Reviewer's report

Title: Iron deficiency anemia is not a rare problem among women of reproductive ages in Ethiopia: a community based cross sectional study.

Version: 4 Date: 24 August 2009

Reviewer: Beverley-Ann Biggs

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Minor essential revisions
In the methods, mention what the intestinal parasites were treated with.
Remove the word nutritional from last para page 7 in the statistics section as it is unnecessary.
Page 8 The sentence 'the prevalence of all types of nutritional anaemia..' is confusing because it suggests that the authors have looked for other types of nutritional anaemia such as folate, B12 or vitamin A deficiency. It would be better to say 'the prevalence of anaemia. This is also repeated in the discussion on page 12, para 3 and should be changed.
Did the authors look at association of hookworm infection with low ferritin? We found this to be the case, even though there was no association with anaemia per se.
11% of women had anaemia that was apparently not due to iron deficiency. Do the authors think that they underestimated iron deficiency due to ferritin levels being elevated as an acute phase protein in some patients? Or do they think that deficiency of other micronutrients may have caused the anaemia. Or possibly haemoglobinopathy. Please discuss.
The authors should also discuss the latest recommendations from WHO regarding weekly iron-folic acid supplementation for women of reproductive age in areas with a prevalence of anaemia of more than 20%. Is this feasible in Ethiopia?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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:
I have no competing interests.