Reviewer’s report

Title: The Impact of a Supportive supervision intervention on Health Workers in Niassa, Mozambique: A Cluster-controlled trial.

Version: 0 Date: 03 Sep 2016

Reviewer: Jennifer Nyoni

Reviewer’s report:

General remark

The subject is of supervision is of continued interest and focus in the field of health worker performance and motivation so the article is useful. It highlights the importance of supportive supervision and what it would take for the supervisors (knowledge and skills) to do it successfully with their supervisees.

Introduction

Page 3 2nd paragraph, Line (20) (09) 'despite its critical role… Can the authors confirm this statement with more references? Unless they mean supportive supervision because supervision in general has been there defined even by checklists etc but the issue has always been the quality and type of the supervision. This is reflected in their own statement that follows after this. It might help to clarify this first statement.

Page 4 para 1 line (5-7) "in Mozambique the team charged ……. The authors may consider rephrasing/clarifying because currently, it reads as if there is one team charged with supervision in the country for the health workers. Probably they are referring to the districts under study or within the STEM project?

Methods

The detail of how each aspect of the study was done is well explained in this section. Since the authors mention different aspects of the measurement for each section, it might help the reader to have a summary table at the end of the methods section giving at a glance what was used for each section in case the reader wants to verify something from the results.

Results

The results clearly spelt out walking the reader through each section.
Page 10 line 6 first sentence first paragraph, end with "…..in Mozambique" do the authors mean the 92 in the sampled districts, please clarify

Discussion

The discussion is interesting and the authors stay true to the findings explaining the limitation of the end line numbers and profile including the disappointments with the failure to reach expected significance. The authors also brought out an interesting aspect of other factors beyond supportive supervision, i.e. workload and issues that affected the health workers emotional exhaustion. This is important because the authors acknowledge that supportive supervision is not complete in itself to contribute to the workers motivation.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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