Reviewer's report

Title: The integrated disease surveillance and response system in northern Ghana: Challenges to the core and support functions

Version: 2  Date: 20 April 2015

Reviewer: Helen Perry

Reviewer's report:

1. The authors have sufficiently responded to the suggestion to define “periphery” and then use the term consistently.

2. The authors have also added a diagram of the health system structure and examples of the questions from the data collection instrument to assist readers in gaining context about the system under review.

3. The authors have addressed all of the previously noted minor essential revisions sufficiently.

4. The manuscript should be carefully proof read to pick up remaining minor typographical errors such as the following:
   a. Line 145: "At the district level..." rather than “The District level...”
   b. Line 146: insert “the” between “through” and “commercial”
   c. Line 150: delete the comma after “the” and comma before “name”
   d. Line 157: delete “including” and insert in its place “to query”
   e. Line 163: insert “a” between “has” and “higher”
   f. Line 165: insert “we” after “districts,” and before “included” and delete “are” after “study”
   g. Line 169: delete “the” after “which” and before “periphery” and insert “a”
   h. Line 238 and for every last line in all the quotes: please check the style sheet for this journal, but in most cases, punctuation marks such as a period or comma are placed inside the quotation marks, rather than outside the marks. For example, line 238 should be punctuated as follows: “…affects case identification.” Please review the manuscript for every last line of the italicized quotes to make this correction.
   i. Line 255-256: add a comma after “were” and after “however”
   j. Line 392: delete “destruction” and add “distraction”
k. Line 405: insert [a] between “have” and “sitting” for readability

l. Line 424: spell out first use of Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) before using the abbreviation.

m. Line 503: insert “to” between “attention” and “and”

n. Line 504: insert “are” after “system” and before “urgently;” delete “is”

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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.