Reviewer's report

Title: HIV preventive behavior and associated factors among mining workers in Sali traditional gold mining site Bench Maji zone, Southwest Ethiopia: A cross sectional study.

Version: 2 Date: 3 June 2014

Reviewer: John Scott

Reviewer's report:

The paper examines an important and highly topical area: HIV and mining. I think the paper provides some useful findings which could be of use to other researchers in this area, but a number of major revisions are required to strengthen the findings and provide a fuller context for the research.

Major compulsory revisions

1. The language/writing requires major revisions. At present it is so poor as to create impede a full understanding of aspects or the paper.

2. There are many gaps in the paper: notably, some reference to the literature on STIs, HIV and mining is required. While it is appreciated the paper cannot cover everything, there is surprisingly no reference to masculinity in the paper.

3. The paper repeatedly implies that being promiscuous and/or having multiple sexual partners constitutes risk in terms of HIV. This is problematic, as risk is low if safe sex is practiced in all encounters. Further, the idea of 'risk' population with respect to HIV has been heavily critiqued, but this and limitations of constructions of risk groups is not acknowledged in the paper.

4. Some information on who the miners are partnering would be useful: are they same sex partners? Sex workers? Long term partners? Migrant workers? Local residents etc.

Discretionary revisions

1. Some additional information on the background of the miners, the context of their work and local conditions where they work would be helpful to the reader.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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