



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE & Health
Manuscript Number:	2015_IJTDH_16822
Title of the Manuscript:	Demographic and hearing related variables important for prediction of disabling hearing impairment: A community based survey
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound.

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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
<u>Compulsory</u> REVISION comments	The authors have undertaken an important study to document and describe significant hearing loss in Sub-Saharan Africa. I would like the authors to comment on the following: • Kumbotso, Nigeria is described as a local govt area, and a town, with a 2006-census count of almost 300,000. As a reader when I see "rural settlement" I have a quite different mental image from that. • In the abstract the authors mention using socio-demographic information as possible predictors. The analysis apparently revealed that many of those independent variables did not have a significant association with hearing loss and thus, I reason, most of those (raw) data are left out. I realize there is a somewhat small N, but I would like to see a table of the demographic information obtained for these participants. • If I am reading correctly, the authors combined the "normal" and "mild" categories into the "normal hearing" category for the analysis. I think readers would be well served if that information is stated explicitly.	• Thank you for these observations; perhaps rural settlement was not the best terminology, semi-urban may have been better (see line 13) • Regarding table of demographic information this is now included as table 2 as drawn from the WHO survey form. • With respect to your last query, strictly speaking Normal and Mild categories were not combined by us; for the purposes of early detection, the Expert group on Global burden of disease came up with this new classification and gave a cut-off of $\geq 35\text{dB}$ $\equiv$ moderate HL at which amplification is usually beneficial, so this 'combination' is not ours. Title adjustment has been made on the table for ease of understanding.
<u>Minor</u> REVISION comments	• Please cite the calibration standard (e.g., ISO) used for the Amplivox audiometer.	Line 126 shows the calibration standard used.
<u>Optional/General</u> comments		