Author’s response to reviews

Title: Undernutrition and associated factors among Urban children aged 24-59 months in Aykel town, Northwest Ethiopia: A community based cross sectional study

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Version: 3 Date: 07 Jun 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

OVERALL COMMENTS

Comment: There are still some minor concerns regarding the language

Response: The whole manuscript is intensively revised for English language errors (grammar, punctuation and vocabulary etc)

Comment: Some repetitions that could easily be fixed (see for example page 6 lines 42..., also see Anthropometric measurements were converted into Z-sore values using WHO Anthro version 3.2.2 software for the indices, etc..). Please insert reference 19 after the related modified text etc.

Response: The repetitions are removed and reference 17 is inserted (not 19)

Comment: Many unnecessary linking words such as: Accordingly, in addition, Likewise, Thus,... consider removing.

Response: The repeated use of the words mentioned is minimized

Comment: Revise tables to shorten the size of the table

Response: Tables are revised to minimize their size by creating additional variable columns.
SPECIFIC COMMENTS

Comment: In abstract sentences need to be revised such as: Similarly, not fed on cow milk (AOR= 2.90, 95%CI: 1.40, 6.00), duration of breast feeding (AOR= 2.60, 95%CI: 1.35, 5.00), dietary diversity score (< 4 food groups) (AOR= 6.30, 95%CI: 1.70, 23.00), mothers' poor hand washing practice (AOR= 2.50, 95%CI: 1.30, 4.70)??

Response: It is revised

Comment: How you can find more than 10% mixed undernutrition when you have only estimate 10% wasted? Can you revise?

Response: We apologize for the errors. It was actually an editing error.

The mixed undernutrition was 0.25% for both stunting and wasting, 8.23% for stunning and underweight, and 4.99% wasting and underweight.

Comment: I am also surprised by the low % or underweight compared to wasted and stunted.

Response: The prevalence of underweight (13.4%) is of course lower than prevalence of stunting (28.4%), but it is higher than wasting (10%). It is not unique for this study. A number of previous studies conducted in Ethiopia, including Ethiopian Demographic and Health Survey 2016 shows the prevalence of underweight is between stunting and wasting though the magnitude of the distance is variable across the studies.

Comment: I understand your point on cow milk feeding but I disagree on the presentation. The problem is that people may believe that you talk of formula feeding which has been devastating for children mortality compared to breastfeeding (your following discussion paragraph confirmed this well known fact). Please clarify your statements, time of introduction, the cow source a,d method of feeding and and differentiate cow milk feeding from formula in abstract, results, and discussion.

Response: Your concerns regarding formula feeding are clear. The issue here is that formula feeding is uncommon in the study area (Ayekel town) for different reasons. One possible reason is that cow milk is cheaper than formula milk. The other could be related to the awareness the community regarding the disadvantage of feeding cow milk in a child under six months of age.

Comment: Please revise your general conclusion, be more specific.

Response: Revised
Comment: Probably better to quote « multivariate analysis » in abstract than « separate »

Conclusion: be more specific, see comments.

Response: Corrected

Comment: some editing are unnecessary

(with 95 %CI) … COR (95 %CI) is fine and usual in papers; idem for « in month »: (month) is fine« <3/day » is fine and shorter than « Less than three times/day »

Response: corrected

Comment: Unable to read and write 24 49 2.07(0.86, 4.96) 1.91(0.51, 7.18) please remove, and add-

Response: The comma used is this manuscript is also common in journal articles

Comment: Did you define Food insecurity in definition section?

Response: It is defined

Comment: The result of Hosmer and Lemshow test was >0.24 : You probably need to remove the related result from method section.

Response: The information is removed from the method section:

Comment: Factors associated with undernutrition section

Please simplify the result presentation by giving the order of your analysis in the first sentence.

Response: Introductory like information is included.

Comment: Consider comparing only urban town in your discussion, you may also compare urban and rural to point out, what are the differences?

Response: Considered

Comment: in University of Virginia (27)... This is misleading and strange...rather state... in Cambodia
Response: corrected

Comment: Please how far your findings are complementary/ in adequation with WHO recommendations? Could you?

Response: It is already stated in discussion section

Comment: Conclusion

This study confirmed the high prevalence of undernutrition in the study area

Please be more specific, drop study area and replace urban setting of.

Response: corrected as suggested

Comment: The household family size, birth order and meal frequency were significantly associated with stunting. Comment: Idem here: household family size above 4,

Response: The expression of the key findings are revised.

Comment: Remove: The finding of this study also indicated that… please go to the point

In addition, feeding cow milk as complementary food, see my above comment

Response: These extra words are removed