Title: Awareness and factors associated with reported intake of folic acid-fortified flour among women of reproductive age in Ifakara, Morogoro region, Tanzania: A cross-sectional study

Version: 0 Date: 28 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Josiane Steluti

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the manuscript. In revising your text, please also consider the following minor and major corrections/suggestions to improve it.

Lines 34-35 - Review the sentence according to my comment in lines 114-115.

Line 63 - I suggest the authors review the sentence. So, the authors could mention all countries that have mandatory fortification with folic acid. Actually, more than 86 countries worldwide mandatory folic acid (FA) fortification of at least one cereal grain to prevent neural tube defects.

Lines 113-114 - The authors need to elucidate how the awareness of folic acid and awareness of existence of fortified flour were assessed. Was it only one simple question (YES/NO)? For example, the researchers asked about the place or other additional information if the WRA said YES for "heard of folic acid". Please, detail the questions.

Lines 114-115 - The authors need to elucidate the use of the term "intake". Did you have a list of foods? When we discuss about dietary intake (e.g. foods), we expect to know about specific foods and them frequency and/or quantity using some dietary assessment instruments. The authors considered a general question. I really suggest the authors review the term throughout the manuscript, not only the paragraph. In my opinion, the authors can use "awareness of fortified flour intake".

In addition, it is not clear if the participants used or consumed the fortified flour products. Maybe they used the product to prepare some dish but they did not eat it. Please, certify what the participant answered.

Lines 120-121 - I do not think it is adequate to consider these two terms for the same use. The fortified flour is used in a general context for fortification. I suggest the authors to standardize the use of folic acid-fortified term flour throughout the text.

Lines 155-160 - I would like to know the information about "Intake of fortified flour" considering the awareness of folic acid (Table 1) and awareness of existence of folic acid fortified flour (Table 2). I suggest the authors add this variable in these tables. In addition, I recommend the authors add the variable "awareness of existence of folic acid fortified flour" in table 1.
Line 161 - I am not sure if the term "fortified flour intake" included maize and/or wheat flour. Please, elucidate this issue.

Lines 187-188 - I suggest the authors review the sentence "We found high intake of fortified flour...". See my comment above (lines 114-115).

Lines 190-191 - I suggest the authors review the sentence. The authors did not appropriately assess the intake of fortified flour to declare this sentence. See my comment above (lines 114-115).

Lines 196-199 - Don’t you think that could be an orientation failure by health care/professionals during antenatal visits? In my opinion, I do not think the combination with iron could lead the low folic acid awareness. I suggest the authors review the discussion.

Lines 200-204 - Was there some dissemination of fortification program after the implementation of the mandatory policy with folic acid? I suggest the authors discuss this issue in the paragraph too.

Line 240 - The outcomes did not permit to conclude this sentence. I suggest the authors review it.

When the authorities plan the mandatory fortification program, they choose a staple food to add the nutrient. However, this action does not guarantee the effectiveness of program. Although the scientific literature reports the effectiveness of FA fortification programs in increasing folate status and the consequent prevention of NTDs, it is important to point out that further researches are needed to assess the effectiveness of this mandatory fortification program in Tanzania. Maybe the authors could explore this issue in discussion and conclusion.

TABLES
Table 1 - Review the table header. The table is not comprehensible. Add the values related to the category NO in the variable "Awareness of folic acid" and statistical analysis should be indicated in footnotes. See my suggestion.

Table 2 - Review the table. I suggest the authors show the n (%) and 95% CI for the variables. Statistical analysis should be indicated in footnotes.

Table 3 - The authors did not show the adjusted odds ratio for "Heard of fortified flour" variable. Please, elucidate this missing.
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.

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

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