Reviewer’s report

**Title**: Vertical Funding, NGOs, and Health System Strengthening: Perspectives of Public Sector Health Workers in Mozambique

**Version**: 8  **Date**: 11 February 2013

**Reviewer**: David McCoy

**Reviewer’s report:**

**MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS**

Page 4: 2000’s should be 2000s

Page 4: Much of this “additional” funding has supported …. (add word)

Page 5: “has recently changed strategies” – need to state when exactly. Generally speaking, there are a number of other places in the text where a specific date would be useful.

Finally, I would suggest making a stronger point about the fact that the interviews are now quite dated; but that they represent an important historical record upon which future research can build on

**DISCRETIONARY REVISIONS**

The description of health financing on top of page 5, showing the relative amounts of state funding, common fund etc might be better described in diagrammatic form

It states that of 723 physicians trained between 1980-2006 – only 25% had left the public sector. This seems remarkably low. A 75% retention rate within the public sector deserves some comment / explanation.

Maybe state what percentage of interviewees were HIV programme managers?

**Level of interest**: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**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