Reviewer's report

Title: Anemia and associated risk factors among school age children in Filtu town, Somali region, Southeast Ethiopia

Version: 1 Date: 27 April 2014

Reviewer: Tor A Strand

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

My main concern regarding this paper is that it does not sufficiently describe the methods. It is a cross-sectional study and it is important for the reader to know how you arrived on this sample. The English language should also be substantially improved before it is being published. It is also important that the authors describe how they selected their variables for the logistic regression models.

Minor essential revisions.

Language needs to be sharpened already in the abstract.

What is meant by binary and multiple logistic regression analyses.

Being from “low family income” should rather be: being from a family with low income.

The introduction contains all the right arguments but the structure and the language must be improved. I would also like to see more references, for example a reference to the argument that tuberculosis can be a risk factor for anemia.

The sample size seems reasonable, however, we need more details on why they arrived on 355 children. It is not explained well enough as is. It is also stated that a systematic sampling procedure was used, please provide information on this method.

More description on the statistical methods and variable selection procedures are needed.

Provide a reference for WHO standard for anemia definition.

Table 2: The table refers to Standard deviations, I see none.

Table 3: We need to know how the model building strategy was and whether there was too much collinearity between stunting and underweight.

Discretionary Revisions

Need info on where the capillary blood was collected (finger? Toe?). What
procedures were used to ensure standardized sampling. Maybe mild, moderate and severe anemia should be defined in the abstract.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**
I declare that I have no competing interests