Reviewer’s report

Title: Epidemiological review of the risk factors of measles outbreaks in displaced populations

Version: 1 Date: 19 June 2009

Reviewer: Rebecca Grais

Reviewer’s report:

Major Revisions:
1) This is an interesting article which attempts to address the ongoing policy dilemma concerning the appropriate response to measles outbreaks in emergency settings. It is a timely and important contribution, but the manner in which the article is written necessitates a great deal of knowledge of the subject area and policy. The authors need to add:
a) significant background information on measles control strategies in order for the article to be understood. For example, it is important for the reader to understand that most of the emergencies referred to here are in contexts where there is not a two dose strategy for measles.
b) all references to burden and global control need to be updated

2) The review itself is limited because the authors restricted themselves to published literature. This needs to be discussed clearly in the limitations

3) Inclusion and exclusion criteria for the search need to be clearly defined. The current manner in which this is described is insufficient. For example, how are the authors defining an emergency? Malnutrition?

4) MMWR is listed on Pubmed. This is not a separate search. What about the languages searched? References in the articles cross-referenced? Other databases?

5) The methodology section contains details which need to be placed in the results. For example, the 9 articles contained should not be in the methods section

6) As the mean is potentially less informative as the number of outbreaks is low, the authors should also provide medians.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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