Reviewer's report

Title: Burden, Trend and Challenges of Leprosy and other Skin Diseases in Malawi: Population-based Cross-sectional Study

Version: 2 Date: 2 May 2012

Reviewer: Maria Lucia Penna

Reviewer's report:

The paper is very important because it documents the serious epidemiological situation of leprosy in some areas of Malawi.

Minor essential revisions

1. The title is too broad in scope. It could be limited to “Leprosy burden in Malawi” because prevalence data are the main data of the study and no trend analysis was made.

2. The sampling was in two stages. In the first the areas were selected proportional to size and at the second step people mobilized at one place were selected. This is not a traditional sampling method because it depends on compliance with the mobilization that is not the same for the whole population. Possible bias should be discussed.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.