Reviewer’s report

Title: An assessment of mental health policy in Ghana, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia

Version: 2 Date: 7 February 2011

Reviewer: Miguel Gonzalez-Block

Reviewer’s report:

1. Authors should clarify the relationship between the Omar et al. paper, providing further details on the relationship between the two papers/projects.

2. The authors should provide greater detail on the use of research evidence in the four policies, particularly for the case of one of the countries where such evidence was used. Furthermore, greater detail is required on the research agenda formulated in the four policies.

3. Discussion should address findings on research use already reported in Omar et al. as well as the needs for data gathering through management information systems as well as through research. Discussion should also address the potential role that evaluations could play to improve policy formulation.

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 that I have no competing interests