Reviewer's report

Title: Evidence map of knowledge translation strategies, outcomes, facilitators and barriers in African health systems

Version: 0 Date: 01 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Pierre Ongolo-Zogo

Reviewer's report:

This is a well written paper on a topical issue adapting the mapping synthesis approach to uncover what are the strategies in use for knowledge translation that were studied in Africa. The methods section is explicit and the results are consistent. However, the theoretical underpinnings to the search strategy present shortcomings. The health policy and systems research literature is inappropriately appraised (e.g., the prevailing concept of 'evidence informed health policymaking'). I doubt on the results of the search if 'evidence informed policy making' was added to the search.

Overall, the knowledge gap and the theoretical underpinnings of the field of 'evidence to policy' in Sub Saharan Africa are not properly described thus several shortcomings in setting the boundaries and contexts of the map (e.g.; restricting the stakeholders of KT to researchers and policymakers sounds odd in African health systems).

Few points to be edited and to clarify: page 4, line 49, I don't understand the 'informal evidence'; page 11, line 41 'theories of planned behaviour'

In the method section, the authors might consider a conceptual framework to ensure that the search strategy is comprehensive enough.

In the conclusion, the first sentence "emphasized the need to boost local research capacities in LMICs" is inappropriate.

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

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

Acceptable
**Declaration of competing interests**

Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors’ responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license ([http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal