Reviewer's report

Title: Iron-fortified lentils to improve iron (Fe) status among adolescent girls in Bangladesh-study protocol for a double-blind community-based randomized control trial

Version: 0 Date: 03 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Nazia Ali

Reviewer's report:

1. There are many typos and grammatical errors - the paper needs a thorough proof-read

2. In line 4 it was mentioned that "17.1% children (12-14 years)"; please clarify the age definition of children and source used

3. Please use a consistent terminology for adolescent /children

4. Rational for conducting this study was not properly established. Background needs thorough revision.

5. Does the study aim to test any hypothesis? How much improvement in primary objective is expected?

6. Does this study include both married and unmarried adolescent girls??Please clarify

7. As this study will be conducted in "BRAC Adolescent Clubs" and the members include both boys and girls. In line 54 it was mentioned that the intervention will be offered to both boys and girls and the outcome will be assessed only among girls. Would you please explain why boys will not be included in the analysis??

8. Inconsistency in trial registration information where it was mentioned that the trial was retrospectively registered while in table 1 suggest that the trial is not yet recruiting.

9. What is the baseline prevalence of serum ferritin considered in the desired community and please mention reference??
10. Randomization process does not clearly explain availability of total clusters in the sampling frame and how the study clusters will be randomized into three arms

11. How the researchers will prevent spill of between intervention and control arms??

12. Tablet mebendazole will be given in all arms or in intervention arms?? Please clarify.

13. Intervention description is not consistent throughout. Different components like rice with lentil, tablet mebendazole etc. are mentioned in non-coherent fashion.

14. Exclusion criteria needs to include adolescents with severe anaemia.

15. Overall, the write up requires a thorough revision to ensure consistency, flow and coherence.

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