Reviewer's report

Title: Overcoming Phase I Delays: The Critical Component of Obstetric Fistula Prevention Programs in Resource-Poor Countries

Version: 2 Date: 14 June 2012

Reviewer: France Donnay

Reviewer's report:

his paper is a comprehensive, well written account of the current knowledge regarding delays in accessing care. It reads more as a section of a thesis or a chapter of a textbook than a paper.

The contribution of economic growth, improved road networks, education and access to health information is nicely exposed but has been well documented elsewhere.

The novel perspective here only comes on page 27, towards the end of the manuscript. And that is how important the linkages between delays 1, 2 and 3 are. Many recent papers and other documents such as UN reports call for strengthening linkages between community and facility based interventions, but I don’t recall such a clear articulation of the need for connecting programs addressing these three delays, or for designing and implementing programs that would encompass all of them. REVISION: Therefore that particular point should become more central in the paper. The title could be changed accordingly.

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.