Reviewer's report

Title: The relationship of living arrangements and depressive symptoms among older adults in sub-Saharan Africa

Version: 2 Date: 7 March 2013

Reviewer: Daniel Lai

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Major Compulsory Revisions:

In p.3 for the Ibadan Study of Ageing in Nigeria, it is better to indicate to mention the factors of depression too.

In p.4, before the hypothesis, the research questions should be explicitly stated.

In p.4, “Data for this study comes from..” please check the grammar of this statement.

In p.5, when the authors indicate that “Samples are nationally representative for all countries except Congo and Cote d’Ivoire”, please indicated the proportion of the population from these two countries in relation to the total population.

In p.5, the term “Exposure” is confusing with its meaning. Should it be just called types of household?

In p.6, for the country-level variables, more details are needed on how the authors treated them during analysis. Did the authors assume that the value of a country-level variable is the same for every cases from the same country?

In p.7, the authors first “assessed the relationship between living arrangements and depressive symptoms using separate logistic regression models for each country....” Please explain what are the specific variables included in each of the models.

In order to facilitate general readers’ understanding the specific statistical tests/tools have to be elaborated with the purpose and function of each of them (e.g. marginal effects, heterogeneity in effect estimates, random-effect meta-analysis etc).

The results section could be touched up by adding more reader-friendly statement to explain the meanings of the statistical test results.

In p.10, I am not sure the R square should be represented by %. R square should be in decimal point, .7, or one should call it proportion of variance if % is used.

In p.11, the discussion on the potential remittance received by skipped
generation households in Africa is highly confusion. Do these households actually received financial support from government or not should be clarified.

The discussion section should include discussion on how the findings in this study compare with other predictors of depression.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.