Reviewer's report

Title: Improving sustainable methods for small-scale salt iodation in low-income countries

Version: 1 Date: 15 December 2008

Reviewer: Pieter L Jooste

Reviewer's report:

1. Major compulsory revisions: None

2. Minor essential revisions

2.1 In the 3rd sentence of the Introduction it is stated that WHO, UNICEF and ICCIDD have recommended strategies for salt iodation, but the reference used to substantiate this statement (reference 4) appears to have relevance only to UNICEF. Reference 7 would be more appropriate in this context.

2.2 Reference 4 could not be checked because there is an error in the website given in the reference list.

2.3 At the top of page 4 reference 16 appears not to be relevant here. Please check.

2.4 As an aqueous solution of KIO3 was sprayed onto the salt, it is reasonable to assume that the salt was wet after the spraying, particularly after repeated spraying. It is suggested that the authors describe whether drying was allowed, and if so, for how long. Sufficient information should be given so that the readers will be in a position to repeat this work.

2.5 Reference 7 should be given as a WHO/UNICEF/ICCIDD reference, not only a WHO reference.

2.6 The spelling of the first author, Azizi, should be corrected in reference 24, like it was used in reference 21.

2.7 Table 3 may be strengthened by including the proposed frequency of internal quality control.

3. Discretionary revisions

3.1 On page 7 mention is made of the health inspector. The authors may consider including more information about external monitoring, how it was done, the frequency and in particular which method was used: the rapid test kit or the quantitative titration method? This information, if available, could also be included in Table 1.

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