Reviewer's report

Title: Malaria Prevalence and Mosquito Net Coverage in Oromia and SNNPR Regions of Ethiopia

Version: 1  Date: 26 May 2008

Reviewer: Abdisalan Noor

Reviewer's report:

This study reports on the results of surveys carried out in Oromiya and SNNPR zones in Ethiopia on the use of insecticide treated nets and malaria parasite prevalence. The results are impressive and the study provides useful information from an area for which such data are rare. These should be important baseline data for further malaria control activities in the two zones. The manuscript is well written and reports most of the important findings. The study appears well-designed and the analysis properly undertaken.

Minor comments:

1. In reporting the results the authors repeatedly use two dashes (--) between the lower and upper 95% CI instead of a single -. 
2. The authors need not rewrite the full version of CDDs in the discussion when this has already being explained in the introduction. They should stick throughout with the abbreviations once the full version have been written the first time they occur in the text.
3. On page 13, para 1, the authors write SNNPRR. I think they mean SNNPR!
4. At beginning of the results section, the authors indicate that ‘comparison of CDTI/non-CDTI areas will be reported separately’. One is left with the impression that this is done within the manuscript but such results are not reported. Do the authors mean that the results will be reported elsewhere in another manuscript?
5. I think Figure 3 and 4(a-b) can be put into one panel of figures beginning with reported cases and then annual incidence. In any case the incidence figure should come after the cases data from which it was partly constructed.
6. The tables can be condensed to one table or two large tables.

Major comment:

7. This paper provides useful information and I recommend it for publication. The authors, however, could improve the paper by reporting the protective effectiveness of the nets/LLIN against parasitic infection given that they have parasite and net use data among the same individuals. This is particularly important for low transmission areas, such as the study setting, where such information is lacking. A good reference to look at in this respect will be Noor et al 2008 in PLoS ONE.
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