**Reviewer’s report**

**Title:** Adolescent deliveries in Rural Cameroon: an 8-year trend, prevalence and adverse maternofoetal outcomes

**Version:** 0  **Date:** 04 May 2017

**Reviewer:** Tom Van Boven

**Reviewer's report:**

Page 3, 1st paragraph: "In Cameroon, adolescent pregnancies have a high disease burden due to its high prevalence and adverse maternal and foetal outcomes" : This sentence is confusing; it is not because of its high prevalence that adolescent pregnancies would have a high disease burden.

Page 4, 3rd paragraph: "reviewed the delivery registers" : Knowing how difficult it can be in rural areas to collect data on anything, how reliable is the info from the delivery registers? Up to what level were they properly completed/monitored? Do you know if in the 8 years, the health care staff have been the same, or have they been replaced? Is there proper training on admin and records keeping for health care staff in rural Cameroon?

Page 4, 3rd paragraph: "birth weight less than 1000 grams, multiple deliveries and deliveries before 28 weeks gestation": What is the reason for excluding these in the research?

Page 5, 2nd paragraph: "girl aged 13-19 years": It may help to explain your age group further. At the end of the document, your table shows 'age <20 years', so I assume you are looking at early adolescence too (age <13 years). With this sentence here, are we to assume there were no pregnancies/deliveries for girls under the age of 13? Even though these early adolescence pregnancies are less common, the complications with these pregnancies/deliveries are almost always more severe. And that is what you are looking at in this paper, the link with complications.

Page 5, 2nd paragraph: "second cause of death among girls age 15-19 years worldwide": Is it different for girls younger than 15? I know it is a quote from another research, but it only covers the last half of the range of adolescence, what about those that are 10-14?

Page 6, 2nd paragraph: "Retrospective-register analysis": By doing this, there can be the assumption of accurate/proper recording over the span of 8 years. Has the health care staff been the same in that period, or were there different people, with different standards towards monitoring births and keeping records? What could be the margin of error by choosing to look back over a period of 8 years without knowing the consistence in the quality of the data?

Page 7, 2nd paragraph: "We noticed a significant downward trend": Beyond the data from the registers, was there any literature review done, or interviews taken regarding reasons for this
show of decline? Was there a launch of a strategic plan for RH/FP? Increase in service delivery or on the job training provided? Cultural change being pushed by traditional and religious leaders? New policy aiming to reduce teen pregnancies?

Page 7, 3rd paragraph: "Indeed, almost half of the adolescents in our study were married": This point is important, showing that there is no difference between married and unmarried teens and their pregnancies/deliveries from a scientific point of view. From a social behavior change angle, this shows the need to also address SRH needs for unmarried adolescents, who often get less health care support than their married counterparts.

Page 8, 3rd paragraph: "who were like to have...": change to: who were likely to have

Page 8, 4th paragraph: "caesarean deliveries was unacceptably low": Is this linked to the fact that the whole region only had one doctor in one health center and one nurse in the other? Or because of infrastructure (lack of)? Or cultural believes?

Page 13, table 1: "multigravida and multiparous": In both words, the definition is clear, and the terms are used correctly. I wonder though, was this the way the register asked for info? Or was info available on every entry regarding the age and number of pregnancies? As it is in this table, it doesn't allow the reader to see any difference between a girl that had 2 pregnancies/deliveries or 4, prior to the age of 20. For example: a girl who had 4 pregnancies at the ages of 13, 14, 16 and 17 would be put in the same group as a girl who had 2 pregnancies/deliveries at the ages of 18 and 19. It only takes an extra row and column in a table to show this extra info, and it will give a broader picture that is a lot more detailed in its information. It could avoid critics minimizing this data with half explanations.

**Level of interest**

Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English**

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

**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'

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