Reviewer's report

Title: Non-adherence to WHO recommended inter-birth intervals in Rufiji, Tanzania

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Reviewer: Sorina Grisaru-Granovsky

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Review for the manuscript
Non-adherence to WHO recommended inter-birth intervals in Rufiji, Tanzania
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The manuscript is well written and presented.

However I would like to emphasize some major difficulties encountered:

1. The aim of the authors is based on a previous recommendation of the WHO of an inter-pregnancy interval (IPI) of 33 months. This recommendation, as mentioned by the authors themselves is based on the risk for pregnancy and neonatal adverse outcomes described by many based on a 6 months interval. My concerns are: a. Is the population involved conforming to the same “biological behavior”? b. Is there any relation between IPI and perinatal adverse outcomes in this population? One may assume that if the mean IPI in this population in 33 months it may be a favorable IPI for them ??? In case the authors do not have the data on the perinatal outcomes this should be mentioned as a serious limitation of the study and discussed.

2. May be the title should refer to the risk factors for “non – adherence” rather than descriptive, since we do not get any information on how important “non adherence “ is to this population.

3. Do the authors have any information on stillbirths and abortions with respect to the IPI?

4. Do the place of delivery (health facility and elsewhere) and HDSS entry type (enumeration and in-migration) have any impact on the antenatal care? Is there any information on the type of antenatal care?
Minor Essential Revisions: none  
Discretionary Revisions: none  
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests  
Quality of written English: Acceptable  
Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.  
My recommendation: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions  

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests  
**Quality of written English:** Acceptable  
**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.  
**Declaration of competing interests:**  
I have no competing interests