Reviewer's report

Title: Drivers' and conductors' views on the causes and ways of preventing workplace violence in the road passenger transport sector in Maputo City, Mozambique.

Version: 1 Date: 31 May 2011

Reviewer: Mark King

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Clarification of “saturation” claim: You started with 38, did not interview 6 because they refused to be taped, and then assert that saturation was reached after interviewing 32, which was all that was left. This is not very persuasive, and suggests that a greater number of interviews could have identified more themes. Either some support for the assertion of saturation is needed, or an acknowledgement that more themes might have been identified with a larger number of interviews.

2. The discussion of the results lacks a depth of analysis which I think is needed here. For example, the participants appear to have shown a strong tendency to take a moralistic and punitive approach to triggers and perpetrators of WPV, which doesn’t mean that more rules, punishments and structures will actually work better – rather, it reflects their own attitudes and approaches to problems. What does the literature say about this?

3. Related to this moralistic stance was the proposal that moral education be undertaken. The scope of what is meant by this is unclear (it could mean anything from strict definition of right and wrong, through to general respect for others), but in any case a comment is needed from the authors about how successful such forms of education normally are. There are many areas of human behaviour where the problem is not a lack of knowledge about what is right or wrong, but other motivations which outweigh moral considerations at the time.

4. I also note that no comment was made about the suggestion that drivers carry guns – in a context where threat is considered WPV, such a move would in fact increase the level of WPV. It also reflects the point made above, about the moralistic and punitive (or retributive) stance taken by the drivers. Does this reflect broader attitudes in Mozambique? The latter is an important part of the context too, but has not been addressed.

Minor Essential Revisions

5. There are some very minor wording issues which (mostly) don’t affect the meaning of the text but could be improved. Some wording suggestions: Rather than money “due to” consider “owing to” as “due to” is ambiguous (can mean “because of”); Rather than “triggers of violence” consider “triggers for violence”;

Rather than “route of transport” use “transport route”

6. The final sentence of the “Data collection” section lacks a number for those who only attended primary school, and a closing bracket after “(10 to 12 years in school”

7. In “Data analysis”, 1st para, 3rd sentence word is missing before “familiarity”

8. Table 2: the superscript for “chapa” needs to be a standard format and repeated below the table where the definition is given

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare I have no competing interests