Reviewer’s report

Title: How do Health Extension Workers in Ethiopia allocate their time?

Version: 1 Date: 9 July 2014

Reviewer: Teena Kunjumen

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this article.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. There seems to be inconsistencies with number of kebeles. Is it 70 or 69? Oromia has 34 or 33?

2. The ‘Study setting’ section mentions the partnership between the community health volunteers (CHV) and HEWs and explain how it was seen important with the “understanding that HEWs alone... achieve high coverage”.

However, the ‘Data collection’ section and analysis does not discuss the probable influence the CHVs would have made in this study. It would be beneficial to have some more clarity on the activities of the CHVs and any influence it could have on the HEWs ‘available time’. This information could be of interest to policy makers and HRH managers.

3. Section: Time allocation per week, para 2. ‘productive time each week....used as denominator’. Please define the term ‘productive time’ as it is left to the reader’s assumption.

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