Author's response to reviews

Title: Effect of daily versus weekly home fortification with multiple micronutrient powder on haemoglobin concentration of young children in a rural area, Lao People's Democratic Republic: a Randomized Trial

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RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM Reviewers
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Manuscript Title: Effect of daily versus weekly home fortification with multiple micronutrient powder on haemoglobin concentration of young children in a rural area, Lao People's Democratic Republic: a Randomized Trial

Submitted to Nutrition Journal

Dear Dr. Donnen and Dr. Arlappa,

Thank you very much for your valuable time for revising the second draft of our manuscript and give positive comments. It is very much appreciated. We did going through your comments then revised accordingly on the manuscript. Below are point by point responses to the comments.

1. Response to Reviewer: Philippe Dr Donnen

Version2: Date: 22 July 2011
Reviewer's report:
The authors responded to the majority of my questions and changed the text accordingly.
Thank you very much for accepting our responses

Minor revisions
p25, L8 : ref 42 and 43 are not present in the reference section!
p26, L1 same comments for references 44 and 45!
Table 3 p 44 : A and B should be explained in footnotes

Thank you very much for this important point, we did go through the references and added the references in the references section accordingly and also endnotes of the table 3.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.
Declaration of competing interests: no conflict of interest

2. Response to Reviewer: Dr. Arlappa
Version 2: Date: 13 July 2011

Reviewer’s report:
The response/reply from the authors is satisfactory.

Thank you very much for your positive comments and satisfied with our responses.

Minor Revision
1. My previous query- “The authors need to explain how it is possible that there is increase in height, since increment in height needs longer duration. Similarly, authors need to explain why the weight of the children decreased over a time. The possible answer to the increment in height and decrease in weight could be the episodes of morbidity during the study period. The authors mentioned that 20 children had diarrhoea and 10 had Acute Respiratory tract Infection i.e. cough. These acute episodes of morbidity might have direct and immediate impact on weight than on height.

We would like to appreciate for this very good explanation for the discussion part of our study, please allow us to quote your possible answer to the second sentence of first paragraph on page 25.

“The increment in height and decrease in weight could be the episodes of morbidity during the study period. The acute episodes of morbidity might have direct and immediate impact on weight than on height”

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
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'

We do hope this version can be accepted for publication in the Nutrition journal. We look forward to your feedback.

With best wishes
Yours sincerely

Dr. Sengchanh Kounnavong