Reviewer’s report

Title: Embedding implementation research to enhance health policy and systems: a multi-country analysis from ten settings in Latin America and the Caribbean

Version: 0 Date: 06 May 2019

Reviewer: Sassy Molyneux

Reviewer's report:

This is a well written paper on an important topic. I have several suggestions for minor changes:

- Clarify in the abstract and possibly the title that this paper deals with 10 projects funded through one funding initiative, and in the methods section clarify if and how these projects were selected from a larger pool

- Given that the % figures come from a survey of only 8 people, or all of the projects (n=10), please present numbers rather than percentages - this is throughout, including Figure 1.

- Give greater emphasis to the long recognition in many field of forms of embedded research (eg research uptake, policy engagement, and participatory action research literature) It's not always clear where the results are coming from - ie which of the methods. For eg with para 2 under findings, it's unclear whether these are from document review or from interview or drawing across all (table 2 draws on all reports and interviews?).

- Clarify if and how the quality of implementation research (especially reported impacts) were judged.

- Add a subheading on limitations of the study at the top of page 15 which discusses this, and make a note that the approach to examining the embedded approach, was also a limitation to understanding and complexity

- I suggest the term of 'proof-of-concept' is removed, for some of the above reasons

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