Reviewer's report

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

Version: 8 Date: 3 January 2013

Reviewer: Frank Feeley

Reviewer's report:

The authors have dealt well with a number of substantive comments and I appreciate the additional context on aid flows and the data on recruiting from the MOH to the private sector.

Major Essential Revision

1. I am concerned about the basis for the statement that NGO’s are paying 5 to 10 times Government salaries. I would like to see some further evidence (beyond the one quote) that NGO's are paying these multiples for similar posts. If there is no reasonable statistical basis for comparing MOH and donor supported NGO salaries, then I would like to see the comments on salary differentials modulated to reflect whatever data does exist. I am skeptical that the differential can really be determined by interviews with selected Government officials.

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:

No competing interests.