

Dear Anita;

You will find attached the revised version of our paper. I have tried to take into consideration as much as possible the feedback of the editorial team and the reviewers. It has not been an easy task as the paper, as was first submitted to you, was meant to be a comprehensive review of evidence (6,000 words and ~200 references) and now we are down to a much shorter analysis paper (2,500 words and 30 references).

Therefore, as per your suggestion, the revised manuscript for the collection synthesises the information and presents a clear central argument for what's required, challenge the current status quo, and aims at stimulating policy reflection and programme action. As requested, the discussion and recommendations section have been developed to enhance the potential impact of the paper. However, so much work went into the comprehensive review of survey and research evidence, and I know how useful this can be to programme planners, advocates and academia/research colleagues in South Asia, I have included in the current version of the paper that: 'A detailed account of our findings is presented as supplemental material with references to the 177 papers included in our analysis'. I hope that this is a valid option for you. Another option could be to publish the comprehensive review paper to BMJ Global Health (as was our first intention) and the shorter Analysis paper to the BMJ collection on South Asia.

Kindly let me know