Reviewer’s report

Title: The elimination of healthcare user fees for children under five substantially alleviates the burden on household expenses in Burkina Faso

Version: 2
Date: 25 August 2014

Reviewer: Moses Aikins

Reviewer’s report:

Minor Essential Revisions
1. The underlines under the headings and sub-headings (i.e., Abstract etc) should be removed.
2. Abstract, line 15: What is “non-null”? Please use much more simpler and acceptable words in your write up.
3. Introduction, line 36: “…aimed at increasing health system use.” It will be more appropriate to use “…aimed at increasing health service use”.
4. Lines 72 – 90: The intervention of the study should be clearly described in some details stating the objective, nature/type of intervention etc.
5. Please have the text checked for grammar. At present the manuscript has some parts that are not written in good English.
6. The Methods section should be well structured to show clearly: Study area, Sample size, Sampling procedure, Data collection approach, Data analysis/Statistical analysis etc.
7. Methods, lines 119 – 123: This is not part of the Methods. Please revise. State the essential things done.
8. In the Methods, Results and Discussions sections, some the paragraphs are too long. Cut down on the number of sentences. Be concise in your write up.
9. The Results section should include the “Background characteristics of the respondents” showing for example, age group, gender, and other essential characteristic of their households.
10. In your description of the results, cite examples of the key figures in the tables and figures.
11. Lines 186 – 190: The description of table 4 is not appropriate as reference is made to “left side” and “right side” of the table.
12. Strengths and limitations of the study: lines 306 – 355: The section is too long. It needs to be revised and presented in numbered itemized form.
13. Acknowledgement, line 380: “Author thanks spe special …. Should delete “spe”.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.