Reviewer's report

Title: Predictors of mistimed, and unwanted pregnancies among women of childbearing age in Rufiji, Kilombero, and Ulanga districts of Tanzania

Version: 1 Date: 17 March 2014

Reviewer: Lawrence Ikamari

Reviewer's report:

This is generally a good article. It is well written and conveys clearly the key findings. I recommend it be accepted for publication subject to the following compulsory corrections:

a) Providing a brief summary of the survey methodology particularly about how households were selected and the number of eligible women selected in each household. This will help the reader understand the discrepancy between the number of households (2183) selected (line 32) and the number of women (2,199) aged 15-49 (line 40).

b) In line 161 to clarify whether all the children under five in the household belonged to the women included in the analysis otherwise this variable will not be a good proxy for birth interval. Fostered children or grand children and other children less than five in the household that did not belong to the women in question should be removed from this analysis.

c) To clarify the meaning of the statement in line 169 that ‘this variable was sufficient enough to be included in the analysis of pregnancy intentions’.

d) To provide a justification for the inclusion of the contraceptive use status variable in the analysis. This is a current status variable (as at the time of the survey). It does not refer to the time the pregnancy in question occurred. Some women may have initiated contraceptive use only after experiencing an unintended pregnancy!

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.