Author’s response to reviews

Title: Infant and young child nutritional status and their caregivers' feeding knowledge and hygiene practices in internally displaced person camps, Somalia

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Title: Infant and young child nutritional situations and their caregivers' hygienic practices: breastfeeding and complementary foods in internally displaced persons camps, Somalia.
Mohamed Kalid; Fatumo Osman; Munshi Sulaiman; Fiona Dykes; Kerstin Erlandsson, PhD, Associates professor BMC Nutrition

Dear Dear Ms Maria Elisabeth Johanna Zalm, Ph.D.
BMC Nutrition,

Thanks for the opportunity to get the manuscript assessed by your reviewers. They have truly raised a number of points which we believe have improved the manuscript and we hope this may allow the revised version to be published in BMC Nutrition. This cover letter include a point-by-point response to the reviewer’s comments and all changes to the manuscript are highlighted in yellow marked text. The manuscript also conforms to the journal style.

I highly appreciate the opportunity to submit this revised and language checked manuscript again solely to your valuable journal.

Best wishes,

Kerstin Erlandsson
Corresponding author

In the cover letter in pdf format I answer the reviewer's reports in a table format. I have now cut and past into this format. I am so thankful to the reviewers and would request if they could get the pdf instead of this as it will be much easier to read. Many thanks. In conclusion all requirements have been met.
Hasina Rakotomanana, M.S. (Reviewer 2): I would like to thank the authors for considering our comments and for editing the manuscript. The authors addressed most of the comments but there are still some points that need consideration.

Answer: Thank you Hasina for reading and giving your valuable input towards fulfillment of the requirements.

For the title, after reviewing and reading the response letter, I think the title still needs some work. Suggestion: "Infant and young child nutritional status and their caregivers' feeding knowledge and hygiene practices in internally displaced person camps, Somalia"
Answer: The title has been changed according to your suggestion. I deleted the following: “Infant and young child nutritional situations and their caregivers' hygienic practices: breastfeeding and complementary foods in internally displaced persons camps, Somalia.”

Abstract
Line 29
Specify the age of children included in study
Answer: The age of children included in the study has been specified: In a study of 2370 children aged 6 to 59 months answered a questionnaire on hygiene and feeding practices.

Line 30
Was the questionnaire validated and/or adapted?
Answer: It now reads:….. answered an adapted questionnaire on….

Line 32
Replace "recorded" with "conducted"
Answer: It now reads: Naturalistic observations of participants’ hygiene practices were conducted at the same time.

Line 28
What was the standard used for "hygienic practices", or just researchers' criteria? Either way, it needs to be clearly stated in the methods section
Answer. It now reads: Naturalistic observations of participants’ hygiene practices were conducted at the same time.

Line 39
Insert "caregiver" before "knowledge of breastfeeding…"
Answer: This has now been stated as being performed against standard criteria in the questionnaire and I have referred to Appendix 1.
Answer: It now reads: It was poor caregivers’ knowledge….

Line 40
I would reword this statement "risk factors for child malnutrition derive from gaps in the caregiver's knowledge…” because it can be misleading. The authors actually did not perform risk factor analysis or something similar to make such conclusions. Authors may use less strong wording.
Answer: We adopted a less strong wording. It now reads: Child malnutrition derive from ….

Background
Line 49
Is "high levels of IDP" the right wording?
What do the authors mean by "states" here? Governments?
Answer: You are right. It now reads: In Africa, many countries play host to….
States means countries to us.
Answer: You are right. It now reads: In Africa, many countries play host to….
States means countries to us.

Line 76
"…many Somalis have become IDP". Would be better with some numbers.
Answer: It now reads: Since the 1990s more than a million Somalis have become IDP.

Line 79
"…and outside of the official IDP camps."
Answer: Thank you this has now been added to the sentence.

Line 85
"UNICEF estimated…"   
Answer: Thanks, this now reads as suggested.

Line 86
"malnourished", what type of malnutrition?
Answer: …acute has not been added. The type of malnutrition was the acute malnutrition.

Line 87
Insert "high" before "levels of malnutrition"
Answer: The word high has been added.

Line 87
"…humanitarian…"
Answer: The word human replaced by humanitarian. Thanks a lot for your suggestions.

Line 93
"…died before they are 5"
Answer: Thanks this has now been added.

Line 100Delete one "in"
Answer: Thanks, the extra in has been deleted.

Line 101
"…August…"   Thanks this has been changed.

Lines 107-110
Is this for another study? formative research with key informants?   It now reads: The underlying premise in this study was that….
Materials and methods

Lines 117-118
Already explained in lines 148-149 I deleted the following at row 117-118: …”consisting of 98 closed, open or multiple-choice response alternatives” to not duplicate what is already explained in line 148-149.

Line 127
What is the correct spelling? "aqal" or aqual" (line 201)? Aqal is the right spelling so it now reads “aqals” Thanks

Line 134
Define CNV at first use Thanks. It now reads: As part of the study’s ethical guidelines, Community Nutrition Volunteers’ (CNVs) observations…..

