Reviewer's report

Title: Efficacy of Moringa oleifera leaf powder as a hand-washing product: a cross-over controlled study among healthy volunteers.

Version: 2
Date: 12 November 2013
Reviewer: Jenny Wilkinson

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

The comment regarding causes of diarrhoea has not be satisfactorily addressed – the first paragraph of the Background implies that all diarrhoeal disease is microbial in origin (e.g. “Diarrhoea is caused by bacteria, viruses and protozoa, mainly found in human faeces which are spread from the stool of one person to the mouth of another.”) and while it may be true that this is the most common cause of diarrhoea it is not the only cause and this should be clarified in the text.

Discretionary Revisions

I feel that the authors have not well addressed my initial "major compulsory revisions" comments. Addressing these comments would I feel significantly strengthen the work however they are not compulsory revisions.

While I understand that the protocol follows that of the European Committee for Standardization EN 1500 and that this protocol recommends the use of 12-15 subjects in the study this does not actually address my comment. My comment is in relation to the power of the study that was completed. The authors state that “....thus allowing a considerable reduction in sample size while at the same time retaining statistical power.” however no evidence of the statistical power is given.

Origin of Moringa oleifera product – while the argument about use of a commercial product is a valid one in relation to use of a product that might actually be used in practice however the authors response does not actually answer the comment I raised. That comment relates to the verification of origin, level of contaminations etc for the product used. This information should have been obtainable from the manufacturer and I would have liked to have seen more information provided in the manuscript.

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, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests