Reviewer's report

Title: National health financing policy: What should it reflect in Eritrea?

Version: 1 Date: 16 February 2012

Reviewer: Keith Tin

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting piece of work. However, major revisions are necessitated to render this article publishable.

Major Compulsory Revisions:
1) Information on current health financing and payment arrangement is lacking in the background section albeit the focus of this article is health financing. It is difficult for readers to interpret the results without context.
2) It should be very cautious to use WHO NHA estimates which have been shown to deviate from local NHA estimates (when they became available) to different extent. The authors should supplement with more reliable data even though it may cover the public side.
3) Six tables and twelve figures are considered too many to be published in an academic journal. The authors should make each table/figure more concise and informative. Also, figures and tables are not labeled and titled clearly.
4) The authors should offer some explanation or interpretation of the observations in the results/conclusions section. For example, why there is a stepped increase in total expenditure on health as a percentage of GDP in 2002 (Figure 1) whereas there is a stepped decrease in government expenditure on health as a percentage of total government expenditure in the same year (Figure 2)? Based on the views of policy makers, what would be the desired health financing system in Eritrea?

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 that I have no competing interests