Reviewer’s report

Title: Risk Factors Associated with Poor Health Outcomes for Children under the Age of 5 with Moderate Acute Malnutrition in Rural Fagita Lekoma District, Awi Zone, Amhara, Ethiopia, 2016

Version: 2 Date: 29 Sep 2017

Reviewer: Maria C. Lopez de las Hazas

Reviewer's report:

The paper entitled "Risk factors associated with poor health outcomes for children under the age of 5 with moderate acute malnutrition in rural Fagita Lekoma district, Awi Zone, Amhara, Ethiopia, 2016" reports the prospective cohort study of 404 children from 0 to 59 months in different household food security status following 2 months. Based on different anthropometric measures, they establish different risk factors affecting to moderate acute malnutrition in this area.

In general, the paper is interesting, although the study's follow up is too short (only two month) the collected data provides important information about the child's health. The publication of these data will manifest the real problem of the children's malnutrition in the rural Area of Ethiopia's Amhara Region, and may contribute to establish different strategies to reduce the MAM.

For following studies, it will be interesting obtain more information about the mother's health during pre-pregnant time, pregnant time, birth weight, and the breastfeeding period.

However, I have some contributions to improve the quality of the paper.

Abstract:

- Please, indicate the abbreviation of AHR.

- I think is better indicate that the risk factors you found are associated specifically to this area. Maybe, the malnutrition in other zones or countries are associated with other risk factors.

Keywords: Please remove: "moderate acute malnutrition" and "Ethiopia" because they are already in the title and you can replace with other important words.
Introduction:

Maybe it's too long, but, I missed some information about the maternal factors…

Please, include the MAUC meaning in the text.

L 11 pag 5: We hope to… replace it with. This study wants…

Methods

Study setting: too much information about the location of the study.

LINE 6 PAG 6: …FHIAS results that taken from previous study… Is it published? If yes, please add the reference, if not, you have to describe briefly the aims and main results of this study.

Please specify the city and country of the software employed in the study. i.e. EPI INFO 7 (Atlanta, USA), maybe, it these software are published in the literature you should cite them.

Use aleatory, or blind instead of Lottery

L.30 page 6. Please cite the WHO median child growth standards…

Include the sam meaning

Although the authors worked on a large number of individuals, this section is too long, repetitive, the methods are not well presented, and it's difficult to follow.

The authors considered the number of sons as malnutrition associated risk factor?

Conclusions: too long; it seems a part of discussion. Please be concise in this part.

References:

Some references have been revised, for instance, 6, 8, 9, 10 …you should remove "Available from… and the date that you cited this article in your computer".

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

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

Acceptable

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