Dear editors,

Please find enclosed the revised version of the manuscript- we have made the following adaptations:

Added reference numbers in the main text in those sentences that mentioned the authors of the article for the first time, but did not include a number at the end of the sentence, referring to the article in the reference list: e.g., One article looks at accountability for HRH at the local level: efforts to decentralize HRH functions in Mali are discussed in the commentary by Lodenstein and Dao [5].

Corrected reference number 12:
Assessment of Capacities of HRH Units/Departments in the MoHs, HRH Observer Issue 9, Geneva (in press)

And added text to "Conflict of interest", "Authors' contributions" and "Acknowledgement"

I hope the article is now ready for publication and look forward to your reply,

With kind regards,

Marjolein Dieleman