Reviewer’s report

Title: Voices from the frontline: Supervising infant feeding community peer counsellors in South Africa, a qualitative study

Version: 1 Date: 15 May 2009

Reviewer: Adriano Cattaneo

Reviewer’s report:

1. Is the question posed by the authors new and well defined?
The question is new; I am not aware of other publications on the views supervisors have of their work. The question is also well defined.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described, and are sufficient details provided to replicate the work?
The methods are appropriate and well described; authors may wish to provide some more details (see comments below).

3. Are the data sound and well controlled?
Data are sound, but their usefulness for other CHW programmes may be very limited because the results can not be generalised (as correctly pointed out by the authors).

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
Yes, it does.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
Yes, they are.

6. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
Yes, they do.

7. Is the writing acceptable?
Yes, it is.

Major Compulsory Revisions
None.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. Throughout the methods and findings sections it is not clear if the three interviewed supervisors were the only ones employed by the project, or were sampled from a larger group. Only in the discussion (page 27, last paragraph) the authors seem to clarify that the supervisors were the only three (if this is so, adding “and thus had a fully representative sample” is redundant). If, on the contrary, the interviewed supervisors were sampled from a larger group, the
sampling methods should be described.

2. Author contributions, page 29. The contribution of DJ is not mentioned.

3. References, page 32. No year and incomplete editor, publisher and publishing place in ref 31. No year in ref 33.

Discretionary Revisions

4. Page 6, last paragraph. The authors may wish to add “health,” before “social and structural challenges”.

5. Page 8, second paragraph. The authors may wish to add some details on the criteria for selection (age, education, parity, breastfeeding experience, etc) and contents of training (especially practical training) of CHWs. They may also wish to describe the criteria used to choose the supervisors. Further below, in the sentence “Each supervisor was employed managed ...” “was employed” should be deleted (as far as my knowledge of the English grammar allows me to understand).

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

**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 that I have no competing interests.