Reviewer’s report

Title: Assessment of the core and support functions of the Integrated Disease Surveillance system in Maharashtra, India.

Version: 1 Date: 1 January 2013

Reviewer: Leonard Mboera

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Assessment of the core and support functions of the Integrated Disease Surveillance system in Maharashtra, India

General comments
This is an important area of health system. The manuscript is well written and brings up very interesting information as regards to infectious disease surveillance in India.

Title
Ok

Abstract
No abstract availed

Background
OK

Methods
Under “study design and sampling” it would make lots of sense if the authors could mention the core and support functions of IDS

Results
Page 8: Case confirmation – Last sentence is a repetition of what is described on page 12.
Page 10: Outbreak detection: The authors make reference to two documents namely “rumor log book” and “rumor register”. Are these two different or same document?
Page 11: Outbreak/epidemic preparedness and response. The authors state that “Fourteen (41%) districts had a method in place to forecast an outbreak based on institutional learning and analysis of previous data”…
I would be important if the authors can mention for which diseases or drugs is for the forecast?
In the same paragraph, last line: “All 34 districts reported use of outbreak data for action in the past year” We need clarification on how were the data used and for
what purposes?
Legends for Figure 1 and 2 not availed
Discussion and conclusion
Page 16, paragraph 2: “The authors state that: Staff at periphery printed or used carbonated copies at their own cost” – I am surprised the authors are discussing issues that were not reported under the Results Section.

Recommendations
Accept with minor corrections

Level of interest:  An article of outstanding merit and interest 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:
I declare that I have NO competing interests