Reviewer’s report

Title: Strengthening and measuring research impact in global health: lessons from applying the FAIT framework

Version: 0 Date: 10 Mar 2019

Reviewer: Gabriel Moore

Reviewer's report:

This study describes the retrospective use of the FAIT tool to measure research impact in two LMIC research projects, one in Indonesia and one in two Pacific countries, Samoa and Fiji. Using the tool, the authors describe the process of identifying domains of impact, quantifying costs and benefits and narrating the pathways to impact. The stated aim is to evaluate the applicability of the tool, developed in a HIC, for use in LMICs and to make recommendations to support the further use of the tool. A strength of the study is the involvement of two of the authors who developed the FAIT tool.

The rationale for the approach taken by the authors is clear. The background provides a useful summary of what is known about measuring research impact in HIC and the need for approaches that can be translated to LMIC. The authors comment on existing models used by three major funders of global health research demonstrating the likely relevance of the study in LMIC funding environments.

The methods are clear and appropriate to the study. The discussion identifies characteristics of LMIC research that warrant adaptation of the tool and enable the reader to understand the likely applicability of the FAIT tool in other environments. The conclusions appear to be justified based on the results and the experiences outlined in the study. The recommendations about possible modifications to the use of the FAIT tool are reasonable and helpful.

The article makes an important contribution to public health research in LMIC countries. It is clearly written, easy to read and contains sufficient detail to understand the challenges encountered. The consistent reference to the three core components throughout was useful - domains of benefit; costs and benefits; and narrative case studies. Both the tables and the additional file added detail and were useful in demonstrating the benefits and limitations of the tool.

I note that there is a typo on line 288 "there are many contexts were where it will not be possible".
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An article of importance in its field

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Needs some language corrections before being published

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