Reviewer's report

**Title:** Malnutrition among children under the age of five in The Democratic Republic of Congo: does geographic location matter?

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 16 July 2010

**Reviewer:** Salule Masangwi

**Reviewer's report:**

I would support publication of this article with minor revisions. It is a very interesting, well- written practical and scientifically sound study of an important health problem which may apply in many African countries and other developing nations.

**Minor Essential Revisions**

1. Based on the Abstract, the aim of this study was to determine the extent to which substantial spatial pattern of malnutrition is driven by observable factors such as socioeconomic factors considered or attributable to unmeasured factors such as conflicts, political, environmental and cultural factors in The Democratic Republic of Congo. Although this has been ably tackled in the Results Section, the Conclusion Section is not well balanced i.e. it does not clearly summarise the results to reflected the Title and the Abstract.

2. The abbreviation DRC has just been introduced without being explained in the document. We know it stands for Democratic Republic of Congo as is indicated in the Title but it is still important to define it in the document immediately it is introduced.

3. There are minor typographical errors e.g. spelling of “analyzed” on page 2 second paragraph in the Introductory Section is with ‘z’, and not 's’ yet the spelling of World Health Organisation on page 34 in the Reference Section is with ‘s’ and not ‘z’. To maintain consistence I would urge the authors to maintain one style throughout the document.

**Discretionary Revision**

1. I find the manuscript to be long. However, this may not be important considering that it is an online publication.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests