Author's response to reviews

Title: Prevalence of Anemia among Under-5 Children in the Ghanaian Population: Estimates from the Ghana Demographic and Health Survey

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Dear Editor,

On behalf of all authors, I would like to thank you for sending the second round of revisions. We have revised our manuscript accordingly (revision submitted) and provided a point by point response enclosed with this cover letter. The reviewer’s comments are stated verbatim in italics and our responses in regular font. We have also copy-edited the manuscript for possible grammatical and typographical errors and performed an automatic spellchecking to avoid inconsistency (American vs British English) in presentation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

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REVIEWER 1

MINOR REVISIONS

We thank the reviewer for careful and thorough revision of our manuscript and for the comments and suggestions. We have made the corrections stated below and also read through the entire manuscript (including automatic spell check) to correct possible grammatical and typographical errors.

1) “Birth weight has been described as "Large, average and small" in the 'Statistical analysis' section but appear as "Large, normal and small" in Table 1. Also, exact measurements for each of these categories have not been presented (i.e. Large=xx g, Average=yy g and Small=zz g).”

Thank you. The Table has been modified to be consistent with the other sections of the manuscript. With regards to the exact measurements, we did not present them because we used the birth weight reported (as a categorical variable in the survey) subjectively by the mother of the child since not all the children were born in a health facility, where they were likely to be weighed. The variable we used in the study was originally coded as categorical data in the Ghanaian Demographic and Health Survey (GDHS) as “size of child at birth: 1.Very large 2.Larger than average 3.Average 4.Smaller than average 5.Very small”.

ii) “Presence of infection has once again been referred to as "comorbidity diseases" in various parts of the manuscript (in the results section, in Table 1).”

The manuscript has been modified accordingly.

2) “Statistical analysis' line 1: 'haemoglobin' spelt using the British spelling but the American spelling has been used in the rest of the manuscript.”

The spelling in this particular instance is corrected and the manuscript has also been checked for consistency in the language presentation.

3) “Discussion' section, paragraph 7: ".....population level prevalence of childhood anemia for under-five children is 57% [28], which is much SMALLER than what is observed in our analysis ....". Please consider using "lower" than "smaller."

Thank you. We have made the correction.