Reviewer’s report

Title: Maternal Near-Miss in Kassala Hospital, Sudan, an Area of High Maternal Mortality

Version: 1 Date: 18 February 2011

Reviewer: Thomas van den Akker

Reviewer’s report:

Dear authors,

Thank you for this submission. I appreciated reviewing your manuscript.

Strengths of this paper are:

(1) the unique study population. It is of tremendous importance to receive reports about maternal health in Sudan, a country that lacks reliable maternal health data, but at the same time a country characterized by challenging socio-economic, cultural and political factors that likely contribute to poor maternal health,

(2) the originality of this type of study in this type of setting.

Weaknesses are:

(1) the language, which would need major revisions in order for it to be clear and acceptable

(2) the methodology-section which needs major clarifications as outlined below.

I will summarize the main compulsory revisions here and will -in addition- upload a document with sticky notes added into it.

1. Although you mention a 5% significance level and claim that several factors (age, parity etc) do not differ between survivors and non-survivors, there are no confidence intervals or other measures of statistical significance included in the results section (major revision needed); adding these would greatly strengthen your claims

2. The abstract does not reflect the content of your manuscript well enough and the conclusions do not follow logically (major revision needed)

3. The objective of your study is not clearly formulated in the introduction section (major revision needed)

4. The language must be improved throughout (major revision needed, perhaps send it to a language editor before re-submission?)

5. See the rest of my comments in the document attached.
Your study is very important. I hope you may get the manuscript up to the required level. Good luck with the revisions.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**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.