Reviewer’s report

Title: MUAC-for-age more useful than absolute MUAC for nutritional surveillance in Somalia: results from nineteen cross-sectional surveys (2007-2016)

Version: 0 Date: 28 Jul 2017

Reviewer: Rosan Meyer

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for asking me to review this publication. Improving the recognition of acute malnutrition to aid nutritional support is crucial and therefore markers that are cost effective and accurate need assessment. I have some recommendations that would require to be made prior to publication.

Minor:
1. Many of the abbreviations used are written out and abbreviated multiple times - please correct
2. Would suggest just keeping to MUACAZ as term as sometimes author uses this as abbreviations and sometimes MUAC-for-age - it would make the message much clearer if this is consistent
3. Date of survey - please check 2001-2016 or 2007-2016
4. Page 6, paragraph 2 - WHZ you also need accurate age, so do not understand this sentence?

Major:
1. The article requires extensive editing in writing as there is a lot of repetition, sections are long and the discussion can be made much more succinct. I give a couple of examples below:
   - Box one of the definitions should be moved to the methods, as this would save a lot of text in the method
   - Page 7 last 2 paragraphs can be taken out before method section as in the first paragraph the aim of the study was outlined
- Page 8 2nd and 3rd paragraph - delete

- Results - a lot of the data is in the tables, but is repeated in the written text, this can be significantly shortened

- Discussion - needs to be shortened and needs to be much more succinct. Lots of Notwithstanding, nevertheless, therefore.....

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.

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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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