Reviewer’s report

Title: Association of socioeconomic and behavioral factors with adult mortality: Analysis of data from verbal autopsy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Version: 3 Date: 25 July 2012

Reviewer: Silvia Stringhini

Reviewer’s report:

I think further efforts should be made to improve this manuscript.

MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISIONS:

1) First and foremost, for further revisions, it would be VERY helpful that the authors specifically reported in the response letter the changes they have done to the manuscript in relation to the comments.

2) The authors should note that demographic factors are something different from socioeconomic factors. In the study, three types of variables are examined (or should be examined given the title) in relation to causes of death: behavioural factors (tobacco use, alcohol use and khat use), demographic factors (age and gender) and socioeconomic factors (education and occupation). This is stated in the title and in the objectives. Thus, the authors should compulsory examine these three factors, present results in tables and manuscript, and discuss results. Otherwise, they should amend title and objectives. For now, only behavioural factors are completely examined and discussed. These points are lacking:
   a. BOTH demographic and socioeconomic factors in relation to causes of death in low income countries or Ethiopia should be mentioned in the introduction.
   b. A specific paragraph on socioeconomic factors should appear in the methods as for behavioural factors, while now it is placed in statistical analysis.
   c. I couldn’t find results for the relationship between occupation and causes of death, but only for education
   d. In the discussion, only demographic factors are commented but not socioeconomic factors.

In the revision, I would like to see in details, in the cover letter, where the authors have changed the manuscript and what they have added.

MINOR COMPULSORY REVISIONS

1) ABSTRACT: In the results sentence indicate % for the causes of death

2) AOR should be spelled out

3) BACKGROUND: The sentence “It has been noted that tobacco and harmful use of alcohol are among the top four leading risk factors of mortality from non communicable diseases” should be placed at the beginning of the corresponding paragraph.
4) METHODS: The paragraph “The age of the deceased (in completed years) is categorized as: 15 to 24, 25 to 44, 45 to 54, 55 to 64, and 75 and older. Educational status is categorized as: no education, primary education, and 10 secondary education, above secondary and others (traditional). Occupation is categorized as: professional (technical/managerial/sales/clerical/self-employed), manual laborer (skilled/unskilled), housewives, unemployed, retired, and others (students, farmers).” Should be devoted a subtitle “Demographic and socioeconomic factors” to be placed after the paragraph “Risk behaviours” and before the paragraph “Data management and analysis”.

5) The first sentence of the second paragraph of the results should be placed before the subtitle “Prevalence of alcohol, tobacco and khat use among deceased adults” as it doesn’t discuss prevalence of risk factors but causes of death.

6) Authors do not need to report all the results in the text. They should use that space to discuss their results instead.

7) I still think that English editing by a native English speaker would improve the quality of the manuscript.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

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

**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