Reviewer’s report

Title: Neonatal mortality and associated factors in the Specialized Neonatal Care Unit Asmara, Eritrea

Version: 0 Date: 27 Sep 2019

Reviewer: Ayinalem Alemu

Reviewer's report:

General comments

Thank you authors for writing on an important area of Neonatal mortality and associated factors in the Specialized Neonatal Care Unit, Asmara Eritrea. The paper is well written but it needs some minor essential revisions.

Title and Abstract

The study design should be included in the title or methodology part of the abstract section. Better not to use abbreviations in the abstract section. In the conclusion part of the abstract section line 28 there is a phrase "Neonates are dying from preventable causes in poorly equipped care facilities", it is good to conclude on the burden of the death against the placed national and international standard or post 2015 trend. The objective of this study is not about poorly equipped care facilities.

Background

Line 19: Change "Unicef" to "UNICEF".

Line 63: Change "Even thought" to "Even though"

Methods

It is good to bring the Study design early in the method part before the Study population. Since it is a retrospective data review using data extraction sheet it is prone to bias, thus please include the how quality data is collected (validation of extraction form, training of data collectors, pre-testing of the form). As it is a record review and adequate sample is taken please include a sentence about why sample size is not determined.

Result

Considering a flow diagram may help the readers to understand easily. Good not to start sentences using numbers in the entire manuscript rather better to write the number out in words.
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.

Unable to assess

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

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.
I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal