Reviewer’s report

Title: Too little but not too late: Results of a literature review to improve routine immunization coverage in developing countries

Version: 1 Date: 18 September 2007

Reviewer: Jon Kim Andrus

Reviewer’s report:

The paper has very relevant information for immunization program managers in developing countries that should be widely disseminated. It frames the issue well at the onset.

I recommend that the paper be accepted provided the following points are addressed:

· The abstract should highlight a few of the key positive findings. The authors state much was learned but do not state specific lessons. The abstract deserves to have a list or examples of these lessons.

· The exact number of papers identified (~9000) should be stated in the text.

· In the methods, the authors should explain for observational studies why only one reviewer was used, but for the other studies two reviewers were used.

· The authors should explain why studies which focused on strategies to improve overall health systems were excluded. Actually, there is a strong primary care argument to justify including these studies.

· When citing examples of finding of studies in the text, the authors should consistently cite the date or year of the study. They do this for a few but not for all.

· The authors should describe challenges, if any, of grouping the 25 selected articles into the four categories that they chose. I imagine there was some overlap. Going house-to-house or outreach may be applicable to more than one category. It would help if this was specifically explained.

· Contracting out services, as was done in Cambodia to NGOs, may be a temporary fix that does not necessarily contribute to sustainability. I would like to see more discussion about this point, and perhaps other specific strategies, in the sustainability paragraph of the discussion.

· The Additional Research and Conclusions sections could be combined into one section with crisper ending.