Reviewer’s report

Title: Community-based infant hearing screening in a developing country: parental uptake of follow-up services

Version: 2 Date: 30 June 2008

Reviewer: Karl White

Reviewer’s report:

1. The manuscript is significantly improved. I have no suggestions for major compulsory revisions

2. Minor essential revisions: The addition of information about the number of children with confirmed hearing loss is very useful, but raises an important question that would be good to address in the final version. On page 10 it indicates that 2,003 children were screened of which 285 failed the screening test and were referred for a followup screening. Of the 135 who received this second screening, 82 were referred for a diagnostic evaluation. Of those, 50 completed the diagnostic evaluation and 45 were confirmed to have hearing loss. Does this include fluctuating conductive hearing losses...if so, that should be stated. If not, and all of these children had permanent hearing loss, it is an unusually high number and needs some discussion. This would be an prevalence of 22.47 per 1,000 which is 8 to 10 times higher than in developed countries. Furthermore this is based on a very low return rate which suggests that the true prevalence is much higher (as would have been found if a higher percentage of children had returned). To what do you attribute this?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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