Reviewer's report

Title: The Use of Simplified Verbal Autopsy in Identifying Causes of Adult Death in Predominantly Rural Population in Ethiopia

Version: 2 Date: 18 March 2005

Reviewer: Abla Sibai

Reviewer's report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

Second review for BMC

The authors have introduced major changes addressing proficiently most if not all the comments made. The manuscript has considerably improved. The rational and implications of study are now objectively stated. Furthermore, the manuscript provides a description of the algorithm as well as a careful presentation in the discussion of the utility AND the limitations of using the VA in rural settings.

Minor suggestions:

p. 10, first paragraph: take out the sentence “Maternal causes constituted 14.2% of the female deaths.” This is repeating the sentence before.

Titles for tables 2-4:


First sentence in discussion: Suggest adding “Ethiopia.” This study has... level in Ethiopia... level in Ethiopia.

The authors may wish to add a sentence in the methods stating the duration of time needed to complete the interview. This would strengthen their argument that the VA can be easily annexed into other routine surveillance systems.

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests