**Reviewer's report**

**Title:** Effect of play-based family-centered psychomotor/psychosocial stimulation on the development of severely acutely malnourished children under six in a low-income setting: a randomized controlled trial

**Version:** 0  **Date:** 09 May 2018

**Reviewer:** Frances E. Aboud

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BPED-D-18-00348
Effect of play-based family-centered psychomotor/psychosocial stimulation on the development of severely acutely malnourished children under six in a low-income setting: a randomized controlled trial

I read an earlier version of this submission. At the time, I felt the revisions could easily be handled by the authors. So I am happy to see that authors were offered a re-submission. This revision is much improved and my questions have all been answered appropriately. The paper is ready to be published after attending to the two small comments listed below. It is very important to publish the effects of programs with very malnourished children, especially ones that provide nutrition and stimulation services. I sincerely hope that the authors will continue to offer improved services and conduct rigorous evaluations of outcomes and of the implementation process. The WHO is formulating recommendations on these issues.

Table 4. One of the effect sizes for Language is 0.45003. Can this be shortened to 0.45? Table 4. Under MUACZ, an effect size is written <0.001. This notation is used for p values, but the authors might write an effect size of 0.00 if it is indeed <0.001.

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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