Reviewer's report

Title: Iodine nutritional status and risk factors for goitre among schoolchildren in South Tajikistan

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Reviewer: Alida Melse-Boonstra

Reviewer's report:

This paper describes the iodine status of school children in southern Tajikistan and concludes that iodine deficiency is still very common in the population studied, which has important public health implications for this region of the world.

The paper is written very clearly and the methodology is straightforward and sound. I only have a few small questions:

Line 111/112: Why were these districts/ regions chosen for the study?
Line 146: At what time of the day were urinary spot samples taken?
Line 147: Were blood samples taken in the fasting or in the non-fasting state?
Line 307: what is the p-value of the correlation coefficient reported here?

Further, I would suggest that in the Discussion authors could address a bit more the generalizability of their data: do their findings reflect the situation in the whole of Tajikistan?

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