Reviewer’s report

Title: Dietary zinc intake and its determinants among Ethiopian children 6-35 months of age

Version: 0 Date: 04 Feb 2018

Reviewer: Folake Samuel

Reviewer's report:

This is a potentially good manuscript. However, the manuscript requires extensive re-working to qualify as being publishable in BMC Nutrition. Please note the following points:

1. The data collection was not adequately described:
   - It was not stated whether the 24 hour recall was administered to the mothers or caregivers of the children. It is necessary to describe the procedure.
   - How was dietary data analysed?
   - No statement on ethical approval/informed consent (within the methods section)

2. Language editing is strongly advised: For example, I have tried to re-phrase line 4-7 on page 6 as follows: Zinc intake was not normally distributed therefore, during analysis we transformed the data to the log10 form. This was back transformed in the result writing.
   - Also, results must be reported in past tense always.

3. Household Socio demographic Characteristics of survey participants:

Is the target population (children 6-35 months of age) the same as survey participants? This is not immediately apparent
   - Table 1: socioeconomic and demographic characteristics - this table title is not fully informative, Whose characteristics are you reporting in the table?
   - The results section was not well written; results should be elaborately presented, with the attention of the reader drawn to important statistics on each of the tables
4. **Discussion**: This section of the paper needs to be enriched to provide a robust discussion of each section of the findings vis a vis the research questions and the available literature.

- The limitations of the study should be drawn out in a clear manner, for example the study did not estimate the contribution of breastmilk to zinc intake among children still being breastfed. This needs to be highlighted.

5. The conclusion of the paper did not emanate from the results of the study!!!

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

**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

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

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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