Reviewer’s report

Title: Rubella IgM sero-prevalence in children in Zimbabwe - analysis of data from the national measles/rubella case based surveillance system

Version: 2 Date: 30 November 2014

Reviewer: Stephen Mshana

Reviewer’s report:

The manuscript is well written however the following comments should be addressed before is considered for publication

Background is too long. Authors should focus the background on IgM sero-positivity and risk of CRS. There is no need to have sections in the background. Provide data relevant to your country also they need to consider pre-vaccination and post-vaccination data especially when they are giving data from developed countries.

Methods: I think it will be good for readers if detailed areas of where samples were collected if possible provide a map with number of samples from each district.

How many clusters of outbreaks? How many samples you collected from each clusters? You have nicely given WHO guideline however you have not explained in details how you sampled? (number of clusters, number of cases? etc)

Provide manufacturers of each material.

What amount of serum was pipetted?

Description of ELISA method is too long; you followed the manufacturer instructions with no modification just say that

What was the cutoff point in terms of IU/ml?

Results: Show the distribution of cases between urban and rural? Any association with population size?

The study involves adults? Did you ask if those adults (women) were pregnant? Any follow up for those IgM positive for CRS? (This information will add value of your data)

Discussion: The discussion should focus on the results

Generally the manuscript needs to be formatted as per Journal style in all sections.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

None