Reviewer's report

Title: Feasibility of implementing intermittent preventive treatment of pregnant women for malaria in private and public antenatal clinics in Tanzania: experience-based perspectives of health managers in Mkuranga and Mufindi districts

Version: 1 Date: 22 May 2013

Reviewer: Elisa Sicuri

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript is well written and provides useful information for the improvement of IPTp-SP as a tool for the prevention of malaria in pregnancy.

Minor Essential Revisions:

- page 4: I think that the WHO guidelines reported do not refer to the current recommendation for monthly SP and need to updated: http://www.who.int/malaria/iptp_sp_updated_policy_recommendation_en_102012.pdf

- Methods (page 9): was a software used for analysis? If yes, which one?

- The manuscript is long and perhaps there is a possibility to organise it in a more structured way. The distinction between service-related and user-related factors done in table 1 is appreciable but perhaps it would be also useful to distinguish between factors associated with the strategy (IPTp) and factors associated with the drug (SP). For instance, factors such as the lack of cleaned water are undoubtedly related with the strategy; the lack of confidence in SP is, instead, related to the drug. A further distinction could be done (perhaps by including a table) between common and diverse factors identified in the two districts. I think that these distinctions could be useful for improving the manuscript and for better structuring the policy indications that emerge from it.

- The loss of confidence in SP is an important issue and perhaps deserves further comments in the current contexts in which clinical trials testing safety and efficacy of new drugs for IPTp are currently going on. One of them, actually, is going on in Tanzania as part of a multicentre study: http://clinicaltrials.gov/show/NCT00811421

- Findings of this study should also be compared against the possible new strategies that are currently being tested for the prevention of malaria in malaria, such as intermittent screening and treatment: http://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT01084213 At what extent could IST overcome the challenges that IPTp-SP presents?

- SP presents a further challenge: it is not recommended to women who take cotrimoxazole, that is HIV positive women. Perhaps a comment should be provided on this issue as well.
- Finally a few typos I could spot:
  o Page 3: …indicate that globally there were 216 million …
  o Page 3: … Tanzania is one the highest endemic country …
  o Page 20: …to encourage Mathers to be accompanied by their spouses …
  o Page 24: …under this situation it might be unfair…
  o Page 25: Given the limited financial and human resources in the health sector…

**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'