Reviewer's report

Title: Indirect cost of maternal deaths in the WHO African Region in 2010

Version: 2 Date: 26 June 2014

Reviewer: Dominic Trepel

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

This article details formal derivations relating to how Indirect cost of maternal deaths. Reviewing this paper as a health economist, I do not believe that this form of presentation is appropriate for a predominantly clinical readership and would require major revisions.

As an economist, responding to the approach taken to calculate GDP loss, I still have problems interpreting the approach and the formal presentation is poor my economic standards (providing little good explanation through the calculations to orientate and explain the logic)

Minor Essential Revisions

The authors states there is a 'lack of evidence on economic burden' however does not discuss how additional evidence is economically important (what would not 'loosing $5Billion (PPP)' mean to the 45 countries?

Line 194-214 would be better presented in tabular form.

Better explain the maths, ensuring it is appropriate to the readership

Check spelling and grammar throughout

A substantial number of figures are offered however these are very similar and might be better selected to have better impact on the reader.

Data sources are provided in the methods (life expectancy at birth, prevalence of maternal deaths, total number of maternal deaths and per capita GDP PPP, however the intuition behind the data could be presented better in the background and tables of inputs would be preferable to the current 'illustrative' references.

Discretionary Revisions

Despite the fact the formal presentation of these calculation might look complex, they essentially present simple product of total maternal deaths and associated lost GDP. The authors might consider modelling strategies and methods to indicate uncertainty surrounding the estimated costs (all of which could be achieved using Excel).

Level of interest: An article of limited interest
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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

Declaration of competing interests:
None