Reviewer's report

Title: EDCTP Regional Networks of Excellence: unprecedented changes in the landscape of clinical trials in Africa

Version: 1 Date: 27 September 2012

Reviewer: Charles Mgone

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Major compulsory revisions:
1. The article does not give details of some critical results preliminary or otherwise. On pages 7 and 10 we are informed of the baseline studies. What are the parameters that are being investigated and what are the outcomes if available.

2. Sustainability of the programme has in several occasions been mentioned. The authors need to give detail how this will be achieved and what measures have been put in place. This is a very critical issue, which will be beneficial for similar networks.

3. Page 15: One of the network (WANATEM) had two annual meetings during which "critical challenges" were addressed. It would be useful to learn more of what kind og challenges were face and how they were overcome.

All in all the manuscripts gives a superficial narrative without going into details of the activities that are being mentioned.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. The writing style is not uniform as if the the entore article is written as one piece. Instead it there are variations between the description of the networks within the consortium akin to patched up quilt.

The article is publishable, but would benefit some revisions as stated above

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

It must be said that I am an employee of EDCTP, the organisation that has funded the discibed networks of excellence.