Reviewer's report

Title: Knowledge, attitudes and practices towards malaria prevention among vulnerable groups in the Buea Health District, Cameroon

Version: Date: 14 June 2014

Reviewer: Adugna Woyessa

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I. Major compulsory revisions

The following five points should be addressed to consider this MS for publication. These main comments include: a) Brief and precise statements describing the main results should be supported by good data presentation tools, b) statistical analysis and significance tests are not presented in the methods section, c) attitude and practice of the respondents is not well addressed, as the title focused on the KAP try to balance information this regard, d) Ownership of nets (ITN or LLIN) not indicated and there is a need to clearly show ownership status of the respondents, and e) the result section is too broad and there is a need to focus on main findings. There is no clear distinction between data and result in the manuscript.

II. Minor essential revisions

Result

Line 166-178, indicate data is not included in parenthesis at the end of the paragraph as there is no table or figure is to be cited.

Line 180-185, justify why 0 (0-6 for U5 and 0-6 for PW) is included. The statements refer to at least one...

Line 196, round off the decimal place to acceptable level.

Line 224, fig. 2 & 3 aggregated and not well described especially do not know fig 3.

Line 261-264, and 271-276 revise these statements and carefully present your findings.

Discussion

Quantitative presentation of data (%) should be replaced by qualitative terms.

Line 302-303, authors should justify their comparison of findings with another settings outside the sub-Saharan Africa.

Line 306-308, there is a need to revise the explanation related to antimalarial drug use and treatment seeking behaviour. Vector control tool like ITN or LLIN is
expected to stop infection. This requires more clarification or revision of this part.

Line 316-322, authors revisit this part and limit the discussion section to data interpretation/explanation compared to previous studies.

Line 331-334, include the duration of the study cited (2010, before three years) to better qualify the information.

Line 381-383, check this statement is in line with the present finding and there is balance of information.

Line 417, not educated could be replaced by no formal education.

III. Discretionary revisions

Title: Knowledge,…..vulnerable groups…appears vague as most of the participants are pregnant women. 86% of the respondent was pregnant women. No proportion of HHs with children under five.

Abstract: well presented. Conclusion should be refined according to the finding of the study. Line 35 and line 167 should reconcile related to age groups included in the study.

Introduction:

Line 60 and 61 should be separate as the idea shown entirely varies. Here, why the pregnant woman and children U5 become vulnerable could be include for the benefit of various audience.

Line 90, include the MCP strategy of the country and related targets in terms of pregnant. Better refine justification of this study. Perceived gap in practice and the research relevance should be reflected from MCP point of view.

I. Materials & methods

Lines 98 to 112, suggest including malaria endemicity and intensity under Study area.

Line 112, move the statement with 80% to line 110 next to annually.

Line 117, divide the paragraph according to its contents, and suggest from line 127 make a new paragraph.

Main comments: this part should be limited to less than the current size and include the data analysis on selection of variables for logistic regression.

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

**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.