Reviewer's report

Title: Cost of Dengue Outbreaks: Literature Review and Country Case Studies

Version: 1 Date: 4 August 2013

Reviewer: David Petrie Durham

Reviewer's report:

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Major Compulsory Revisions
None

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Minor Essential Revisions
1) Second to last paragraph of Intro, 1st sentence – unclear what “the endeavor” refers to
2) Please explicitly refer to and explain all tables in the manuscript text, so it is clear precisely to which sections the tables belong
3) Results – Peru section – please check the exchange rate of 2,678 PEN/US$. Is this correct? The current exchange rate is 2.79 Nuevo Sols to the dollar

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Discretionary Revisions
1) Conclusion made several times throughout manuscript: “It would be economically meaningful to put more resources into prevention and early detection” – could you put this statement into context? Certainly there is an economic burden from dengue, but there is already some level of investment into surveillance and prevention. Your conclusions argue that it is worth investing in dengue control, but what is really meaningful is whether it is worth investing *more* in dengue control, compared to other diseases policymakers could be focusing their resources upon.
2) Table 6 – suggest making ‘evidence’ a separate column for the Beatty score; if no score assigned list “NA”
3) Suggest adding a table to the results section summarizing your country-specific estimates of dengue direct and indirect costs

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Minor issues not for publication
1) Introduction – 2nd paragraph – Consider rephrasing the first two sentences as “In this paper, we first review available literature…. Secondly, we gather first-hand evidence…” As worded it is not immediately clear that there are two components to your analysis.
2) Intro 3rd paragraph 2nd sentence – errant comma after ‘Although’

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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