Author’s response to reviews

Title: Using height-for-age difference (HAD) instead of height-for-age z-scores (HAZ) for the meaningful measurement of population-level catch-up in linear growth in children less than 5 years of age

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Dr. Valeria Hirschler,

Thank you for your e-mail of Aug 12 2015. In response to your two requests:

(1) Please confirm whether permission was obtained for using the data from DHS surveys and the YL and COHORTS studies, detailing for each of these who granted permission to access the data.

Both the DHS and YL data can only be downloaded once permission is obtained. Permission for use of the DHS data is obtained directly from the DHS website (http://dhsprogram.com/data/Access-Instructions.cfm). Access for use of the YL data was obtained from the UK Data Archive at the University of Essex.

(2) Please provide a List of abbreviations placed after the Conclusions

We added a list of abbreviations. This change is highlighted in yellow.

Sincerely yours,

Jef L Leroy