Reviewer's report

Title: Strengthening Transparency and Efficiency in the Health Worker Recruitment and Deployment Process: The Emergency Hiring Program in Kenya

Version: 1 Date: 26 August 2008

Reviewer: Daniel Shaw

Reviewer's report:

General comments: this is an efficiently written, to-the-point article that describes the success of the fast track recruitment of health workers in Kenya through collaborative intervention.

It would be interesting to know more about the plans for longer-term sustainability which are mentioned as balancing the short term, emergency action. Perhaps this could form an eventual other commentary style article in the future as follow-up.

In the meantime, as a commentary format for this journal, I accept that this go to publication to complement the journal's more in depth research articles and reviews (following some minor language editing and formatting).

This commentary should be accessible to a wider range of readers, particularly those looking for more practical responses to leadership, management, staff retention and motivation dilemmas at a local level, particularly in emergence settings requiring urgent action.

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 am also the managing editor of the journal, but do not think in this case that this constitutes a conflict of interest, particularly as this has been double-reviewed and reviewed informally by others.