Reviewer’s report

Title: Risk factors and a predictive model for under-five mortality in Nigeria: evidence from Demographic and Health Survey, 2008

Version: 2 Date: 17 November 2011

Reviewer: Daniela Elleri

Reviewer’s report:

The authors’ manuscript explores factors acting as important determinants of mortality in children younger than 5 years old in Nigeria in 2008. Results from this study are undoubtedly very relevant not only because they tackle an important public health issue in a developing country like Nigeria, but also for its implications in identifying possible measures that could be adopted to reduce childhood mortality.

However, major revisions are needed for the study to be published.

Major compulsory revisions:
- The title is misleading. Data (e.g. on children mortality) are from the DHS 2008 but the study analyses interviews performed over a five-month period to a smaller part of the population
- Clear information about the study sample is missing in some part of the paper (e.g. in the background). It should be clearly stated where the data is coming from, which dataset was analysed and also the time frame which was considered.
- It would be good to include an additional table with characteristics of the study population (how many men and women were interviewed, level of education…)
- Details on how the interviews were performed (and by whom) are missing. Were any validated questionnaires employed?

Minor essential revisions:
- Several misspelling mistakes were noted in different parts of the manuscript and some references are missing.
- Background session: last paragraph, second line: misspelling “competition” instead of “completion”
- Background session: last paragraph, line 5 “there are few from good studies Nigeria” to be substituted by “there are few good studies from Nigeria”
- Method session: reference of 2008 National Demographic and Health Survey should be included (first paragraph line 14)
- Methods session, explanatory variables: “based on previous studies”. A reference is needed
- Result session, first paragraph, second line: time frame is confusing: time
between 2003 and 2008 is indicated?

**Level of interest:** An article of importance 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