Reviewer’s report

Title: Factors associated with minimal meal frequency and dietary diversity practices among infant and young children in the predominantly agrarian society of Bale zone, at southeast Ethiopia: A community based cross sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 18 May 2017

Reviewer: S Frayon

Reviewer's report:

Dear Authors and Editor,

Please find below my responses while reading the manuscript.

1. Even if the authors try to respond to all the concerns about the paper, the corrections made are sometimes confusing. For example about Ethiopia the authors speak about the MMF and DDS before explaining that malnutrition is a problem in Ethiopia. Authors claims that studies are sparse but 4 studies were cited in the previous paragraph. Justification about this novel studies is still not clear in the background: please provide evidence that the studied area is different that the area studied by others. Moreover, factors associated with MMF and DDS found by others may be briefly introduce in background.

2. The manuscript need a language and typo correction by a native english speaker.

3. IYCF is not defined in background or in abstract before the first use of this acronym

4. Even if the authors suppress the mention about the importance of the first 1000 days, if this is an important fact, why the study was design with children between 6 to 23 months and not 6 to 36 months? I understand that this point is well investigated as pointed by authors in the response so i don't understand how the selection of participants were done?
5. In the discussion, the authors argued that the minimum meal frequency is lower in this study than in national study because of the difference in SES. However, this interpretation need to be argue by an effective difference in SES: why the authors think that in this region the SES is lower than in a national sample?

6. If others have found that home gardening can be associated with higher DDS, authors may try to found a similar association in the studied population. However, if results showed no association between DDS and Home gardening, the authors may not used this argument to explain lower DDS in their population because this hypothesis has been rejected by the results. Because the data about Home gardening is available in the study, authors may be more clear in their conclusions. Why this point was not evaluated in the analysis if this is an important point?

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An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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