Reviewer's report

Title: The health and wellbeing of young people in sub-Saharan Africa: An under-researched area?

Version: 1 Date: 1 December 2012

Reviewer: Jane Ferguson

Reviewer's report:

1. The article presents opinions which I would agree with, however it is more of an opinion piece than a scientific paper.

2. It would benefit from a more thorough exploration of the types of research (both the questions and methods needed to provide answers) that could address some of the issues raised. In addition, in the instances where research is considered to be adequate (e.g. "...long-term impacts of limited schooling are well-researched...") references are not provided. The case for increased research in the areas raised remains weak.

3. There is very limited new findings and evidence of actual research with the exception of a literature search of titles, with no analysis.

4. The paper would benefit from a more systematic examination of current research training opportunities and exploration of the possible markets for research in the issues raised. consideration of undertaking some structured interviews with potential clients could be a focus of investigation

5. There is mention of some of the existing international mechanisms supporting research, e.g. DHS, INDEPTH with their limitations, there are other organizations which have invested in research in adolescent health (albeit limited to sexual and reproductive health, as the authors indicate) such as foundations which could be assessed,

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:

I have no competing interests to declare.