Reviewer's report

Title: Strengthening monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and building sustainable health information systems in resource limited countries: lessons learned from an M&E task-shifting initiative in Botswana

Version: 4 Date: 10 September 2014

Reviewer: Stephanie Davis

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential revisions: The authors have responded satisfactorily to some comments; some clarification is still needed on the process of selecting the respondents in order for the reader to understand what bias if any the selection process might have introduced. This could be addressed by:

- For the in-depth interviewees:
- In a sentence or two, clarifying more precisely on what basis individuals were proposed or excluded by the TWG (were they ALL the people who had substantial involvement in training/implementation, only those who performed direct training or made supervisory visits, only those above a certain seniority/authority level, etc., or was the list the result of a less systematic brainstorming session?)
- stating how many of those invited to participate did so

- For the FGs:
- in selected districts, clarifying whether it was just the cadres that were purposively selected or also the individuals within them. If ALL M&E officers, district health managers and district program officers were invited to participate, authors should state this, and then state how many declined. If there was further purposive or other selection on the individual level, authors should state by what criteria this was done, how many were invited, and how many declined.

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.