Reviewer's report

Title: A Changing Picture of Shigellosis in Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam; Shifting Species Dominance, Antimicrobial Susceptibility and Clinical Presentation

Version: 3 Date: 13 October 2009

Reviewer: Inacio Mandomando

Reviewer's report:

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined? YES
2. Are the methods appropriate and well described? YES
3. Are the data sound? YES
4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? YES
5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data? YES
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 Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?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? YES
9. Is the writing acceptable? YES

Please make your review as constructive and detailed as possible in your comments so that authors have the opportunity to overcome any serious deficiencies that you find and please also divide your comments into the following categories:

The authors present a comprehensive combined epidemiological and microbiological data of shigellosis from three studies in Ho Chi Minh City Southern Viet Nam over 14 years period. The manuscript appear to be well written, however there are minor essential revisions required.

Line 183: "defined as" is repeated

Lines 188 - 190: White and red blood cell count was examined microscopically and scored on scale from zero to four, being zero without and four with the most. It is not clear how many cell correspond to score four. I would suggest to present the scale in quantitative way, e.g scale 1 = xx to yy cells / HPF

Lines 232 - 235: The sentence "These observations are consistent .......3 years of age" it seems more discussion than results.

Lines 238 - 240: Again as the previous
In figures 2 & 3 there is missing the labels of red and grey bars

I would suggest to accept after minor essential revisions (which the authors can be trusted to make)

'I declare that I have no competing interests' below.