Reviewer's report

Title: Challenges in tackling tuberculosis on the Thai-Myanmar border: a qualitative study based on stakeholder perspectives

Version: Date: 5 June 2015

Reviewer: Mrinalini Das

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The manuscript details many themes, however, the conclusions and recommendations are based on 'limited coordination' between stakeholders in border areas of these 2 countries. The findings/results must point out 'limited coordination as main theme' and other themes should lead to it.

2. There are multiple themes explained however, few could be combined together under one head.
   - For example, coordination (1) and referral mechanism (2) describes the challenges in procedures.
   - Service delivery, organizational structure, policy implementation mentions the on-ground implementation issues.
   The author must re-categorize to make the text more concise and concrete.

3. Abstract section: Results: Line 44: Please elaborate the themes in results and do not just mention the thematic categories. Elaborating about the themes in brief will help the reader.

4. Abstract section: Conclusion: Line 50: Please relate conclusion with the results in the abstract.

5. It would be better if authors could detail/mention about the team of interviewers and the study team (how many and who were they: researcher, note-taker etc.)

6. The language used in TB research, programme and policies have changed. Please change 'suspected' word to presumptive (Line 179) and 'defaulters' to Loss-to-follow-up (Line 222)

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Line 115 & Line 128: 'Semi structured in-depth interviews' phrase is written interchangeably in both sections. Please be consistent.

2. Line 137: It will be helpful for the reader to understand what 'activities, behaviors and actions' were observed by the team. Please describe in brief.
3. Results section: Line 163: Table 1 is missing in the text, however Table 2 describes the heading of Table 1. I guess it is a typing error. Please verify.

4. Results section: Line 165: "The two interpreters..... fluent in Myanmar". This statement is better suited for Methods section.

5. Line 183: Provide a description about Figure 3 and how it was calculated, for interpretation.

6. There is a repetition of information in first two paragraphs of discussion section. Please review and edit.

Discretionary Revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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