Reviewer’s report

Title: Disparities in access to diagnosis and care in Blantyre, Malawi identified through enhanced tuberculosis surveillance and spatial analysis

Version: 0 Date: 26 Aug 2018

Reviewer: Kingsley Ukwaja

Reviewer's report:

I have severally read the manuscript. The authors reviewed the literature well and provided adequate justification for the study. The Methods is appropriate and the Results interesting. The study demonstrated what is available in the literature: poverty and distance from health facility as risk factors of not-diagnosing TB in a resource limited setting.

However, from a programmatic perspective, I feel there is a need to better highlight the implications of their study findings. I have a few suggestions to further improve the manuscript.

1) In the Discussion Section, there is a need to assess how the enhanced citywide tuberculosis surveillance contributed to TB case detection from the study area. OR compared to baseline, what fraction of TB cases could have been detected using the routine TB programme?

2) Secondly, given the intervention, there is a need to assess the possible cost effectiveness of the intervention. Most studies in low and middle income countries that assessed impact of community/population screening/surveillance to improve TB case detection have been found not to be cost-effective. A note on cost effectiveness of this intervention will be informative in proposing this strategy for the TB control programme.

3) What proportion of TB cases remains undetected in the intervention site?

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.

No
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

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