Author's response to reviews

Title: Household food access and child malnutrition: Results from the eight-country MAL-ED Study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Thank you for the revisions. The paper now reads as a very nice contribution to the role of food insecurity in child growth. I would encourage the authors to address the following issues, but I do not need to review the MS again.

We appreciate the reviewer’s comments and time to improve the quality and readability of our manuscript.

1. Please help your readers by including full country names. Your standardized abbreviations may work well for internal communications, but they don't for the average reader. And there is certainly room for them on the axes.

   We have changed the labels of the figures to include the full country names.

2. In the methods, please justify why you chose 100 HHs per country and what analytic abilities you have with n=800. You removed sample size calc discussion, but it is actually still important to know if you are powered to detect differences in WHZ, etc.

   The study was conducted as a pilot study to characterize relationships between food insecurity, socioeconomic status and anthropometric indicators across 8 countries. Sample size was selected for feasibility, as outlined in the methods and we did not conduct a sample size per se. As the reviewer is well aware, there are several limitations of power analysis when used to interpret non-significant test results. Retrospective power calculations can be biased, extremely variable and severely bounded. The proper role of power analysis is in research planning. Calculation of power after a completed study is appropriate for a future, related study, but because power is a probability, power cannot be applied to a completed study.

3. Figure 4 needs a footnote explaining what title of Y axis means, exactly.

   We have added additional explanation to Figure 4 to explain what the y-axis means.