Reviewer's report

**Title:** Modelling strategic interventions in high fertility, low resource populations: a cross-sectional study of Idjwi Island, DRC

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 7 August 2012

**Reviewer:** Stacie Stender

**Reviewer's report:**

**Major Compulsory Revisions:**

- The question posed by the authors does not seem to be well defined. The survey is described, as is the calculation for the unmet need for family planning, however the recommendations are related to implementation rather than what is described in methods and results.

- Elements of Background, Methods, and Results are misplaced within the article, i.e. much of the information on methods for determining unmet need for family planning seems more appropriately placed in the background.

- The data appear to be sound, but that which is presented is not well referenced in the results, discussion or conclusion. Much of the discussion references issues which are not addressed by the methods. The authors suggest engaging NGOs, etc. but this was not part of the background, methodology, or results.

- There needs to be better distinction (perhaps separate papers) made between the methods and results related to conducting the survey vs. estimating the unmet need for family planning.

- While limitations of the work are clearly stated, they are not complete. A major limitation to consider would seemingly be that men were not involved in the survey, given the male-dominated society described in the article.

- There is no reference to work upon which the authors state they are building, both published and unpublished. It seems as if perhaps the methods of the survey were previously described given the incomplete description in this article.

**Minor Essential Revisions:**

- The title does not accurately convey what has been found, as it describes the process and not the result.

**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:
I declare that I have no competing interests