Reviewer's report

Title: Recurrence of perinatal death in Northern Tanzania: A registry based cohort study

Version: 2 Date: 23 January 2013

Reviewer: Birgit Reime

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript deals with an important question: Within the population of women in Northern Tanzania, characterized by high perinatal mortality, is there a group that is especially vulnerable for recurrence of perinatal death?

In general the ms. is very well written. A few typos and missing words should be addressed.

Else, I only have few minor comments:

Abstract: fine. Statistical methods could be added.

Introduction:

End of first paragraph: This reference should be numbered and listed in the reference list.

Methods:

The setting and recruitment of the women becomes clear. Identification of women also well described.

I would like to have more information on the statistical procedures. SPSS version 18 is PASW?

In terms of the t-tests conducted, were the preconditions fulfilled or would have been a non-parametric test more adequate?

Which (STATA?) command did you run for the “clustered analysis technique” to account for repeated measures from the same mother?

Results:

On page 8, 2nd para, relative risk estimates should be accompanied by confidence intervals.

Clear presentation of results. I appreciate the separation of results according to stillbirths and neonatal deaths.

Discussion:

The discussion outlines the results in the light of the previous literature very well. However, as in the result section, from the discussion it does become clear which ones of the results refer to significant and which ones to non significant results.
The authors discuss the limitations of their study, e.g., potential bias due to incomplete follow-up.

I do not understand the meaning of the first sentence of page 12.

The strengths of the study are e.g., the thorough design and the access of confounders that other studies, based on vital data, do not offer.

The last sentences and the conclusions leaves room for 1-2 sentences on the potential measures for prevention of recurrence of death. What kind of special attention etc?

Tables:
Table 2: Induced labour could be a consequence of complications and may not be associated with perinatal deaths after adjustment for confounders. I do not understand what it means that reference groups of unaffected women are not shown. What is “no perinatal death” if not unaffected?

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests"