Reviewer’s report

Title: Estimating Adult Mortality in Papua New Guinea

Version: 0 Date: 01 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Peter Gardiner

Reviewer’s report:

This is a well prepared article of particular interested to anyone interested in the demography of PNG and, more generally, in the increasing understanding of methodological and data issues in measuring adult mortality and the need to look carefully at country-specific circumstances and not to place an over-reliance on estimates that make use of standardized methodologies across a range of regions and countries. The fact that it provides the first provincial estimates of adult mortality as well as a socioeconomic index for help in assessing veracity is also of use for people working in and on PNG.

I have only a few substantive comments:

(1) First is to note that the only "new" addition to methodology here is the method for adjusting orphanhood-based estimates from a single census for under-reporting. While this is described in the text this is only in narrative terms. As this method happens to be a product of two of the authors and is only coming out in a forth-coming paper, it might be useful to include a brief Annex outlining the math (formulas) involved in the calculations.

(2) Second, on the composite index it is not entirely clear what is the meaning of "it is adjusted to be a normally distributed percentage." A bit more explanation might be useful that could likely be done in an added footnote.

(3) Finally, in reading the article I spotted a very few seeming grammatical errors or inconsistencies. A final proofreading before publication might be useful but it is till virtually 100 percent of the way there.

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