Reviewer’s report

Title: Managing non-communicable diseases at health district level in Cambodia: a systems analysis and suggestions for improvement

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Reviewer: Thandi Puoane

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Reviewers report:

Title of the manuscript: e: ‘Managing non-communicable diseases at health district level in Cambodia: a systems analysis and suggestions for improvement’

Proper management of non-communicable diseases is dependent on a well-functioning healthy system with trained personnel and adequate supplies. The reviewed manuscript assessed the capacity of the district health system to manage hypertension and diabetes in terms of access to medicine for these conditions.

Specific comments

The abstract is well written but the authors need to add information on the design and method/approach used in the study.

In the main body of the manuscript, it is stated that data was collected through interviews of health care providers, administrators, community members, managers of non-communicable disease interventions and social health protection scheme. It is not clearly described whether only qualitative or both quantitate data collections were utilised. Although numerical data is presented, somewhere the opinions of the respondents are mentioned. This needs to be clarified. Given that the questionnaire was said to include open ended questions, it means that there is some qualitative data.

Data presented in the manuscript is sound, with genuine figures but on page 13 the authors mention the budget figures, while Table 4 presents fees charged. This needs clarification. It is not also clear if funds were provided to centres or to each patient.

Table 5 is also confusing. The subheadings given are mean, SD, median, minimum and maximum. Is it the mean of total patients or medicine? It is not clear. What is minimum and maximum for? Is this the range? Please clarify

The title of Table 5- refers to the duration of treatment- this is really confusing as the text discuss concepts that differ from what is presented in the table

The findings need to be scrutinised and re-written

The discussion is long and seems to repeat the findings with little supporting
Limitations related to the study are needed

Some editing is needed, and some session could be summarised to reduce the length of the manuscript

I added sticky notes and comment in the manuscript to assist the authors with the required revision