comment: authors can try to make the conclusion paragraphs more pragmatic and potentially more useful to policy makers.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests