Reviewer's report

Title: Sexual Behavior and Vulnerability to HIV Infection among Seasonal Migrant Laborers in Metema District, Northwest Ethiopia: A Cross-Sectional Study.

Version: 3 Date: 20 July 2014

Reviewer: Hao Liang

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- Major Compulsory Revisions
  1. Paragraph 3, page 3, the author interpreted “bridge populations” as the people who transfer HIV from high-risk population to low-risk populations. But in the paragraph 3, page 7, since only less than half of participants, 258 (34.1%) were married, how can this whole population (migrated labors) be a “bridge populations” (paragraph 2, page 11)? The author should provide more details on that.

  2. Of the total of 756 participants, how many of them brought their spouse with them? Were these people’s sexual behaviors different from those didn’t bring spouse? Theoretically, with spouse on work, they are more likely to reduce risky sexual behaviors and vulnerability to HIV infection.

- Minor Essential Revisions
  1. Paragraph 2, page 8 the knowledge level of participants on HIV/AIDS could be coded as a variate, and included in the multivariate analysis.

  2. Paragraph 4, page 5 Sampling, of these, 14 farms/PSUs (two from Mertread, and twelve from Delelo), referred to as “study sites”, were selected by lottery.” Can you describe it in details, especially the reason for 14 farms/PSUs were chosen, other than 15 or 16?

  3. Paragraph 4, page 7, “Two-thirds (499(66%) of seasonal workers had migrated to work at Metema farms for at least the second time.” The times of the participants came from hometown and worked on farm could be essential factors affecting their awareness of HIV prevention, because the HIV prevention information on their work site were different from their hometown. We recommend the author take this factor into account for the multivariate analysis.

  4. Paragraph 3, Page 7, “Two hundred seventy-two (36.0%) respondents were unable to read and write”. How did they finish the questionnaire? Did their questionnaire were completed by data collectors with face-to-face interview? The authors need to explain that in details.

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.