Lines 157-160
Reference for these cut-offs? The following reference has now been inserted both in text and reference list ref 22:

Lines 164-168
What was the cut-off (with MUAC) used to classify a child as malnourished? This has now been clarified. Please see the section.

Line 187
Insert "verbal consent" Verbal consent has been inserted.

Results
It would be better to discuss the results in order of their apparition in the tables This has been arranged with 2 references to the tables.

Lines 223-225
This is a striking difference that can influence nutrition knowledge and hygiene practices. authors should discuss it further in the discussion, any thoughts/suggestions on what is happening in Danyniile and Dharkenley? This has been discussed, please see the yellow marked paragraph in the discussion section. I also added some information under the heading setting.

Line 225
Reword. This sentence does not report the result. Seeing the table for the household hunger, there is also a big difference between the 3 camps (45.1% vs. 3.7%). Any insights on why? The sentence not reporting the results has been removed. We think all goes back to the fact that Baidoa has since long been established whilst the two other camps are more newly established. This is discussed in the discussion section. The yellow marked text.

Lines 228-230
Please specify what indicators the authors are using here? SAM and GAM? This is interesting because the households in the Baidoa reported high hunger levels but they had fairly decent hygiene practices. And it looks like households in the Dayniile had poor hygiene practices
though they reported low hunger levels. Authors should discuss/analyze this further in the discussion. We think all goes back to the fact that Baidoa has since long been established whilst the two other camps are more newly established. This is discussed in the discussion section. The yellow marked text. Accessibility and acceptability for facility based care and the health professionals.

Line 232
Reword "malpractice" I changed it to “unhealthy practices”.

Lines 232-234
Numbers and frequency would be good here The numbers and frequency has been added. Please see yellow marked text in the result section.

Discussion

Replace "percent" with "%" This has been done.

Lines 253-259
Reword/rearrange this paragraph to support the authors' point, it looks like merely reporting what this study has found. Thanks, the section has been rearrange to support our point. It is yellow marked in the discussion section.

I would be very interested in having discussion or more insights about the difference between the 3 camps/areas? The next yellow marked portion in the discussion section address that the time for establishment differs and that is the main difference between these camps.

Line 311
Reword "…positive results from Baidoa…” I have deleted the word positive.

Tables
Consider having one column for number of cases and another one for percentages. For readability we wish to keep the tables with frequency and percentage in the same column otherwise we get 6 columns instead of 3 and that will not be helpful to the reader.

Tinku Thomas (Reviewer 3): None Thanks Thomas for reading and I am happy you have no further comments.

Chythra Rao (Reviewer 4): The authors efforts in addressing the reviewers comments is appreciable. Few more grammatical & typo errors need to be taken care of in the manuscript.

The title should read as Infant and young child nutritional status rather than Infant and young child nutritional situations….. Thanks Chythra for reading the manuscript. The title now reads: Infant and young child nutritional status and their caregivers' feeding knowledge and hygiene practices in internally displaced person camps, Somalia

In the abstract, results - point no. 2 is not clear. Hygiene in the household was below what could be considered a result of hygienic practices requires grammatical correction.

This has been taken care of.

All 2370 children were measured with the anthropometric Mid-Upper Arm Circumference measurement - can be reworded as anthropometric measurements like Mid-Upper Arm Circumference was done or simply Mid-Upper Arm Circumference measurement was done for 2370 children also would suffice. Thanks, I have edited as per your suggestion.
For identifying malnutrition in other studies, where the Mid-Upper-Arm Circumference was measured by well-trained care providers as being the case in this study, the sensitivity and precision vary with the conclusions that the current cut-offs need to be increased to ensure children between six months and five years of age are not missed out from management of malnutrition [24, 25]. - this complex sentence needs to be broken down to simpler terms. The text has been reworded. Thanks for noticing this. The cut off was 110mm. This has been elaborated on and clarified.

No data published should disclose an individual participant. The data collectors gaining consent from guardians of the children- please correct these statements to improve readability.

I have deleted “No data published should disclose an individual participant” as it is not necessary. The second sentence now reads: “The data collectors gained verbal consent from the guardians of the children.”

It is preferable not to intersperse mean SD data in between n(%) data within tables. I have not put mean and SD at the bottom of that section of the table.

Homogenous appearance of the tables, in terms of categorization of rows & tables looks better - care givers statements & data collectors observations. I have made the tables more homogenous in its appearance.

Similarly combining demographic data of care givers, household & hunger does not blend well within a single table. Well, I think it somehow fits well. It is about the caregiver and the challenges those caregivers face regarding finance, hunger etc. isn’t it? I humbly wish to keep it this way.

Language We have had this manuscript through several English language checks. Also this time we hired a professional language translator to go the document through because you found errors and maybe I created some new now when editing once again.