Reviewer's report

Title: Maternal mortality in Kassala State - eastern Sudan: Community-based study using Reproductive age mortality survey (RAMOS)

Version: 1 Date: 17 September 2011

Reviewer: Marleen Temmerman

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting paper, addressing a very important public health problem. It is well written, methods are well described, the stats are ok as well as the result session.

The discussion is appropriate but rather short as far as recommendations are concerned. The authors could elaborate more on the actions to be taken based on their observations, and formulate more recommendations towards the Ministry of Health as well as towards the health services and the communities. Eg Could maternal shelters contribute to reducing maternal mortality in remote areas?

Minor revisions:

Page 7, text related to Table 6: should be "70% of who died" instead of 70% who delivered postpartum

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

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'