Reviewer's report

Title: Domestic water carrying and its implications for health: a review and mixed methods pilot study in Limpopo Province, South Africa

Version: 2 Date: 26 June 2010

Reviewer: andrea rother

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions:
1. Paper still needs to be edited – e.g., remove contraction “don’t” on pg 7 and spell out; spaces between full stops and words to be removed; one sentence paragraphs to be removed, add full stops after al in et al., put e.g., instead of “for example” in brackets, etc).
2. Table 5 data would be better presented in the text.
3. Table 6 data would be better presented in the text as percentages.
4. On page 21, “I’s” second and third question are leading. Suggest removing the interviewer’s questions and the corresponding responses as these weaken the other quotes which are good.
5. Are there any relevant quotes from the interviews for the equipment and environmental factors section and the weight of the water carried section? This would strengthen the paper.
6. pg. 22 – “In keeping with a phenomenological approach, open questions about the health effects of water carrying were asked during semi-structured interviews to capture the potentially varied impacts which people who carry water might perceive the task to have.” Did respondents list other health effects besides pain? This is not clear in the results section.
7. The conclusion is too long. Perhaps the limitations and strength of the study should be moved to the end of the discussion section.

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 I have no competing interests.