Reviewer's report

Title: Exploring variations in childhood stunting in Nigeria using league table, control chart and spatial analysis

Version: 1 Date: 17 December 2012

Reviewer: Maria Inês Varela-Silva

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Interesting and useful study about different levels of stunting in Nigeria.

1. Background: Provide a more accurate definition of stunting. It is not enough to say that stunting is linear growth retardation. Stunting is a synonym of chronic undernutrition and is assessed by height-for-age. Depending on the references and criteria used stunting is defined as somebody with a height-for-age either below the -2 Standard deviation from the median or below the 5th percentile in height-for-age.

2. Methods. What are the age-ranges included in the analysis?

3. What is ICF Macro at Calverton?


5. Please add the number of children assessed their age-ranges and sex ratio in the methods. The first time we read about these is on the first line of the results.

6. Discussion: What do the authors mean by “special practices” that may be related with the lowest values of childhood stunting? Why do you think this happens? In the discussion some possible reasons for the variation in stunting should be suggested. Just saying that “further studies are needed” is not enough.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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'