Reviewer’s report

Title: Factors associated with health facility childbirth in districts of Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia: a population based survey

Version: 2 Date: 17 December 2013

Reviewer: Jean Christophe Fotso

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions: None

Essential Revisions

Variables: It is rather unusual to merge the wealth and the education variables into one single SEP variable. There is evidence that wealth (which captures the material aspect of well-being) and education (which is more about knowledge and social capital) influence health and health seeking behaviors differently. The authors should keep both variables separate.

Table 1: The authors may consider deleting the columns on n (absolute numbers), and include a row at the end of the Table with the “n”s.

Table 2: The Table is overcrowded with many redundant figures. The columns on “Frequency n” should be removed. Even the Bivariate OR columns could be removed, given that bivariate results are also presented in Tables 3-5. The Table could then focus on the frequency of facility deliveries (the proportion), provided the authors add the statistical significance.

Tables 3-5: What is rationale for having all covariates as continuous variables? It would have been good to keep the variable specifications as in Table 2, for ease of interpretation. What do the numbers in brackets in the variable names (e.g. SEP (1-16)) mean?

Discretionary Revisions: None

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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.