Reviewer’s report

Title: Burden of Leprosy in Malawi: Population-based Cross-sectional Study

Version: 3 Date: 9 June 2012

Reviewer: ANIL KUMAR

Reviewer’s report:

1. Paper has been improved but still not ready for publication.
2. While computing sample size, national prevalence of 0.5 is taken but it per 10000 population and sample size has not been adjusted for this. It should have come to be a large size??.
3. One can assume based on personal experience that reported prevalence Is low and actual may be 10 times (0.5*10-5/10000, P=0.005) and then compute sample size.
4. Population characteristics are not representative of population like sample skewed for female (60.2%), younger children (<5) not included –must correlate if national data also do so. This must be required for comparison with national PR.
5. If we look at 66 active leprosy case detected in the sample examined, it suggests 37 new cases and 29 either on treatment or defaulters of earlier treatment. If we adjust to this ratio (37/29) for under reporting, national PR equals to 0.9. Why your nationals and readers throughout could believe that PR of 104 is close to actual.
6. For valid reasons, one has to go back to those who did not reported in camps/clinics. This group is certainly the one with low level of disease in question but may not be disease free.
7. Single leprosy is one area of concern, young children is another area of concern and working males who did not participate is third are of concern.
8. I would like to see these revisions before paper is acceptable.

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 have no competing interests but would appreciate the publication if suggested revisions are included