Reviewer's report

Title: Leading causes of death in Zambians, 2010: Results from Zambia's World Health Organization-standard methodology for Sample Vital Registration with Verbal Autopsy

Version: 2 Date: 2 April 2011

Reviewer: Bernardo Hernández Prado

Reviewer's report:

This is a clear paper that has as objective to assess the feasibility of using VA to determine age, sex, and cause specific mortality in a community based setting in Zambia. I would have no major compulsory revisions. The paper is an important contribution to the field in the use of VA to estimate mortality, and also has a nice discussion on the use of new technologies for future evaluation of VAs.

Minor Essential Revisions:
1. I would recommend to report characteristics of the respondents to the VA, as well as the refusal rate (if any).

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.