Reviewer's report

Title: Mortality following the Haitian earthquake of 2010: A Stratified Cluster Survey

Version: 3 Date: 21 February 2013

Reviewer: Herbert Duber

Reviewer's report:

The authors have done an excellent job of clarifying their purpose, methodology and discussion. This is a significant improvement over the prior version of this manuscript. However, with a three-fold difference in mortality estimates when compared to UN and Haitian government reports, the omission of households with no survivors remains a glaring limitation. While acknowledged by the authors, some attempt to assess the number of deaths in households with zero survivorship would significantly improve the validity of these estimates. Alternatively, if the authors were able to roughly determine that the proportion of households with zero survivorship was quite low, this would further support their current estimates.

Major Compulsory Revisions:
None

Minor Essential Revisions:
None

Discretionary Revisions:
1. How were combined households (those that previously were two separate households and now due to building destruction are living together) counted? Was one household chosen for the survey? Was information about both households collected? Was this not an issue?
2. In several places in the paper (notably results) the authors refer to a p-value of 0.08 as being of “marginal statistical significance.” Caution should be used when using such language.
3. For clarity, consider changing “location” to something along the lines of post-earthquake housing/dwelling.

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 that I have no competing interests