Reviewer's report

Title: Trends and risk factors for neonatal mortality in Butajira District, South Central Ethiopia, (1987-2008): a prospective cohort study

Version: 3 Date: 21 January 2014

Reviewer: Heribert Ramroth

Reviewer's report:

Minor aspects:

Abstract:
- Results: decimals are presented with 1 decimal only, but it seems that they are truncated and not rounded (truncation is not correct). 1.65 might be 1.6 or 1.7. However, 1.16 will probably be 1.2

Conclusion:
- “we demonstrated that no significant change was observed...” doesn’t make sense

Page 8, 1st paragraph: "Using a four year moving averages to gain stability and smoothness, no linear trend (significant change) was observed for neonatal deaths over the years using linear trend analysis (Pvalue=0.1) (Data not shown). There are 2 repetitions in this sentence: no linear trend was observed ... using linear trend analysis. And: (significant change) can be deleted.

Table 1: “House ownership”, Table 2 “House own” - please correct

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

no competing interest