Reviewer’s report

Title: Community-based surveillance of unaccompanied and separated children in drought-affected northern Ethiopia

Version: 1 Date: 22 May 2018

Reviewer: Karen M.T. Turner

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting paper about community-based surveillance of unaccompanied and separated children in northern Ethiopia. It contributes to the literature by providing recommendations for community surveillance processes (e.g., focal points being elected from outside the existing leadership structure, clear training about the categorization of 'separated' according to cultural norms relating to extended family, and the need to remunerate participants to enhance sustained engagement). Such surveillance is the first step in linking identified cases to better response services. My only comment for consideration is whether, given there were only two duplicate cases and the identified cases may not be exhaustive, whether a smaller target area per focal point may be warranted - I don't think this was discussed.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?  
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?  
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?  
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?  
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I am able to assess the statistics
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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