Reviewer's report

Title: What are the factors associated with depressive symptoms among orphans and vulnerable children in Cambodia?

Version: 2 Date: 8 May 2015

Reviewer: Hanako Suzuki

Reviewer's report:

The current manuscript reports on the factors associated with depressive symptoms among orphans and vulnerable children in Cambodia. The manuscript has various strengths. First, the manuscript is well organized and the considerations for cultural and contextual factors are well discussed throughout the manuscript. Second, the manuscript builds upon the existing knowledge in the field of orphans and vulnerable children in developing countries. Third, the manuscript can potentially contribute to the health care and social services provided in the country and influence the quality of life of those in the community.

- Major Compulsory Revision

1. What was the percentage of boys and girls in school? Because authors conclude that schools may potentially act as a protective factor against depression, it is important to include that particular information in the manuscript.

- Minor Essential Revisions

2. Authors should include a section explaining the demographic variables/characteristics obtained and used in this particular study in the Method section. Although it is mentioned that the details of participants for the project are described in another article, the demographic variables appear rather suddenly in the Results section, which makes it hard for readers to interpret the results.

- Discretionary Revisions

3. Authors may consider elaborating “sick” appeared on line 46 in the Abstract (or choose other wording). The explanation on that particular “sick” condition does not appear till the Discussion section. Also, because of the project name, the word “sick” may be misread as HIV and AIDS.

4. Authors may consider including interpretations on the results in which HIV status and orphan status were not associated with depressive symptoms in the current study unlike other previous studies.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.