Reviewer’s report

Title: The Apparent Effects of Dams and Season on Malaria Incidence and Anopheles Abundance in Ethiopia.

Version: 1 Date: 29 November 2012

Reviewer: Namita Mahapatra

Reviewer’s report:

The title of the manuscript is appropriate. However, methodology is not properly written. Adequate data has not been presented in the results. Detail remarks are given below.

i) 1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined? yes
2. Are the methods appropriate and well described? not clearly mentioned
3. Are the data sound? NO
4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? NO
5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data? NO
6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated? yes
7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished? yes
8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? NO

ii) Is the writing acceptable? Needs major revision.

- Discretionary Revisions (which are recommendations for improvement but which the author can choose to ignore) suggestion given in the text
- Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct) suggestion given in the text
- Major Compulsory Revisions (which the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached) suggestion given in the text

All the three type of revision has been suggested in the text.

- Major Compulsory Revisions

K11. How many are closest village and how many are farthest village from the dam?

What is the malaria prevalence rate of the study villages? Baseline data are necessary for impact assessment.

K14. Procedure for Identification of mosquitoes needs to be mentioned.
Clearly mention, out of the 2040 cases how may belongs to near by village and farther village.

What is the malaria prevalence rate of these villages? Are all the fever cases were confirmed microscopically and all the slides were positive for only P. falciparum? What about P. vivax? Please mention these data clearly.

All the data presented in the text is the cumulative ones (for 16 village) which does not reflect any comparision as mentioned in the objective.

Mosquito density, what is the value? What are the species composition? Does it include any anophelines/ vector species? What are the vector species prevalent? Nothing has been mentioned neither in the text nor in the table.

Provide all these data separately for closest village and farthest village from the dam.

What about other anophelines. Is it that all the mosquitoes collected are Anopheles arabiensis?. The vector survey data needs to be presented in detail giving total no of mosquitoes collected, types of species, seasonal prevalence. All these data needs to be mentioned. Entomological survey needs to be properly written giving all the above data.

- Minor Essential Revisions

The minor essential revision is highlighted in the text.

Abstract: K1-K6
Introduction: K7-K10
Materials and method: K13-K18
Results: K19, K22, K23 and K26
Discussion: K28-K30, K32-K38
Conclusion: K39, K40

Discretionary Revisions

Throughout the text, in many sentences there is no space between two words where a space should be given and also words where space should be deleted. The author should go through the text and make necessary change.

- Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
- Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
- Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests