Reviewer’s report

Title: A scoping review of training and deployment policies for human resources for health for maternal, newborn, and child health in rural Africa

Version: 2 Date: 19 August 2014

Reviewer: Gustavo Nigenda

Reviewer’s report:

- Major Compulsory Revisions

There is a lack of cohesion across the article’s sections. There is no clear connection between the objective which refers to presenting “findings from a review designed to identify and classify publicly accessible evidence on policies for the training and deployment of HRH in Africa for promoting MNCH” and the results that initially present the metrics (indicators) of the literature search and then describes the contents (policy developments) of the articles that were identified. Following this, the results include information obtained from the search in governmental and professional associations’ web pages but these results are not analyzed or commented in the discussion section.

- Minor Essential Revisions

1. P7. The paragraph mentions a subset of 8 African countries but only 7 countries are listed.

2. The description of policy occupies a great deal of space in the results section but no table summarizing these results is shown. A table would be of great value.

3. In the description of policies, it is not clear if countries described are selected from an universe or if these are the total of cases obtained. If it is a selection, what criteria were used to choose them?

4. Authors refer to the paucity of publications in this field and to some of the problems found in the studies design and implementation (not enough reports compared to the policies implemented in the countries, lack of capacity to report from policy implementation to evaluation, etc). Considering that the role of foreign researchers is highly important in Africa, What is the role of non-African researchers in the production of reports? How many of the reports are published by non-African researchers, by a blend of African and non-African? Are these relevant factors?

5. How does results presented compare with other developing regions? Is Africa
a special case in not properly documenting HRH issues and problems?

**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 that I have no competing interests