Reviewer's report

Title: Yellow fever control in Cameroon: where are we now and where are we going?

Version: 1 Date: 21 October 2007

Reviewer: Alan D Barrett

Reviewer's report:

General

This manuscript describes ongoing activities in Cameroon to improve immunization against yellow fever. The manuscript is well-written, informative and provides important information for those with similar plans. I only have a few comments that need attention.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1. Results section, line 3. I think more information is needed on how the authors know routine immunization did not involve the same children having more than one immunization.

2. Results: surveillance of adverse events following immunization (aefi). The authors say they integrated aefi with paralysis and measles. This may potentially pick up neurological aefi but not viscerotropic aefi. Aefi is a big issue for yellow fever vaccine at the present time. There have been a significant number of aefi’s reported in non-endemic countries while endemic countries have reported very few cases. Therefore, it is critical that the authors explain in detail how they followed up aefi’s and how can say there were none.

3. Discussion: Please clarify what a “major adverse event is versus a non-major aefi?"

4. In catch up and mass vaccination campaigns, how do the authors know the same individuals did not receive vaccine on more than one occasion? For example, the Bolivian MoH claimed 90% of the population of Santa Cruz were immunized against yellow fever while a serosurvey found only 30%. It turned out the same children had received multiple immunizations due to conscientious parents.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
1. Introduction, line 5-6: You cannot have “accidental monkey to human transmission” The virus must be transmitted via a mosquito.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

**Which journal?:** Appropriate or potentially appropriate for BMC Medicine: an article of importance in its field

**What next?:** Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I have no competing interests but I do chair the WHO Advisory Committee on flavivirus vaccines (this includes yellow fever).