Author’s response to reviews

Title: Prevalence of Anemia and Associated Risk Factors among Children in Northwestern Uganda: A Cross Sectional Study

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Author’s response to reviews:

May 01 2017

The Editor,
BMC Hematology,
236 Gray's Inn Road,
London WC1X 8HB,
United Kingdom,

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Point – to – point response to the review comments of BHEM-D-16-00024R2 Manuscript

We hereby submit our response to the review comments. Please note that the revised manuscript has track changes highlighted in yellow as well. Lines where the revisions have been made are indicated in the detailed response here below.
Reviewer # 1:

“The authors addressed many concerns raised by the reviewers. However, the authors did not respond to the suggestion related to adding a Statistical Analysis section that summarizes the biostatistical methods used in their analysis”.

Reviewer # 2:

“The authors have responded to most of the critiques, and these revisions strengthened the paper or explained the limitations”.

Major critique: As previously recommended by Review #1, please add a paragraph to the METHODS section to summarize the statistical methods. The sentences currently found in the Methods, Results, and Discussion should be consolidated in this section.

e.g. Data were analyzed using Stata version 12 (Stata Corp, Texas) is in the Abstract line 33.

e.g. Z-scores were calculated on the basis of CDC/WHO 1978 reference using Epi Info version 3.3.2 is Methods lines 102-105.

e.g. Significant growth impairment was defined as Z-score < -2SD (stunted growth, underweight, wasting) is in lines 157-158.

e.g. Factors associated with anaemia were analyzed in bivariate analysis using ____ odds ratio, Pearson chi-square test, etc. ___ in lines 164-190 and Table 4.

e.g. Multivariate analysis was performed using ____ Table 5.

e.g. Additional correlation of household size and income was analyzed using Pearson chi-square test. lines 254-255.

Response:

We thank the reviewers for the critical observations and recommendations. We have included a subsection “STATISTICAL ANALYSIS” in the methods section as recommended by the two reviewers (lines 127 – 138). We have also removed all the sentences as indicated by reviewer #2 (lines; 33, 99-102, 170-171, 173-174 and 263-264).

Reviewer# 2:

Minor critiques:
1. The anaemia threshold should be stated in the Methods section in the paragraph lines 106-110, rather than postponed until the Results lines 152-153 (Hb<11g/dL for age 1-5y Hb < 11.5 g/dL for age 6-11y and Hb<12 g/dL for age 12-14y).

Response:
This change has been effected accordingly (Lines 107 – 110).

2. Punctuation sometimes is confusing: lines 39, 72-73, 168, 179, 268

Response:
All the sentences with the highlighted punctuation have been corrected (Lines; 38-40, 70-72, 179-181 and 276-278).

Yours faithfully,

BARUGAHARE JOHN BANSON, B.Sc., M.Sc., MPhil

SENIOR LECTURER

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