Reviewer’s report

Title: Myanmar mortality registration: an assessment for system improvement

Version: 1 Date: 20 Feb 2017

Reviewer: Tim Adair

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript has been improved significantly by inclusion of estimates of completeness of registration using both UN and census estimates.

However, the use of the census estimates also needs to be complemented by a description of the method used to produce adjusted census death data (i.e. Brass Growth Balance method), and reiteration of its drawbacks.

Further, while there is clearly scarce information with which to estimate completeness at the subnational level in Myanmar, and comparison with the adjusted Census crude death rate is one method with which to make such an estimate, the limitations of the Census adjustment method at the subnational level (i.e. using Brass Growth Balance) should be described with the results. While it is clear that these estimates are not intended by the authors to be exact but more a guide to the approximate level of completeness, such a description of the methods and limitations at the subnational level is necessary.

The assessment of completeness should also report the Global Burden of Disease estimate of total deaths and 95% uncertainty intervals, to demonstrate the uncertainty of the estimate of total deaths in Myanmar given the lack of data.

In terms of the structure of the paper, it would make sense to move the completeness of registration section to where the crude death rates and child mortality rates are reported.

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