Reviewer's report

Title: Mapping human resources for eye health in sub-Saharan Africa: current progress towards VISION 2020

Version: 1 Date: 4 April 2014

Reviewer: MURTHY GUDLAVALLETI

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions
1. Abstract Background line 3: Replace small work force with ‘density of work force is lower’. Same on Page 6 of the Introduction
2. Keywords should be aligned to MeSH so that article can be accurately indexed
3. Paragraph 1 on Page 9 is sending out conflicting messages – On the one hand the authors say that ¾ of VISION2020 targets have been achieved and the very next sentence states that an increase of 2/3 is required. Authors should rephrase to avoid conflicting messages.
4. It will be advisable that the authors include a table to show what the VISION2020 recommendation for different cadres is, so that authors can read the manuscript in that context.
5. In the methodology it should be clarified:
   - How many questionnaires were sent out
   - What proportion responded
   - Are there are differences between those who did and did not respond
   - How was data sent by coordinators validated? Were any visits made to corroborate the findings?
6. Page 15 line 2 of the para on surgeons: There is no sample here so suggest rewording it as 2/3 of the ophthalmologists in the countries covered.
7. Suggest removing the term ‘sample’ everywhere as it is not actually a sample in its true sense.
8. The term “Vision2020 targets” is not appropriate because it is a recommendation based on anticipated work load and ground realities on current availability. It should therefore be viewed as the minimum required rather than as the target which then connotes that nothing more is required. Suggest that authors modify this accordingly.
9. Page 15, last line: It is not ‘population studied’ as the manuscript is based on reported data so suggest this be modified accordingly.
10. There are issues with the method of data collection which need to be highlighted as limitations in the discussion. This includes the complete dependence on the key informants for the data collected, lack of verification of
accuracy of data etc.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests