Reviewer's report

Title: Factors associated with data quality of the Routine Health Information System in Benin

Version: 1 Date: 14 February 2014

Reviewer: Marieke Verschuuren

Reviewer's report:

I felt that in general the article was well written, clearly structured and interesting. I do have however some suggestions for discretionary revisions, which in my opinion would improve the manuscript:

- Most importantly I miss in the discussion section a reflection on the policy implications of the findings of the study. The discussion now mainly focuses on how the findings compare to the results from similar studies in other countries. It would also be interesting to learn what the findings mean for the situation in Benin; what are the opportunities for improvement of the situation, what are the challenges? How is the political climate/opinion towards health information; are the policy makers at national level interested in health information, would they be willing to invest in improving the situation?
- The methods section is a bit 'tough' to read. This could probably be improved by using bullets and/or tables (e.g. a table with the independent variables used).
- The definition of reliability is not clear to me: case correspondence with the case definition in the recommended terms of reference. Could this be elaborated a bit more, maybe (also) by adding an example?
- Please clarify whether the focus groups were held only with health workers that produced poor quality data? (clarify how the health workers were selected exactly for the focus groups).
- It is not clear to me why gender is a relevant variable. Apparently it is statistically significant, but what is the relevance? Did the researchers have some theory in advance why men would perform worse than women or vice versa?
- In the conclusions, the sentence 'The results could be extensive (and...)' is not clear.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.