Reviewer’s report

Title: Challenges for consent and community engagement in the conduct of cluster randomized trial among school children in low income settings: experiences from Kenya

Version: 2 Date: 19 February 2013

Reviewer: Andrew McRae

Reviewer’s report:

Minor Essential Revisions

The only suggestion for additional content is to add to their discussion of the degree of freedom of choice for teachers who work in a hierarchical system, as noted in the marginal comments.

Most of my other comments have to do with clarity of writing, and can be found in the tracked changes version of the manuscript that I have attached.

The document needs rigorous copy editing for grammar and punctuation. There are many sentences, particularly in the introduction and discussion, that attempt to cover two or three ideas, separated by commas or semicolons. These are best reduced to several single-themed sentences.

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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'