Reviewer’s report

Title: Maternal and Reproductive health financing in Burundi: levels and trends of public-sector contribution from 2010 to 2012

Version: 3 Date: 19 November 2014

Reviewer: Preeti Patel

Reviewer’s report:

Many thanks for investigating trends of RH public expenditures in post-conflict Burundi. The paper is particularly useful for those who are interested in government financing initiatives for health in the transition from emergency aid to long-term development. It is also useful for studying the links between political leadership and commitment to reproductive health at the national level. There are a couple of issues which could perhaps be addressed by the authors:

1. While your study shows that the share of RH in total public health spending increased from 15% in 2010 to 19% in 2012, longer term trend data would be perhaps more conclusive?

2. It would be more useful to provide results that reflect per capita RH public expenditure. How does this compare to other health areas, for instance?

3. Also useful would be providing comparative trends on donor and private commitments and disbursements to RH in Burundi.

4. On page 5, first paragraph, you mention new actors emerging – could you be more specific?

5. Perhaps mention any limitations to the National Health Account (NHA) methodology used for the data – are there any alternative methodologies; how do they compare to NHA?

6. The points made about only looking at 2 components of RH (maternal health and family planning also could be made explicit in the aims of the paper.

7. It is useful to see how the RH public expenditure trends in Burundi compare to other countries in the region (Malawi, Kenya and Rwanda). It would be very useful to see how these trends compare to other countries emerging from conflict (Liberia, Sierra Leone, South Sudan for example).

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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