Reviewer’s report

Title: Explaining the impact of a women's group led community mobilisation intervention on maternal and newborn health outcomes: the Ekjut trial process evaluation

Version: 3 Date: 23 June 2010

Reviewer: Stefan Peterson

Reviewer’s report:

I have enjoyed reading this article very much. It gives a rich description of the intervention. However, I am left with a few questions.

The article is now presented as a standard research article, with methods, result and discussion. I have judged it as such:

- there is no methodological reference for the qualitative method used, nor is it clear how the "themes" were deduced for the thematic analysis since they do not seem to follow the objectives very closely;
- the results section makes it hard to follow what is a thematic analysis and what is supporting quotes, except for the boxes;
- there is a bit of discussion and references intertwined in the results section, while the discussion section is very short indeed;
- the discussion introduces six key characteristics, but I do not easily see where these six characteristics come from, or how they relate to or are deduced from the results section;
- the conclusions state that Participatory community interventions "can influence maternal and child health outcomes.... tailored to local contexts". While I like to believe this I am not sure from the discussion how the word "can" is justified over "may" - I do not see a discussion across different participatory interventions, which I would have liked to see.

Finally I do not see where objective 6 - to test these (mechanistic) hypothesis - is answered.

I would have liked to recommend publicaiton subject to authors satisfying the editor, but this option does not exist below, thus this overly negative rating. Sorry, because this is a very important paper, which I really look forward to seeing in print.

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 I have no competing interests