Reviewer’s report

Title: Prevalence and severity of anemia among school children in Jimma Town, Southwest Ethiopia

Version: 1 Date: 13 October 2013

Reviewer: Emily Rousham

Reviewer’s report:

Overall comments: As a cross-sectional survey this study provides primarily descriptive findings on the prevalence of anemia and associations with socio-demographic and anthropometric variables. However, the study does report associations between anemia and reported food intakes, which is of interest. The background and discussion should provide a more detailed review of literature on the role of diet and nutrition on anemia prevalence among school age children.

Major compulsory revisions
1. State that this was a household survey in the abstract.
2. Add 'sociodemographic and anthropometric data' to methods section of abstract.
3. Describe the anthropometric techniques in the methods section.
4. Remove 'magnitude' from abstract (line 1), replace with 'Prevalence' or other epidemiological term.
5. Materials and methods: Study design: -explain sample size calculations more precisely. Under 'method of data collection' explain who answered the questions.
6. Methods - under 'operational definitions of terms' - remove numbering/subheadings for severe, moderate and mild anemia, and write as full text.
7. Ethical considerations - state which university ethical approval was obtained from and provide clearance reference number.
8. Results - socio-demographic characteristics: change title to sociodemographic and anthropometric characteristics.
9. Prevalence of anamia-section refers to Table 1 but it should be Table 2.
10. Second paragraph - refer to Table 1 when describing maternal and paternal literacy.
11. Discussion- the study should attempt to describe other factors that may contribute to anemia in this population, comment on the presence of parasites such as schistosomiasis, intestinal helminths (hookworm in particular), and malaria.
12. Discussion - correct references (paragraphs 4 &5), no author initial, just
13. Discussion- correct writing and grammar

14. Discussion should give a broader review of the relationship between consumption of plant foods and meat and anemia prevalence from existing studies.

15. Figure 1 - remove figure from manuscript, description of severity of anemia in the text is sufficient (Figure 1 appears twice, both should be removed).

16. Table 3 - Typographical error in column: 'Anemia Absent', row: 'less than once a day' 430.2 should read 30.2.

**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