Reviewer’s report

Title: Use of commercial infant cereals as complementary food in infants and young children in Ghana

Version: 0 Date: 18 May 2017

Reviewer: Sevim Gullu

Reviewer’s report:

In this study authors have examined the potential contribution of fortified commercial infant cereals (CIC) to the micronutrient intake of 384 infants and young children aged between 6 months to 23 months (IYC 6-23). They have estimated the usual daily quantities of CIC given to IYC by questionnaires administered to the mothers and calculated the micronutrient intake from CIC and their probabilities of adequacy (PA). They concluded that the use of CIC as complementary food could contribute significantly to the adequacy of iron, zinc, iodine, vitamin A, vitamin C and vitamin B12 among infants and young children.

This study is hypothetical assuming that all the nutrient amounts mentioned by the manufacturer are correct, stable and absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract. To make a firm conclusion authors should check the nutritional status of the children. This could be done at least by evaluating growth and development of the children. Authors can compare the health status of children consuming CIC with non-consumers (selected as a control group) and/or they may compare low amount consumers vs. high amount consumers. The best way of finding these complementary foods is working is to measure the levels of the mentioned elements but it may be difficult.

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.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

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 recommend additional statistical review

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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