Reviewer's report

Title: Dietary intake in undernourished adults living in Guinea-Bissau; a cross-sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 07 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Jennifer K. Frediani

Reviewer's report:

I think this was a very interesting article describing the nutrition of an understudied population. Below are my comments and recommended edits:

My first concern is the description in the methods section of the 24 hr recalls. It is unclear to the reader in this section how many recalls are being analyzed and from when. We see later in the discussion that there is 1 recall per person, but in the methods section it needs to be made more clear and also describe the distribution of the recalls over time to talk about seasonality, if the diet is in fact seasonal. And what about protein? this macronutrient is not discussed in the conclusion, as an important determinant of macronutrient deficiency I feel you need to comment on this.

What were the results of the anthropometrics? You don't comment on these results compared to any norms.

For data presentation, Table 1 - BMI categories can be combined between 16-18.49, it seems awkward to split it in 4.

In Table 2, you can combine columns of mean and SD i.e. mean(SD) and therefore n(%) etc. I think the fluid variables should either be cut from this table or addressed in the methods (how did you calculate these), the results and discussion, what are the impact of these measurements. Then in Table 2, you will have room to add dietary norms for comparison. And possibly add micronutrient diversity to this table or in its own table.

I don't think Table 4 adds anything, this can be summarized in a sentence in the results.

Minor edits (lines from the clean version)

Line 135- What was the physical activity coefficient?

Lines 185-187- I don't think you need to include these

Lines 251 and 267- these both have awkward sentences using the same error
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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