Reviewer's report

Title: Preventable maternal mortality: Geographic/rural-urban differences and associated factors from the population-based maternal mortality surveillance system in China

Version: 5 Date: 2 February 2011

Reviewer: Mahbub E Chowdhury

Reviewer's report:

I have two comments in the Statistical analysis section:

1) It has been written "The MMR ratio and its 95% confidence interval (similar to the relative risk, RR)". - this is not clear to me.

2) The statement "Undoubtedly, the coastal region of China has a well-developed socioeconomic and healthcare system. If effective measures are taken, the maternal healthcare in the inland and remote areas can achieve the same level" should be moved to the discussion section.

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:

No to all the above
'I declare that I have no competing interests'