Reviewer’s report

Title: Food insecurity, school absenteeism and educational attainment of adolescents in southwest Ethiopia: a longitudinal study

Version: 1 Date: 18 December 2010

Reviewer: Edward J. Frongillo

Reviewer’s report:

Minor Essential Revisions

On p. 3, “overtime” should be “over time”. Although generally the writing is good, there are other edits of this kind to the writing that should be made throughout the manuscript.

Neither the Methods section nor the tables (2 and 3) make clear what variables were controlled in the multiple regression models. This should be stated in the Methods section and the adjusted variables should be listed in a note at the bottom of Tables 2 and 3. Furthermore, it is not clear if the results for each listed variable in these two tables are adjusted for the other variables listed in the table (i.e., each table represents results for one regression model) or if these are results from a regression model for each variable listed.

It is stated that “Normality of the data was assessed visually using a P-P plot for all numerical variables” but it is not stated if the dependent variable in the linear regression (highest grade completed) was normal.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.