Reviewer’s report

Title: Using targeted vouchers and health equity funds to improve access to skilled birth attendants for poor women: a case study in three rural health districts in Cambodia

Version: 3 Date: 28 September 2009

Reviewer: Peter Leslie Annear

Reviewer’s report:

Firstly, congratulations to the authors on carefully responding to the comments by three different reviewers who offered a range of suggestions that were not always consistent.

In my initial review I made extensive comments about the logical structure of the argument and about the interpretation of some of the results. While some of my observations have been accepted by the authors, they have chosen in other cases to amend their existing structure and recommendations in a way that minimizes the difficulties I had previously raised.

This new version of the paper is much improved, I think, over the first draft. In its current form the paper is structured in a clearer and more logical way and the study question is much more carefully stated. The presentation of the results and the analysis are much more precise and the argument is more balanced. The limitations of the study, especially the large increase in self-paid deliveries in the three study ODs, are more carefully noted and the conclusions are amended accordingly.

In its current form I believe that the main content of my comments have been addressed and that the paper is ready for publication. Prior to publication, an editing of some small points of style and grammar would be useful.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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