Reviewer’s report

Title: Success of a South-South Collaboration on Human Resources Information Systems (HRIS) in Health: Case of Kenya and Zambia HRIS Collaboration

Version: 0 Date: 15 Oct 2018
Reviewer: F Odusola

Reviewer's report:

I congratulate the Authors for this very interesting article which in my opinion highlights the 'beauty' and usefulness of South-South collaborations in the timely, quick and less expensive transfer of skills, knowledge and technical know-how amongst developing countries in the South - South region. Nevertheless, I have a few suggestions that may help improve the manuscript, as follows:

1. Please rephrase the following statement in the Abstract to become less confusing for readers: As a result of the collaboration, Zambia was able to implement the project within two years while Kenya took five years which is less than half the time it took Kenya.

The statement would probably read better the following way: As a result of the collaboration, while Kenya took five years Zambia was able to implement the project within two years which is less than half the time it took Kenya.

2. Typo line 104: Complete the bracket for WITS

3. Typo in line 126: 'associated with using bad practices'

4. Typo in line 151: perhaps 'has proven' should read 'as proven'

5. Typo in line 190: 'of the some' should read 'of some'

6. Please arrange the list of abbreviations in a particular order - alphabetic order.

7. A clear reference to the time period of the 'study' in this 'case presentation' involving collaboration between Kenya and Zambia is missing. Please state the precise time and duration of the observations in this triangular collaboration.
8. Because this was essentially an attempt to display or highlight high-level workability of South-South collaborations involving transfer of skills, expertise or knowledge between two developing countries of differing or unequal developmental (infrastructural, technical and human resource) capacities (Kenya and Zambia), perhaps including a Table that highlights the essential differences in relevant pre-existing infrastructures and other capacities used in the collaborative approach that helped foster the successful transfer of intended skills, knowledge and technology in the study including the necessary human resource capacities of the concerned agencies in two countries would help give readers a clearer background with regards to the potential success or usefulness/appropriateness of such South-South collaborative models. This makes the model attractive to be adopted for other potential beneficiary countries with equally dissimilar levels of developments in the South-South. Such a table which summarizes the differing country capacities, implementation challenges, and lessons learnt etc would present readers with an at-a-glance overview of implementability of the model and further justifies/clarifies how it took Zambia (with less developed capacities than Kenya) unexpectedly less than half the period it took Kenya to implement her own HRIS.

9. In lines 53, 54 & 55 in the Background section Authors should please cite few of the several Reports published by PPD that highlighted the challenges and successes of South-South collaborations in Health

10. Typo in line 65 Background section: HIV/AIDS rather than HIV/AID

11. Typo in line 338: gave the final approval

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An article of importance in its field

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

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