Reviewer’s report

Title: Survival of neonates in rural Southern Tanzania: Does the place of delivery matter?

Version: 1 Date: 12 September 2011

Reviewer: Jacobus Van der Velden

Reviewer’s report:

A nice descriptive article with societal impact around which I have the following questions:
- Is continuum of care introduced in the area of study yes or no?
- If evidence suggests that survival rates are better in the institutionalized deliveries why are you performing this study? I miss the arguments.
- Is there a risk selection system in place: I mean low risk deliveries in community and high risks in hospitals?
- How is the quality of data in the surveillance scheme guaranteed?
- I miss information on nutritional status of the pregnant women and their children?
- Careful interpretation of conclusions is difficult as lots of information is not available for the reviewer (as stated in final paragraph...)
- Why both level of education and socio-economic status in the tables, one of these would be enough!

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:

No competing interests