Reviewer’s report

Title: Socio-cultural and individual determinants for motivation of sexual and reproductive health workers in Papua New Guinea and their implications for male circumcision as an HIV prevention strategy

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Reviewer: Charles Hongoro

Reviewer’s report:

I think that the research question is new in that it attempts to delve into the socio-cultural determinants and context of health work motivation something that has not been thoroughly explored to date.

The study design is informed by an acceptable diagnostic theory and analytical framework, which makes it appropriate to the research question.

The authors admit that the specific results may not be externally valid because of the importance of context specificity, however, the key thematic findings around what motivates HWs are applicable to most limited resource settings and therefore important. The depth of analysis brings some credibility to the results.

Although 29 respondents is certainly a small number given the size of the PNG health workforce, it is important that authors expand their profiling of respondents beyond male/female and professional categories, to include other factors such as age, years in service, job location versus home town or village, etc because these affect individual determinants for motivation. For example, a young worker is likely to respond differently to various determinants of motivation than a old worker with many years of service.

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 no conflict of interest