Reviewer's report

Title: A Cluster-Randomized, Placebo-controlled, Maternal Vitamin A or Beta-Carotene Supplementation Trial in Bangladesh: Design, Methods and Innovations

Version: 1 Date: 2 December 2010

Reviewer: Allan Donner

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential revisions:

1. Do the comparisons A vs. C and B vs. C represent co-primary objectives of equal interest? Will the comparison of A vs. B also be of interest?

2. Was a standard two-group formula (adjusting for the design effect) used for the purpose of sample size estimation? If so, how was the three group nature of the design handled?

3. It is not clear whether the final estimated design effect of 1.21 was that initially specified or whether it was updated using data collected in the first year of the trial.

Discretionary revisions

Some comments on the planned approach to the analysis would be of interest to the readers.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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'