Reviewer’s report

Title: Trends in burden and risk factors associated with childhood stunting in Rwanda from 2000 to 2015: policy and program implications

Version: 0 Date: 23 Oct 2019

Reviewer: Blessing Akombi

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript is quite well written and provides a good analysis of the trend and factors associated with childhood stunting in Rwanda. The study was well-introduced and the build-up to the study rationale was good. Though the results of the study are not ground-breaking or completely new, but they do reinforce what others have reported and strengthen the body of evidence. Therefore, the results should be of use for planning and programming to improve nutrition in Rwanda. Find below my comments:

1. Figure 1 shows the trends in prevalence of childhood stunting in Rwanda by Wealth Quintile. However, an estimate of the contribution of household wealth to the total burden of childhood stunting in Rwanda over time would provide a deeper analysis of childhood stunting in Rwanda.

2. What sensitivity analysis was done?

3. A more detailed description of the steps taken during the logistic regression analysis would be appreciated. What conceptual model was used? How were the independent variables entered and eliminated in the model?

4. Given that this is a cross-sectional study and causality cannot be inferred, using the term "risk factors" is inappropriate as this depicts causality. Consider re-phrasing the title of the paper.

5. Is there any reason why the analysis did not control for parent's height?
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

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