Reviewer's report

Title: Frequent home visits by health extension workers improved utilization of basic health services in Ethiopia

Version: 1 Date: 22 October 2013

Reviewer: Julie Cliff

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Major Compulsory Revisions
1. Explain the model household concept, including graduation, in more detail.

2. The implied conclusion that only model households should be followed up is not justified by the study results. The finding that mothers from model households were more likely to visit health posts could also be used to advocate for more attention to non-model households.

3. The reason for grouping mothers who are farmers and other occupants (should be occupations) only becomes clear in the discussion. The definition of others should come earlier. The implication that housewives do not work outside the home needs to be clearly stated if it is true.

Minor Compulsory Revisions
Abstract
Methods
4. Include sampling

Conclusions
5. Need rewriting. Sustaining may not be the best choice of word, as it has other implications, and issues is a vague word. Also see comment 2 above

Methods
6. Include when the study was conducted. This information is essential to make sense of the year of model household graduation.

7. First and second paragraphs are repetitive.

8. Fourth paragraph: Unclear how hearing and understanding HEP is a social structure.

References
9. Conform to the journal style.

Discretionary Revisions
10. Although the article is suitable for publication with some corrections, it would
also benefit from more extensive English language editing.

11. The title reflects only one finding of many.

12. The methods are based on a behavioural model, which is extensively discussed in the cited article. Some of this discussion, and the possible limitations of the model, could be included.

13. Being able to accurately mention the number of HEP packages does not seem particularly useful. Perhaps it was a message in health education, and if so, this should be mentioned in the methods.

Minor issues not for publication
14. Check all abbreviations, for example, HP, ANC, PNC

15. Title page
   Institute repeated

Abstract
16. Results and Conclusions.

17. Correct other occupants. See comments in the main text on this categorization.

Background
Second paragraph


Methods
20. Fourth paragraph should be divided.

Results
Enabling factors
21. Round Birr

Discussion
23. Fifth paragraph last sentence. English, including use of which, needs improving.

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
**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.