Reviewer's report

**Title:** Developing the National Community Health Assistant Strategy in Zambia: A Policy Analysis

**Version:** 5  **Date:** 2 July 2013

**Reviewer:** Helen Schneider

**Reviewer’s report:**

This version of the manuscript is much improved on the previous one and will make a useful and interesting contribution to the literature.

**Minor essential revisions**

**Abstract:**

Background: “the aim of this paper is to review how power imbalance among policy actors and changing views within the policy context… shaped the process and content of the strategy.” This statement seems more appropriate as a conclusion of the empirical findings than as an aim – the aim could be stated more generally e.g. to analyse the policy process and the factors influencing its evolution.

Results: Page 2, Line 5. “processional” should be “professional”

Line 10 “contextual issues” would make more sense as “content issues”

**Background**

Page 4, second para, line 4. “regained” would be more accurate than “gained”

Background para 3. “Similarly, Ethiopia has implemented a plan to hire CHWs to expand the current workforce delivering HIV services.” Much more significant has been the Health Extension Workers, which are not HIV specific and which are moreover extensively mentioned later in the paper. I would reference and foreground the HEW programme here (see “Good Health at Low Cost: 25 years later” if you need a reference for this).

Page 5, first para, last sentence: “Given this background, the strategy developed in Zambia for CHWs was a strategic choice and action.” The meaning of this is not clear and needs to be restated – do you mean that it represented a fundamental shift in human resource policy?

Page 6: Second para, Reference for quotation must include a page number

**Findings**

Page 15: introductory paragraph: line 3 the words “policy development” are quite broad and could encompass agenda setting. Might be more accurate to say “policy formulation”
Page 20: para 2 last line “conceive” should be “convince”
Page 21 para 2, line 2 “own” should be “on”

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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