Reviewer's report

Title: Human Resources for Primary Health Care in Sub-Saharan Africa: Progress or Stagnation?

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Reviewer: Luís Lapão

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I completely agree with Yohannes Kinfu. Part of it follows from my first review, where I have pointed out several data weaknesses.

The authors have improved significantly the text, but there are still issues that were not fully addressed:

a) The authors need to be much clearer about the concept of primary-care.

Table 2 is very interesting, but most of it are not primary-care services as we see it today (aka Barbara Startled) but rather "first level care".

B) I consider the fact that most "first level care" in Africa is still organized this way should be a matter of preoccupation, mostly because they are already in an epidemiological transition with an increasing chronic care burden (which is not being taking care in this health centers);

C) Discussion: It is not only an issue of "adequately staffed" health centers, it is also what sort of services are being provided. Health centers should not be small hospitals (they are two different things.) Keep calling this sort of services "primary-care" is hiding a problematic reality.

D) For a matter of clarification: I am a doctor. Physicians and surgeons are not doctors; yet they could be if they get a PhD. The best option is to use "physicians and surgeons" or, if necessary, "physicians that also provide basic surgeries" or even "general surgeons" if they provide a larger portfolio of surgeries.