Reviewer's report

Title: The Lives Saved Tool (LiST) as a Model for Diarrhea Mortality Reduction

Version: 1

Date: 7 March 2014

Reviewer: Diego Bassani

Reviewer's report:

Discretionary revisions:

Background - Page 3 - first paragraph - first mention of ORS - should be spelled out.

Page 5 - first line "Currently there are around 70 interventions, either separate interventions or packages, in LiST." I suggest citing the exact number of interventions (instead of 'around 70') unless there is a good reason for this (i.e. new interventions being added to LiST on an ongoing basis - which likely is the case). Also, perhaps the wording of "either separate interventions or packages" could be modified to make a distinction between the previous use of the word intervention (meaning interventions and packages). Not sure how to get around it, but it does not read well.

Same page - the sentence "Interventions can be linked to multiple outcomes, with some interventions linked to multiple causes of death and risk factors." could be simplified and shortened to "Interventions can be linked to multiple causes of death and risk factors."

Page 13 - the subtitle "Impact of (preventive) routine zinc supplementation on diarrhoea mortality" perhaps could be reworded to convey the notion of 'prevention' more clearly. Either in the tile or in the text itself. I suggest this to differentiate it more from the next subtitle (page 14) where perhaps the wording could be also modified to "Impact of zinc as an adjunct for the treatment of diarrhoea on diarrhoea mortality"

Page 15 - Subtitle "Impact of (...) oral rehydration solution for the prevention and treatment of dehydration on diarrhoea mortality". I suggest excluding "the effect of".

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.