Reviewer's report

Title: Improving the implementation of health workforce policies through governance: a literature review

Version: 1 Date: 25 December 2010

Reviewer: Gilles Dussault

Reviewer's report:

The paper is publishable with minor changes, if the editors accept to do so in spite of two limitations, the first of which is acknowledged by the a.

- The literature search covers only studies published in English, which excludes relevant material published in Portuguese (particularly on Brazil and Mozambique experiences)
- The topic of financing HRH interventions, which is undoubtedly a major governance issue, is not covered.

To compensate for these gaps, (1) the editors could share a paper by Buchan et al. on the Brazil experience in scaling-up access to health workers in underserved areas, which is currently under review by HRH. And (2) on financing, recent papers can be used to add to the analysis:


Tjoa et al. Doubling the number of health graduates in Zambia: estimating feasibility and costs, Human Resources for Health 2010, 8:22 (22 September 2010)


And on the impact of GHIs, Brugha et al Health workforce responses to global health initiatives funding: a comparison of Malawi and Zambia, Human Resources for Health 2010, 8:19 (11 August 2010. The following site can also be searched: http://www.ghinet.org/index.asp

Minor changes:

1- Suggestion for title change: Improving the implementation of health workforce policies through responsible governance: a review of case studies

2- P.3 ; as demonstrated by PAHO’s formulation: as illustrated … would be more appropriate

3-Methodology: Indicate period covered by the search, be more about exclusion
criteria

4- Define GHI on page 6, rather than on page 8

5- Provide link for Dieleman and Hilhorst (2010) Improving Human Resources for Health: turning attention to governance, KIT:Amsterdam.


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