Reviewer's report

Title: Early detection of tuberculosis through community-based active case finding in Cambodia

Version: 2 Date: 11 May 2012

Reviewer: Saskia Den Boon

Reviewer's report:

Discretionary revisions:
Abstract - results: "A fairly low initial defaulter rate" instead of "The fairly low..."

Methods, 1st paragraph: neighbours instead of neighbourhood, and perhaps also "not at home" instead of "out of residence" because the latter could also imply they are homeless.

In the same sentence, a bit more information on how long or how many times health volunteers tried to find the contacts would be helpful.

Methods, last paragraph of "programmatic information": the authors tried to explain here what the normal PCF diagnostic algorithm is, but I still find it unclear. Why not say: "... were diagnosed according to national guidelines, which includes smear microscopy for all TB suspects and chest X-ray for smear-negatives who completed a trial of antibiotics".

Major Compulsory Revisions
The major concern I still have with the current manuscript is that it is very likely that there was a selection bias: the ACF found fewer younger (working) patients because the activity was carried out in the daytime. This is only very briefly acknowledged as an option, but large parts of the results and discussion sections mention the benefits of ACF as finding more vulnerable elderly. I think the authors should downplay this finding a lot more and acknowledge that the possible underrepresentation of the younger working people is a limitation of the study, rather than plus.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests