Reviewer’s report

Title: From high to low malaria transmission in Zanzibar - challenges and opportunities to achieve elimination

Version: 1 Date: 02 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Siddhartha Mahanty

Reviewer's report:

The authors appear to have misunderstood some of my questions, for example, my concern about bias is malaria prevalence rates potentially introduced by sampling in homes during working hours, to which their response was to explain that all the surveys were performed in the same population at the same time of day (this would not account for bias in reporting true malaria rates, in my opinion). I acknowledge my misreading of the description of how the authors applied the Fisher's test (as explained in the response, the testing involved categorical data on malarial species) but I do remain concerned about the heterogeneity of the studies that have been combined to for the data in the manuscript. However, the authors responses to the other reviewers' comments do cover and address my concerns.

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

Yes

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.

Yes

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 am able to assess the statistics
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

Statement on potential review bias
Please complete a statement on potential review bias, considering the following questions:

1. Did you co-author any publication with an author of this manuscript in the last 5 years?

2. Are you currently or recently affiliated at the same institution as an author of this manuscript?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I did not publish with these authors in the last 5 years and also meet the affiliation criteria". If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I did not publish with these authors in the last 5 years and also meet the affiliation criteria.
I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal.