Reviewer's report

Title: Institutional capacity for Health systems research in East and Central African Schools of Public Health: Experiences with a Capacity Assessment Tool

Version: 3
Date: 6 March 2014

Reviewer: Donald Cole

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Colleagues:
Much improved with good detailed responses to each of my requests for clarification and suggestions. Now only minor essential revisions:

Findings:
Title of table 3 "SPH's [add ASSESSMENT] results dissemination strategies".
Results of the assessment versus outcomes of the assessment are still somewhat unclear to me as terms - can you give another go at clarification?
"Triangulation therefore allowed for perceptions to be RE-enforced or for misperceptions to be amended" not sure how one would enforce perceptions :-)

Discussion:
end of para 1 "However, in other cases (e.g. access to databases) the post assessment workshops served as a conduit for dialogue to reconcile different perceptions with objective reality." I am not sure how you can engage in such a process and still use the term "objective reality"! Seems very positivist for colleagues engaged in understanding institutional processes. I would suggest changing to "shared understandings" or something similar.

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 I have no competing interests.