Reviewer's report

Title: A national survey of the prevalence of schistosomiasis and soil transmitted helminths in Malawi

Version: 1 Date: 4 June 2004

Reviewer: Mamadou Traore

Reviewer's report:

General
My understanding is that the authors are trying to show that schistosomiasis is no longer of public health importance in Malawi because of effective control measures taken. If that is so, they should say more about schistosomiasis control effort in Malawi during the last 10 years.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
The authors must give more details on:
- previous surveys that have estimated schistosomiasis prevalence to up to 100%, the time, methods used, population covered, the ecological characteristics of the areas surveyed;
- control measures that have had so profound effects on these prevalences, if school children have been treated, when have they been treated?
- geographical characteristics of the seven distinct ecological areas studied e.g., water bodies, water contact activities, and if available snail population and biology.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
None.