Reviewer’s report

Title: Effect of micronutrient powder supplementation for two and four months on hemoglobin level of children 6-23 months old in a slum in Dhaka: a community based observational study

Version: 0 Date: 13 Jan 2016

Reviewer: Sunil Sazawal

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Several strategies have been shown to be effective in resolving micronutrient deficiencies in children. WHO recommends that in settings where the prevalence of anaemia in children under 2 years or under 5 years of age is 20% or higher, home fortification of foods with multiple micronutrient powders is recommended to improve iron status and reduce anaemia among infants and children 6-23 months of age. Home fortification technical advisory group of WHO recommended that 60-180 sachets of MNP should be made available to target groups (children 6-23 months) over a period of 6 months. However data on optimum duration for MNP to be given to children aged 6-24 months is limited among Bangladeshi population. This study examined the relative efficacy of MNP provided for 2 and 4 months on improving plasma Hb levels among children 6-23 months.

Overall, a well organized, well written and nice paper

I have only a few minor comments.

Introduction

-Page 5 line 4: The sentence "Home fortification technical advisory group of WHO recommended that 60-180 sachets MNP sachets should be made available to target groups (children 6-23 months) over a period of 6 months" needs to be reworded to " Home ----- that 60-180 sachets of MNP should be ----- "

Methods
Page 6 line 12: In a sentence "MNP was provided in sachets, with daily allowance of one sachet per children," 'one sachet per children' is to be corrected to 'one sachet per child'.

Page 7 line 29-31 (Methods) and Page 9 line 42-45 (Results): Hb results were available for 818 children at baseline and 511 children at endline. This information is getting repeated twice in methods and results section; I would suggest to give at one place.

Table 1: Reference to footnote † and 'a' is not there in table-1.

Results

- Was the adherence to intervention similar in the 2 months and 4 months MNP supplementation groups?

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.

Yes

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

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