Reviewer’s report

Title: Maternal care practices among the ultra poor households in rural Bangladesh: a qualitative exploratory study

Version: 3 Date: 24 November 2010

Reviewer: Amy, Judith Kesterton

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Minor Compulsory revisions
1. Revise and make the conclusions clearer
The conclusion states that the study shows culture over-rides socio-economic status in influencing maternal care practices. I am not clear how this can be drawn from a study which looks at only ultra-poor households? Or are you saying that even with livelihoods support maternal practices remain unhealthy due to the strong influence of culture?
I think the conclusions also need to make clear recommendations for the ongoing BRAC livelihoods project and interventions in rural Bangladesh more widely (would the recommendation be that supplementing livelihoods support with health behaviour change education carefully tailored to local cultural beliefs is vital to achieve better maternal/neonatal outcomes and that in the BRAC grants-program study findings can be utilised to improve and tailor the health messages already included?)

2. Review the paper one final time (or if possible ask an external editor) to ensure it is as clear and easy to read as possible.

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

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