Reviewer's report

Title: A Community-based Approach to Improve Pregnancy Outcomes in Low-Resource Settings: A Global Network Cluster- Randomized Trial

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Reviewer: Babill Stray-Pedersen

Reviewer's report:

Review of the paper .

A Community-based Approach to Improve Pregnancy Outcomes in Low-Resource Settings: A Global Network Cluster- Randomized Trial

The study reflects great and impressive work and topic is of great importance for the world .

The study is a cluster RCT of simple interventions in antenatal, obstetric and perinatal care in 7 geographical areas (low-income countries) in three continents: Asia, Africa and South America.

The research questions are well formulated and of utmost importance.

The study design is very appropriate and methods very well described in short details.

Otherwise three publications have previously been published of the study population and trial methods.

In total nearly 140 000 pregnant women were screened and 110 534 were followed up in 106 clusters.

Fig 1 gives an excellent overview of the study.

The results chapter is informative supported by the very readable tables.

The findings is a bit surprising, but very important for planning to improve maternal and newborn care in the future.

The discussion is very relevant and to the point.

The conclusion is firm.

But why is perinatal mortality registered as >28gestational week and above? This definition should be mentions in the abstract .

In conclusion: The paper is well written, very interesting and important for the global community and MDG 4 and 5. We all have to rethink strategies for improving maternal and neonatal care in the III world.
The paper should be accepted for publication without any revision.

**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.