Reviewer’s report

Title: Assessing health and economic outcomes of interventions to reduce pregnancy-related mortality in Nigeria

Version: 1 Date: 15 June 2012

Reviewer: Johanne Sundby

Reviewer’s report:

The paper is a modelled analysis of inputs and strategies in MCH programs in Nigeria. As such, it is interesting, but only as much as the parameters and estimates put into the model are sound and reliable. The authors do state that there is a scarcity of original data, but I don't really see the data quality issue feature high in the discussion of the paper. I feel that this is the main issue in this paper. I don’t think the data are bad, but I am concerned about a confidence limit and other issues of the input data.

In discussion costs, it should also be included that patient related costs and affordability is not really entered

I would also limit the language somewhat. on page 5 under first paragraph of results: "Reducing unmet need for contraception also reduced the number of deaths from unsafe abortion". I would say that in a modeled estimate, there should be a "could" rather than a statement here. It is a probability issue.

I am also concerned and interested in the finding about antenatal care. It is indeed a key indicator but has very limited impact in the model. I feel that this is such an interesting finding that it needs a broader discussion about why, and if this is right, what do we do about it.

I have only limited experience with the biostatistics of such modeling, and the methods used may have to be quality checked by someone who know this way of analyzing data.

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 interests.