Reviewer’s report

Title: Challenges and opportunities for healthcare workers in a rural district of Chad

Version: 0 Date: 19 Feb 2017

Reviewer: Michael Marx

Reviewer's report:

This is a topic of great relevance in health systems in LMIC.

However the qualitative study shows shortcomings that need to be addressed:

Methodology: the rational of sampling (small sample size) is not very clear; it remains to be more elaborated: selection criteria, why so few interviewees? Categories of professionals, length of the interviews, categories of questions, questionnaire is missing. The 2 tables are not of value added and a bit redundant with the narrative and could be left out. It also remains a bit unclear which categories, variables have been searched for, and which sampling was applied based on which rational (missing questionnaire)?

Results: this chapter is fairly structured. Results appear too anecdotical and biased which is partly due to the shortcomings of the methodological part. It is sometimes unclear which result comes from which interview or from general findings/analysis. The actual findings of this research should be marked more explicitly.

There are no figures on the frequency of different categories and thematic areas that were addressed by interviews. No details about the interview process are given, e.g. length of interview, response rate, saturation etc. should be explained more in detail.

Discussion: Results are discussed against the literature. However, the chapter is too long, redundancies need to be reduced.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

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

No

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

No

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

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

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