Reviewer’s report

Title: Malaria-related perceptions and practices of women with under-five children in rural Ethiopia

Version: 1 Date: 12 January 2009

Reviewer: Mohammed Yassin

Reviewer’s report:

The article "Malaria-related perceptions and practices of women with under-five children in rural Ethiopia" is well written and the findings are relevant for the effort to control malaria especially in more vulnerable group; women and young children. However, I have some comments for authors to address:

Major Compulsory Revisions

The data was collected 5 years ago and some of the recommendation included in this study are outdated as several changes, including ITN, ACT and community based malaria prevention are already incorporated in the malaria control programme in the country.

Minor Essential Revisions

Abstract: the first three sentences look discussion/conclusion. The conclusion seems not based on the main findings presented in the result section. Where is the evidence that Coartem® is not available at the community level?

Method: page 6, par 1, line 6: “Kebeles” not towns

Result:

Page 8, para 1, line 11 “Open field defecation” cannot be considered as a type of “toilet facility”, should be rephrased.

Page 9, para 2, line5; change to “Very few mother (<1%) knew none of the symptoms malaria”

Page 10, para 3, line 1: delete the first sentence “Mothers’ perception....”

Page 11, para 1, line 5: who/how many are these “Others”?

Page 11, para2, the last sentence (“It was apparent...”) could move to discussion and the same for the second sentence in page 15, para 1.

Page 15, para2; delete the second part of the last sentence; “while visits...”

Discussion

Page 18, para 1: was there any association with education level of the mothers and their perception/knowledge/practice related to malaria from this study? Although I agree that low education status is a bottleneck for most of the activities in such communities.

Page 19, para 2, line 4-6. The second part of the sentence seems contradicting
and misleading (...suggesting that an even greater proportion of people do not seek care from the public health sector). Even the CHWs are considered as part of the public health sector by many.

**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.