Reviewer's report

Title: Adolescent first births in East Africa: disaggregating characteristics, trends and determinants

Version: 2 Date: 26 August 2014

Reviewer: Priya Nanda

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Review Of Adolescent First Birth In East Africa

This is a well thought out and written paper with clear contributions for policies and program impact adolescent girls. The authors have taken both cross-sectional and over time trends to position their argument, i.e. little progress on decline of adolescent girls fertility.

There only few comments I have on the paper as it is well written.

1. The authors need to more emphatically acknowledge in the limitations that analysis of fertility from survey data depends on accurate reporting of age. Many surveys are also found to have substantial heaping around 0 and 5s. The authors should highlight what checks were done to test whether this was or was not the case.

2. The authors have surprisingly omitted analysis of contraceptive use and whether that has risen over the last two decades, largely because of AIDS prevention programs. Likewise the authors should also look at the levels of unwanted fertility recorded in the countries and has that changed over time. Over time trends in adolescent fertility in the three countries over the last few decades-is there a gradual decline

3. The regional analysis within in each country is losing significance, as the context of each of these regions is not described in the paper. If the authors want to bring out regional nuances they need to provide more information to justify those comparisons.