Reviewer's report

Title: Improving Health Services through a Locally Owned and Sustained Leadership Development Program in Rural Upper Egypt

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Reviewer: Ummuro Adano

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All available evidence seems to suggest that nothing wastes precious public health resources in resource-constrained settings more than bad management and poor leadership. And in most of these places, very limited efforts are being planned and implemented to address this challenge. However, this manuscript describes/presents the results of a fairly comprehensive and locally sustainable management and leadership program. The analysis of data and evidence to demonstrate improvements in specific service delivery indicators is strong and compelling. The manuscript also discusses the implications for future directions as well as sustainability of the practice of management and leadership in the public hospital sector in a low income context.

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.