Reviewer's report

Title: The role of Traditional Birth Attendants in urban and rural Tanzania: a mixed-methods study

Version: 4 Date: 29 October 2012

Reviewer: Stella Nyanzi

Reviewer's report:

The authors helpfully attached a letter outlining the revisions they made to the paper in response to earlier reviewers' comments. They have ably addressed the question about ethics and informed consent as highlighted in the submitted revision. They also attached questionnaires used in the study.

There remain a few minor revisions pertaining to grammar and punctuation that the authors should correct.

1. In the abstract, results' section, please insert an apostrophe in the sentence: "Besides TBAs' positive reputation...

2. In the background, and on page 4, the sentence "Postnatal care is an important component of good maternal and baby health care is not very well utilized in Tanzania' is not clear. Please clarify.

3. In the results sections, the fourth sentence from the bottom of page 10, 'Finding from FGDs,...' should be replaced with 'Findings from FGDs,...'.

4. Page 12, the third letter from the bottom '...traveled more than 1hours' should be changed to '...traveled more than one hour'.

5. In several places in the paper, it is not clear what the authors mean by 'the next facility'. Does 'next' in this context mean, 'nearest'? Please clarify.

6. Page 16, paragraph 2 and line 9, "Often kits were no available on community level' should be corrected to "Often kits were not available at community level...

7. Page 21, first line, "The vast majority was elderly and learnt their skills..." should be changed to "The vast majority were elderly and learnt their skills...

8. Please rewrite, lines 5 and 6 on page 21. " For instance women and neonates who delivered...' sounds as if neonates were also delivering.

9. The first paragraph of the conclusion should be edited for precision and clarity. Some sentences are unclear. The paragraph is also too long and winded, filled with several ideas that could make alternative paragraphs.

10 Page 27 "The main obstacle preventing women from delivering at a health facilities..." should be changed to "The main obstacle preventing women from delivering at health facilities..."

The idea of Village Health Workers as pertains to the Tanzanian context should be introduced either in the background section or the results sections, and not
only appear for the first time in the conclusion section.

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

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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.