

Reviewer's report

Title: Profiles of Leaders in Human Resources for Health

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Reviewer: Alexandre Goubarev

Reviewer's report:

Being fortunate to have an overview of reviewing all articles so far in this series, I can confirm that the series so far has been very good and in the case of each article, I have recommended publication.

Until now, the articles have presented HRH tools, technologies, approaches, programmes.

In the case of this article, however, the focus has been turned on its head: the emphasis in this article is on personal leadership. This should be made clearer in the presentation of the article and presented as one rather than three articles.

It is a practical, more journalistic piece, not research as such and presents problems with the solution being the individual and his/her personal qualities.

The paper argues that in such cases, without certain individuals - certain leaders - in place, there may not have been such success possible.

The three articles are similar in that each show what difference good leadership makes in various challenging public health settings (e.g. AIDS, HRH, developing certain tools)....

We do not have a focus on the country situation, just the individual. The three short profiles should be published under one rubric. Suggest: "The role of individual leadership in HRH development in challenging public health settings".

For future such work, I would be curious to know what the security back-up is in the case where these crucial, exceptional leaders for one reason or another leave their post. What is the degree of sustainability of such a set-up?

I recommend publication taking into consideration these considerations: the article should only be published in this context, not to be confused with the more research-oriented papers of the journal. No other revisions necessary. No major language corrections necessary.

This article would be useful for those with closely related interests.

I have no competing interests.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interests.