Reviewer's report

Title: Rebuilding Human Resources for Health: A Case Study From Liberia

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Reviewer: Enrico Pavignani

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Page 12: According to the Census 2008, Montserrado County hosted about 1/3 of the Liberian population. It seems unlikely that after two years the situation has changed so remarkably.

Page 14: The added mention to the 'international blueprint', which I believe is correct, might look unclear to readers. A few examples would clarify the meaning of this important sentence.

In relation to Comment #2 and related reply: The Emergency Plan shows many inconsistencies. It seems the product of trade-offs between many constituencies and points of views. On of these inconsistencies is the statement quoted by the authors, in light of the target set in the same section for registered nurses. This foresees the smallest increase for nurses among key categories. It seems that implementation adhered to the statement and ignored the set target. The situation analysis 2010, still in draft form, throws light on the causes of the enormous increase in the ranks of the nurses, suggesting that many unplanned and maybe unrecognised (until recently) factors contributed to it. I believe that the article would benefit from importing some of these considerations.

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.