Reviewer's report

Title: Social and cultural features of cholera and shigellosis in peri-urban and rural communities of Zanzibar

Version: 3 Date: 2 November 2010

Reviewer: james trostle

Reviewer's report:

This extensively revised manuscript responds adequately to my own prior concerns as well as those of the other reviewer.

Major compulsory revisions:
Statistical conventions in most journals now call for use of confidence intervals rather than only exact p values where possible.

Minor essential revisions:
1) typo in abstract: should read "vaccination the strategy for control" in line 2
2) fix misleading sentence: "Symptoms of dehydration were most prominent in..." Should read instead something like "Symptoms of dehydration were recognized most prominently in..." so as not to allow misinterpretation.
3) At the bottom of page 16 the following sentence is unclear and merits rewriting: "Further categories believed to be among the causes of shigellosis were either reported as frequently as for cholera, or then less frequently, with the exception of cannot say, which was reported three times more often for shigellosis."
4) Misleading sentence on the top of p. 19: "The peri-urban community relied more on rehydration" should state instead something like "The peri-urban community said it would rely more on rehydration..."

End.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.