Reviewer's report

Title: Nationwide shifts in the double burden of overweight and underweight in Vietnamese adults in the period 2000 - 2005: two national nutrition surveys.

Version: 1 Date: 16 June 2010

Reviewer: Rosely Sichieri

Reviewer's report:

This is a study on the prevalence and secular trends of underweight and overweight in two nationwide samples of Vietnamese adults. The information is of importance, but several issues have to be clarified.

Methods:
1- Since the sampling included all household members clarify if household clustering was accounted in analysis.
2- For both surveys the selected subjects who were not able to participate were replaced by other randomly selected subjects with the same gender, age group of the same cluster. Clarify how this process was done because the reference suggested [14] is not easily available.
3- How many persons were replaced by sex and rural urban situation?
4- Include the number of subjects with extreme and/or implausible height, weight or BMI excluded from analysis in each survey.
5- Analysis included the weighing factors, but the authors did not refer whether complex sampling design was accounted for.
6- There is no information about ethics committee or informed consent of the participants.

Discussion and conclusions:
1) Authors emphasis the increasing in prevalence of overweight (BMI # 25 kg/m2) and obesity (BMI # 30 kg/m2), which almost doubled in the period 2000-2005, but the main finding is a very high prevalence of underweight in all regions. The prevalence was 20% in the most developed region.
   …..2) The nutrition transition stage is overstated. The rapid economic growth reported by authors have not reduced undernutrition. This should be the main focus in the discussion.

Minor
Chronic energy deficiency (CED) –in tables and text could be changed to underweight as in the title.

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

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'