Reviewer's report

Title: Increasing Human Capacity for HIV/AIDS Programs by Strengthening Public Health Leadership Training in Zimbabwe

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Reviewer: Mary O'Neil

Reviewer's report:

it was a pleasure to read this manuscript. The concept of increasing human capacity for HIV/AIDS programs by strengthening public health leadership training is innovative and interesting. But, this reader would have preferred more clarification, or definition, of how 'leadership' is defined in this case and what were the elements of the leadership training. Goal #1 talks about a public health leadership training program, and the results of goal #1 on page 9 are impressive, but the link between the two is unclear. I would think that many readers would like to have more detail here on the aspects of leadership development that were employed. The other goals read much more clearly, but I would offer a minor editorial suggestion and that is to state the goal again when you start reporting results, i.e., on page 9, etc. when you say Goal 1: repeat the goal so the reader does not have to thumb back to page 7 to be reminded.

According to the tables, the last intake year was 2006. If the authors can comment, I think the reader would be interested to know if these gains have been able to be sustained in the face of Zimbabwe's breakdown. This would not take away at all from the validity of the program, its premise and its strategy.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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.