Reviewer's report

**Title:** Governance of evolving response to Non-communicable diseases in low-and middle-income countries: current status, risks

**Version:** 2 **Date:** 2 July 2012

**Reviewer:** Julius Cheah

**Reviewer’s report:**

Major Compulsory Revisions

Nothing specific.

Minor Essential Revisions

Comment 1 - While there are no major revisions in terms of the core content, in terms of formatting and article presentation the figures and tables are fairly cluttered and with hanging/incomplete sentences. Some parts of the contents also needed clarification. Specifically;

- Page 2, paragraph 2: the line “planned for September 2011” to be revised or updated accordingly as an event that has occurred.
- Page 3, para 3: definition of the term governance would be more substantial with reference sources.
- Page 4, figure 1: the terms ‘governance’ and ‘processes’ outside the circle is unclear. The text in page 4, para 2 describes it as a ‘governance process’, while the figure splits it into two without describing whether it’s a separate process.
- Page 6, table 1: the column heading ‘reported role and responsibilities’ has a superscript ‘2’ in it, but there is no description of what it refers to. In the column ‘total staffing’, there is no indication whether the staffing number is reflective of the year of its creation, or the current staff number.
- Page 6, last para: “an integrated NCD technical team or organizational structures by specific diseases or risk factors?” should be labeled as subheading 4.1.1
- Page 7, first para, line 7: the abbreviation for CVD should be made in the first instance its mentioned, which is on page 2, para 1, line 3.
- Page 7, last para: “interrelationships among multiple…” should be labeled as subheading 4.1.2
- Page 11, figure 2: the presentation looks crowded and could benefit from some formatting to make it tidy.
- Page 14, table 2: In the column for country, it wasn’t clear what the years beside the country relate to, and that it wasn’t stated for Mongolia and Philippines, and why Cambodia is left out from the analysis. There is also no reference source.
- Page 15, table 3: in the title of the table, ‘poor alignment and poor selection of indicators’ does not seem to relate. For Malaysia, there is no description of which policy the contents relate to, and unclear what the years (2011-2015) refer to. The prevalence reduction figures for Malaysia also seems odd “diabetes from 11.6 to < 13.6%” and “obesity from 26.2% to < 33.7%”. The National Health Morbidity Survey (NHMS) 2006 is the 3rd series, NHMS 1 and 2 have been carried out in previous years which could indicate past progresses. Also, there is no mention as to why Cambodia is left out from the analysis.

- Page 16, first para: Malaysian target to reduce diabetes prevalence has no reference source.

- Page 16, para 3: “multisectoral coordination” should be labeled as subheading 4.3.1

- Page 17, table 4: For Malaysia the National Strategic Plan for NCD was highlighted but this plan was not detailed in table 3 which relates to specific national policies on NCD.

- Page 18, first para line 5: this is the first mention of a quantitative review which wasn’t described in the methodology.

- Page 18, para 3, line 7: the word “focussed” should be revised to “focused on”

Comment 2 - I would also suggest separating out the parts of the reference list that itemize the materials used as source data from those elements that relate to the broader intellectual and substantive literature underpinning the conceptual framework and discussion of the paper. It is difficult to identify some of the sources used in the analysis, for example, the documents listed in the table (e.g. table 3, national NCD strategic plans) are not listed in the reference.

Discretionary Revisions

Nothing specific.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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