Reviewer's report

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: 05 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Godfrey P. Oakley

Reviewer's report:

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Tanzania has had all flour mills producing folic acid fortified flour since around 2011 or soon thereafter.

This paper was a study of attitudes and knowledge and consumption of folic acid fortified wheat and maize.

I have one serious issue with the paper. It says in the abstract that the implications from the study is that increasing awareness of folic acid fortified products was needed. I would take the contrary inference and the one that you used in line 241-243:

"This underscores the importance of mandatory folic acid fortification, which ensures that most WRA are reached, influencing reduction of the micronutrient deficiency and NTD burden." This is the message and should be the sentence in the abstract. I would down play health education. It is expensive and it is has been shown repeatedly not have little effect. Public health supplement programs reached only 20%. So I suggest the only conclusion from the paper is that mandatory folic acid fortification is highly effective way to reach the populations and prevent spina bifida, anencephaly, folate deficiency anemia, lower homocysteine concentrations. That idea should be in the abstract. It is highly unlikely that public health education would improve prevent . Yes, as a complement to fortification supplements or health education might provide very rarely an improvement in prevention, at least as these programs have so far been implemented.
I think you need a missing citation.


2. I would think it important to say it is important to do blood folate studies rather than consumption surveys or programs to promote fortified foods. An important limitation of your study is that you did not have blood folates as was done in the Noor et al study.

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

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?
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Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
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No

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I am able to assess the statistics

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