Reviewer’s report

Title: Epidemiology of influenza in West Africa after the 2009 influenza A(H1N1) pandemic, 2010-2012.

Version: 1 Date: 21 May 2017

Reviewer: Dhanasekaran Vijaykrishna

Reviewer’s report:

Ndahwouh et al. present a descriptive epidemiological report from collating ILI and SARI information collected by 11 West African countries during Jan 2010 through Dec 2012, including number and type of surveillance systems, sampling strategy, populations sampled, case definitions used, number of specimens collected and number of influenza positive specimens by rRT-PCR. Apart from being the only report of this kind from the region, there are numerous concerns with this ms.

1. Even though the authors have present data from 8 countries, surveillance periods are not the same in all countries. There is a variation in number and type of specimens among the participating countries that greatly influenced the interpretation of influenza cases in the region. In addition, three countries had no information for >14 years aged cases, which affects the age distribution deduced from flu positive cases.

1. Although the authors state the limitation of the study in the discussion, they don't provide adequate information to probe if these limitations had affected the interpretation of the results.

2. The authors noted that SARI is more common among children aged <5 years than adults aged 65 years or greater (Page 11, line 12). However, in this study, very limited number of SARI cases were enrolled from adults aged 65 years (1.5%) compared to children aged <5 years (67.4%). The statistical significant should be interpreted carefully considering the sample biased.

Minor comments:

1. In supplementary figure 1-8, there is a discrepancy in the labelling of the Y axis of the graphs. It should be number of samples tested.

2. All references need to be tidy up. It has to be in the journal's recommended format.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I recommend additional statistical review

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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