Author’s response to reviews

Title: ASSOCIATION OF VITAMIN D AND DIARRHOEA IN CHILDREN AGED LESS THAN FIVE YEARS AT MUHIMBILI NATIONAL HOSPITAL, DAR ES SALAAM: AN UNMATCHED CASE CONTROL STUDY

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Author’s response to reviews:

The following Response is inadequate: "Thank you for the comment. The authors decided to use the cut off values from Endocrine Society because previous studies done in Tanzania have used these cut-offs and local clinical practice is based on these cut-offs. Hence, this study would serve to provide a local clinical guidance and also be relevant when comparing to studies which have used a similar cut-off."

COMMENT: It will be appropriate if the Discussion includes a penultimate paragraph titled "Limitations of the study". This paragraph should discuss the difference between the two cut-off levels and acknowledge that the prevalence of Vitamin D deficiency would appear to be much lower if the more rigorous cut-off was used.

RESPONSE

Thank you for the suggestion. An addition has been made to the Discussion section discussing the difference between the two cut-off levels.

COMMENT

Tables 2 and 3 should actually be combined into a single analysis (2x3 Table) and the analysis presented accordingly.

RESPONSE
The comment is acknowledged. However, the authors feel this is a good representation of the comparisons that were intended to be shown. Furthermore, the 2x3 analysis which the reviewer has suggested has been explained in the results section without an accompanying table.

COMMENT

Table 5 does not include the actual numbers in each group. These numbers should be provided in addition to the Reference group, OR, and CI (P value is not mandatory).

RESPONSE

Thank you for the suggestion. After reviewing the regression analysis, it was found that there an error in the initial analysis. Hence, a revised regression analysis is presented in Table 5 and necessary amendments have been made in the results and discussion sections.