Reviewer’s report

Title: Determinants of unmet need for family planning among currently married women in Dangila town administration, Awi Zone, Amhara regional state; A cross sectional study.

Version: 2 Date: 8 December 2014

Reviewer: Erin Pearson

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

Methodology, Data analysis, paragraph 1

1. Please add a description of how you defined unmet need for this study. From the way the Results section reads, it looks like “unmet need” might just be defined as “non-users” of family planning. Did you take into account the woman’s fertility intentions as well as her pregnancy and post-partum amenorrhea status? See Bradley et al., 2012 for full description of DHS definition of unmet need.


2. Please add information on which confounders you are adjusting for in the multivariate models. The models look to be unstable (very wide confidence intervals), so you may have a problem with collinearity between the variables included in the model. Please do some model diagnostics to check for collinearity and other problems with the models, and add a description of this in the data analysis section.

Methodology, Sample size and sampling technique, paragraph 1 (line 103-104)

3. Please provide more information on the HEW records so that the reader has a better idea of how complete your sampling frame is, i.e. if a woman has never used family planning, is she likely to be included in the HEW records?

4. Please provide information about what you did if there were multiple women of reproductive age in a selected household. Did you interview all, or select one? If you selected one, how did you select her?

Results, Family planning methods use, paragraph 1

5. Current family planning use is very high in your sample (79%) compared to the 2011 DHS estimates for Amhara region (33%). This may be a result of the sampling frame being those women served by a HEW if these women are more likely to be using family planning than the general population. Please provide more information about this under the Methods section as requested above.
Results, Table 1

6. “Unable to read and write” and “Able to read and write” seem to be in the table twice, but with different numbers. Which are correct?

Discussion

7. Please add a paragraph on the limitations of the study.

8. Paragraph 2: As mentioned above, the variation may be a result of your sample. Since you used the HEW records as your sampling frame, you may be getting a sample of women who are currently or have recently received family planning services from the HEW. It would be helpful to add this as a limitation and discuss how complete you think the HEW records are, i.e. if a woman has never used family planning, is she likely to be served by the HEW?

Minor Essential Revisions

Results, Family planning methods use, paragraph 1

9. Please describe what 1 to 5 networking is.

Discretionary Revisions

Discussion, paragraph 2

10. You may want to remove the reference to Jordan, Bangladesh and Iran. This comparison is not very useful since we would expect very large differences in unmet need between these countries due to differences in infrastructure, etc.

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: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests