Reviewer’s report

Title: Climate for Evidence Informed Health Systems Policymaking in Cameroon and Uganda before and after the Introduction of Knowledge Translation Platforms: a Structured Review of Governmental Policy Documents

Version: 1 Date: 14 September 2014

Reviewer: Godfrey Woelk

Reviewer’s report:

Major compulsory revisions:

1. This analysis is interesting and important in that it focuses on knowledge translation platforms, particularly, the use of research synthesis in shaping policy, an underdeveloped area. However, my major concern is that only selected documents were analyzed, those of GAVI, GFATM, UNFPA, UNICEF, and WB-HNP. There was no attempt, or at the very least, no discussion of documents of bilateral organisations, specifically, PEPFAR/USAID/CDC etc, and even of for example DFID, DFATD (Canada) or of the European development support documents. Given that PEPFAR/USAID/CDC provide significant developmental support and impact on policy, this is a significant omission, and calls into questions the validity of the findings of the analysis. While the authors may have focused only on multilateral organisations, perhaps to limit the scope of the endeavor, at the very least they should discuss how this limitation may or may not have influenced their findings.

Minor essential revisions:

The authors make a statement that "Cameroon and Uganda feature similarities in terms of (i) stable presidential regimes strongly anchored in traditional ruling systems..." While both have stable presidential regimes, can the authors elaborate the "strong anchoring in traditional ruling systems", as it is unclear exactly what this means in the context of this manuscript.

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

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.