Reviewer's report

Title: Population-based prevalence survey of tuberculosis in the Tigray region of Ethiopia.

Version: 2 Date: 15 June 2013

Reviewer: William Worodria

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I have read with great interest the article by Berhe, et al. in a population–based survey of tuberculosis (TB) in the Tigray region of Ethiopia. The study has found a higher prevalence of TB than a nationwide survey that was done in the same period. The survey identified a significant number of undetected TB cases.

The article is well written with few grammatical errors.

Major compulsory revisions

1. The justification of this prevalence study is not clear, especially where a parallel national prevalence study was being done. What is peculiar to the Tigray region necessitating an additional survey?

2. Persistent cough has not been accurately defined. In the article persistent cough and chronic cough are used interchangeably. This should be clarified for consistency.

3. What is the prevalence of HIV among TB suspects in the urban and rural areas? Results concerning the magnitude of HIV in these populations are discussed without presenting actual results on the magnitude of HIV from the survey.

4. Did the survey collect additional information about the risk factors and associated factors for tuberculosis to establish the extent of overcrowding, socioeconomic status, smoking, etc and the effect on tuberculosis? This could be presented in the results to enrich the discussion about possible difference in the prevalence of TB.

Minor Essential Revisions

Minor grammatical errors:

Page 7, line 5: spelling of univariate

Page 7, line 10, rewrite for clarity".....whose age were..."

Page 8, paragraph 1, rewrite for clarity or illustrate by a figure

Page 10, third paragraph, 1st line, the sentence is not clear

Some references are incomplete.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.