Reviewer's report

**Title:** The best in the world? A study on key actors maintaining elders in functional autonomy in Bobo-Dioulasso (Burkina Faso)

**Version:** 1  
**Date:** 18 December 2013

**Reviewer:** Adesola O Ogunniyi

**Reviewer's report:**

Thank you for asking me to review the manuscript on functional disability amongst the elderly in Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina Faso titled "The best of the world...." The first eight of the nine questions requested of the Reviewers in assessing the manuscript are answered in the affirmative, The last question is excusable because of language barrier, the authors being French. The typographical and grammatical errors can be attended to administratively.

The study has some merit as it explores an area of geriatric practice that is considered emerging in sub-Saharan Africa. The randomization process and the data handling appeared appropriate. The result is credible. However, the authors need to include the important causes of functional disability in the communities studied and if possible the impact on the quality of life. The main focus was mortality but quality of life assessment with an abbreviated questionnaire like WHOQOL would make the manuscript more relevant for practice.