Reviewer's report

Title: Local perceptions of cholera and anticipated vaccine acceptance in Katanga province, Democratic Republic of Congo

Version: 1 Date: 22 November 2012

Reviewer: Anna Lena A. L. Lopez

Reviewer's report:

Overall, the manuscript is well written, the objectives stated succinctly and the results were shown in a logical manner. The manuscript should be accepted as it would be essential in planning future campaigns in the site in Uganda and possibly will be helpful in understanding the role of social and cultural factors in vaccine acceptance.

- Minor Essential Revisions

The manuscript seems to be a series of socio-cultural determinants of acceptance of OCV in different settings in Africa: Zanzibar (where a mass vaccination was conducted), Kenya and now Uganda. It is interesting to note some differences as well as similarities among the different communities studied. I think that this should be considered as a strength of the study. It will be helpful to see how this study differs from the findings of the two studies conducted in the other sites, as these studies were more specific to cholera and vaccination.

A copy of the vignette is not available for review. Would it be possible to include this in the appendix, or if this is similar to the one used in Zanzibar, the authors may refer to this in their manuscript?

The discussion is quite lengthy and is at times confusing. Some information in the Limitations section may be included in the Discussion section.

Limitations section: Some statements in this section are not considered as limitations of the study per se. E.g., the first statement of the section states: “The prevention of cholera was shown to be a local priority and the findings suggest that there is considerable commitment to overcome competing obligations in order to be able to use OCVs. Nonetheless the anticipated uptake of vaccines cannot be assumed to predict future vaccination rates in a direct way…” These sentences should be included in the discussion. May I suggest that this section be only limited with what may be possible weaknesses in the methodology and the research process that may adversely affect the results obtained? It would also be good to include if these weaknesses were identified and how the authors were able to overcome them.

- Discretionary Revisions

It might be helpful to include the Zanzibar experience and inform the audience
how identifying the socio-cultural determinants affected or informed the mass vaccination campaign. As advocates of cholera control, the research must assist public health authorities in planning future control activities using OCV as well as WASH.

**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.