Reviewer’s report

Title: Determinants of Underweight, Stunting and Wasting among Schoolchildren

Version: 9 Date: 10 November 2014

Reviewer: Susan Tanner

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have revised the manuscript and addressed the majority of my previous items. However, there are points in the results and discussion section that could be clarified and still a quite a few grammatical errors. I have provided suggestions and grammatical errors that I observed in the “minor revisions” section.

Minor essential reviews:

1. Overall, the manuscript could include a brief discussion of any existing research on food insecurity in Ethiopia in the discussion section. This seems more important as the focus of the manuscript has shifted to emphasize that the food insecurity scale is consistently related to the markers of undernutrition. Among others, the work by Belachew or Hadley and colleagues may be appropriate.

2. Table 2 (and previous compulsory review point #3).

   Thank you for the clarification in Table 2/4 about including the severely stunted children in the regression models. It is clearer in this revision, but still somewhat easy to misread the numbers in each category in Table 2. To further improve clarity, the authors could include a row with the number and % of non-stunted children (Z>-2.0), children with BMI between -2.0 and 1.0, etc. Also, an indent or footnote could help readers easily understand that the number of children in the “severe” and “moderate” categories are summed in the “stunted”, “low BMI”, etc. lines.

3. Please note, the entire manuscript should be proofread. Following are suggestions.

   Line 75: do not need semicolon in sentence
   Line 79: do not need a comma after “We surmise that”
   Line 92: Grammatical error – should be either “Recently the Worda had” or “at the time of the research, the Worda had” or remove “recently” so the sentence is “The Worda has …“
   Line 123: “were made” should be “were done” or “were administered”
   Line 127-128: The sentence could be revised to: The data collectors all had education levels of grade 10 or above and were native to the study area.
   Line 129: “has been” should be “had been”
Line 151; “They are” should be “They were”
Line 196-198: comma is not necessary after “such as”. “cloth” should probably be “clothing”.
Line 248: “are” should be “were”
Line 261. Please note where the research by Donna and colleagues was conducted.
Line 272-273. New sentence is not grammatically clear, please correct.
Line 295: Note country where Meghalaya is located.
Line 297-280. Do not need semicolons in this sentence. Please remove. Additionally, “the finding from Iran” should be “a study in Iran”.
Line 311: “rampant existence of puberty” is unclear. Please clarify that the current study did not assess puberty.
Line 317: remove “Whereas”
Line 318: Should include “low” BMI for age

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.