Reviewer’s report

Title: Association of nutritional support programs with zinc deficiency in Colombian children: a cross-sectional study

Version: 0 Date: 26 Sep 2018

Reviewer: Girmay Ayana Mersha

Reviewer's report:

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Please overwrite this text when adding your comments to the authors.

Abstract
* Do you have a baseline data to see the result is due to the intervention/nutritional support program?

Background
* would you please give detail description of the nutritional support programs?
* which beneficiaries are under your study? The national beneficiaries or the low socioeconomic beneficiary? make it clear.(line 9-19)

Method:
* Is that known amount of zinc in the nutrition support program is provided?
* How much gram they are consuming daily?
* how do you measure its consumption?
* Did you try to identify the source of zinc (diet, supplementation or fortified food)?
* could you add detail how zinc data was collected and over all sample collection and data management?

Results:
* You may find many publications/evidences that shows zinc deficiency is associated with poverty / food insecurity. what are the key messages you want to share for the global community or Colombian society specific to your study? what you are contributing?
* you have mentioned more than 90% Colombia children are beneficiary of the subsidization. what does it mean your finding(61.6%) for the program implementers?

Discussion:
* In your discussion please put your major findings in the first paragraph.
* Then you should discuss it with the existing evidences(local and global evidences those are against or similar to your findings?)
* you have mentioned many limitations of the study. what you did to minimize the limitations?
what is the strength of your 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 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

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

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