Reviewer’s report

Title: Availability of Adequately Iodized Salt in Northwest Ethiopia: a Cross-sectional Study

Version: 0 Date: 05 Feb 2017

Reviewer: J Vanderpas

Reviewer's report:

General comment: a report on iodized salt monitoring in Ethiopia. One more report. Showing that the objective of access to iodized salt in this part of Ethiopia is not yet reached: only a third of the households have an adequate supply of iodized salt.

Interesting, but to be more closely integrated in the general context of IDD: is there still goiter and cretinism in this part of Northwest Ethiopia studied? Some regions of Ethiopia were affected historically by goiter and cretinism: is it the case for northwest Ethiopia? The authors describe an altitude between 1000 - 2500 meters: I guess that the urban kebele "city" was close to 1000 meter, and the 3 rural kebele's "villages" were close to 2500 meters. As altitude is a major determinant of IDD, the authors should clearly state de altitude of their 4 Kebele's surveyed.

Many reports on IDD in Ethiopia cited by the authors: is there a general integrated coordination of IDD programs? Are the Health and Demographic Surveillance Systems HDSS official administrative public health organizations?

It seems that iodized salt is legally mandatory in Ethiopia on the commercial market. Is there a surveillance program? Which official administrative program has the authority to forbid the selling of not-iodized salt? If the law exists, but is not in application, it should be clearly stated.

Punctual suggestions:

Shorter title: "2016 Monitoring of household iodized salt in Northwest Ethiopia"

Abstract: Line 7: suppress "Utilization of universal iodized salt is the most cost-effective..." and begin directly with "Universal iodized salt is the most cost-effective...")

Background: last sentence : impossible to understand: there is a word lacking: "... were consuming more iodized salt compared to other regions." in lace of "... were utilized iodized salt compared to other regions".

Methods: describe in more detail the administrative place of HDSS in Ethiopia: is I an official administrative institution? Is there a central office of IDD in Ethiopia? If not, is it coordination between the various actors implied in IDD in Ethiopia?
Results: page 8 line 10: "higher among respondents who had good knowledge..." in place of higher among respondents had good knowledge...

page 8 line 14: "who" lacking after "respondents"

Discussion: Line 35: Please, give the values of iodized salt consumption in the references cited for Ethiopia and India: no reader will go back to these papers just to obtain these points of comparisons. Moreover, change "Ethiopia" with "West Ethiopia", otherwise, it becomes impossible to understand. Reference 31 concerns Gondar town, Northwest Ethiopia: I guess Gondar is a "big" city as compared to the 4 Kebele's surveyed. Is seems not a paradox that iodised salt is better available in a big city.

Discussion p 8 line 55: Change "However, the finding was lower than the study..." with "However, the coverage of iodized salt consumtion was lower than the one observed in India..."

Conclusions: replace "idiometric" with "iodometric"

Reference: reference 21 and reference 23 are the same!

Table 2: distance expressed in minutes... Seems strange. Pease specify: for example, "less than 60 minutes walking" "Greater than 60 minutes walking"

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