Reviewer’s report

Title: Public-non-governmental organisation partnerships for health: an exploratory study with case studies from recent Ghanaian experience

Version: 1 Date: 04 Jun 2016

Reviewer: Susanna Cramb

Reviewer’s report:

Overall, the authors have done an excellent job in addressing each of my concerns. There remains just a couple of items that could benefit from further modifications, although these are mostly quite minor.

Minor essential

1. The only substantive comment is in regards to my original point 3. Although the text has been revised, and a table created, there is a lot of duplication between the text and the table. Please consider either (1) substantially reducing the information in the table, in which case the text remains as is, or (2) reducing the associated manuscript text, and separating the table into multiple tables with one per NGO considered. If option 2 is chosen, the manuscript text would not necessarily need to have a section for each NGO, as most of this information would be in the tables.

2. Could you please re-check the abbreviation list now encompasses all abbreviations used? For instance, I did not see "PHC" nor "CIMACS" in the abbreviation list.

3. The term "Evidence-based research" generally implies rigorous and systematic evaluation of the research. Given your response to my previous point 11 suggested this was not the case, would suggest rephrasing.

Minor optional/grammatical

4. A minor suggestion for the table is to change the row heading "Time started" to "Time frame" as it seems to encompass the entire time the project was conducted.

5. In the abbreviation list, there is one open bracket "(" in the definition for M&E - please replace with a colon.

6. When "Memorandum of understanding" is defined in the text, it should be "a" in front of "Memorandum". The "an" is only used immediately before "MOU". My apologies for any confusion.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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