Reviewer’s report

Title: Association of socioeconomic and behavioral factors with causes of death: Analysis of data from Verbal Autopsy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Version: 2 Date: 21 May 2012

Reviewer: Silvia Stringhini

Reviewer’s report:

The paper is on an important topic, especially considering that data in low income countries are inexistent. However, major revisions are necessary

Major Compulsory Revisions

1) English should be extensively edited

2) Socioeconomic factors are in the title but not in the discussion. Please re-write the discussion according to the title and objectives of the paper

3) The authors should prove the validity of their assessment of causes of death through verbal autopsy for each specific cause of death examined. If impossible, just focus on broad causes of death without trying to be that specific

4) I find it difficult to imagine how relatives could distinguish between stomach and liver cancer or cervix and uterine cancer, for example

5) The methods section appears after the results section

6) I couldn’t understand most of the discussion, will read it again once the English has been edited

7) In the tables, the authors present p for significance but what is being examined is not specified

8) In Tables 4 & 5, the % don’t make up to 100%. If 20% of the participants are male and 22% female, where are the other 60%? The same for all other variables in the table.

9) Have the authors attempted to classify occupation differently? Why the category “other students…” has been selected as reference category? What the category represents? How education in this sample reflect the distribution in the general population?

Minor Essential Revisions

1) In Tables 4 and 5, please present results with 2 decimals only

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the
statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'