Reviewer's report

Title: Newborn care practices at home and in health facilities in 4 regions of Ethiopia

Version: 2 Date: 28 August 2013

Reviewer: Allisyn Moran

Reviewer's report:

This is an important manuscript that outlines newborn care practices in Ethiopia. There are limited data on this subject, so the data presented are of interest to the community.

Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. In the Methods section – Please add justification as to why these four regions were selected. What were the criteria? High population? High NMR? Other?
2. In the Methods section, the authors state that this study was conducted as a baseline for a Kangaroo Mother Care Program. Was this program for facility-based KMC or community-based KMC or both?
3. In the Discussion section, in paragraph three, the authors state "the results indicate that providers are not always following recommended newborn care practices and are not providing sufficient counseling for women on how to care for their newborns". These findings are based on reports from RDWs (based on unprompted questions from what I understand) - so this should be clearly noted in this statement. Women may have had difficulty recalling counseling and other messages as well.
4. In the Discussion section, the last sentence states "Based on these findings, the feasibility study is emphasizing increased home visits by HEWs, and utilization of the HDA 1-to-5 network for promotion of KMC." Please explain why the focus is on KMC, given the study findings.

Discretionary Revisions:
1. The authors state that use of ANC and PNC services are low (and cite DHS data). Are there any data as to why use is so low, given the availability of health posts, HEWs, and the Development Army.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests