Reviewer's report

Title: Addressing inequity to achieve the maternal and child health Millennium Development Goals: looking beyond averages

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Reviewer: Zulfiqar A Bhutta

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This is an interesting but by no means novel, analysis using the LiST model. A similar exercise has recently been done by UNICEF using the MBB (see Lancet Sept 2012). The major question is source of country level data for cause specific mortality analysis by SES quintile. How was that ascertained?

The implications for policy do not receive much attention in the paper. What should need to change for this to be targeted?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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 interests except an interest in the subject area and a paper under review in the Lancet using LIST analysis for equity in Pakistan