Reviewer's report

Title: Predictors of poor nutritional status among children aged 6-24 months in agricultural regions of Mali: a cross-sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 22 Jun 2017

Reviewer: Carin Napier

Reviewer's report:
The study is very relevant and important when considering the malnutrition rate in Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa. The considerations of various factors impacting on malnutrition give a wider view of the issues with regards to malnutrition, hunger and food security.
The abstract summarizes the study and the outcome and the background give a clear indication of the origin of the study and the context.
Recommendations:
Add the ethics clearance number to the Ethical Consideration section, explain also in this section how anonymity was ensured.
Please give a little more discussion around the variables mentioned in lines 58 and 59
Tables general comments:
The sample size in (n=?) should be indicated in each of the sub-sections in the tables
A footnote is required with regards to the p-value and what is seen as significant in each of the tables
Table 1:
The headings for each of the Household Characteristics, needs a data indicator, in the case of the 'Months of inadequate household food provisioning' the results are indicated in %. The 'household dietary diversity score' and 'Household amenities score' are presented in Mean and range, this should be indicated.
The yes/no questions further down need a 'yes' only as the difference is automatically a 'no' if it adds up to a 100%
The indicator 'Garbage in trash dump outside the household' - change to trash dump/bin
The mothers characteristics is in mean age and range and then the rest in %
Table 2, 3 and 4:
Indicate sample size numbers (n=?) in the heading for the full group and each of the nutritional status categories.
The font type in the table is inconsistent.
The same Yes/No answering should be applied in this table where adding up to a 100%.

Table 5:
Indicate sample size numbers (n=?) in the heading for the full group and each of the nutritional status categories.
The data under each nutritional status category is measured in %, remove the % from the headings and indicate if it is Mean and range etc.
The font type in the table is not consistent.

Figure 1:
Indicate sample size numbers (n=?) in the heading for the full group and each of the nutritional status categories.
Add data labels at it will make the graphs easier to read.
Add a title to both axes.

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.
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 am able to assess the statistics.
Quality of written English

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests

Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

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