Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence and Determinants of Prenatal Zinc Deficiency in Rural Sidama, Southern Ethiopia: A Cross-sectional Study.

Version: 1 Date: 5 September 2011

Reviewer: Majid Hajifaraji

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:

This is a great study has been done, however I believe the title does not properly cover the objectives and hypothesis.

- The key words have not been included in the abstract.
- In the methodology: it is no need to put the formula of sample size.
- Also it is not necessary to present the sample size calculation (table 1)!
- In general, there is too much information and description about the sample size and sampling technique (this is not a statistical paper).
- In the blood sampling and Zn determination, the cut-off should be defined and present in the methods and not be presented as operational definition separately.
- In page 14 the method for computing the prevalence of Zn deficiency should be presented in the methodology and not in results.
- Discussion is too long and should be shorter.

Discretionary Revisions:

I recomend the author to amend the title to "Prevalence of Prenatal Zinc Deficiency and its association with household food insecurity in Rural Sidama, Southern Ethiopia: A Cross-sectional Study".

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:

No