Reviewer's report

Title: Schistosomiasis Infection Among Primary School Students in a War Zone, Southern Kordofan State, Sudan

Version: 1 Date: 17 January 2013

Reviewer: Antonio Montresor

Reviewer's report:

The article is well written and report the first survey on schistosomiasis in the area and I think it merit publication.

Compulsory revision

The authors mention in the conclusions the fact that the question on blood in the urine is not a valid tool because the low sensitivity, however it is not clearly explained in the material and method how the sensitivity of this tool was tested, I suggest to better explain this. It is well known that only a minority of the individuals with urinary schistosomiasis present blood in the urine, so if the authors compared the report of the question with the prevalence of the diseases, a low sensitivity is normal.

The questionnaire has been developed to rank the school according the severity of schistosomiasis therefore to evaluate appropriately the tool I suggest to compare the list of the school in order of severity obtained by the survey with the list of the schools in order of severity obtained by the question and see if the questionnaire was efficient is identify the most infected schools.

Minor essential revision

the name of the parasite

S. haematobium / S. mansoni are presently not in italic in several cases (e.g. 5 times in page 10) the authors should correct this through the manuscript

S. haematobium is misspelled in the figure 1.

Discretionary revision

It would be useful for the readers to have a map of better quality showing more details of the area

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:
I declare that I have no competing interests