Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 0 Date: 29 Jun 2019

Reviewer: Chythra Rao

Reviewer's report:

A very pertinent research question has been addressed by the authors.

The title needs to be reworded. It is absolutely fine to have 2 objectives, but it is better for a single aim of the study to be reflected in the title rather than all the objectives.

Critical malnutrition is not a standard term. It would be helpful to define it & also to follow standard nomenclature used in literature.

Material and methods - Design of the study - why would the authors want to use all the three terms - In a descriptive, cross-sectional and prospective study [12]?

Naturalistic observations of hygiene practices were performed by the data collectors. In addition, 2370 children aged 6-59 months in 1655 households were measured with anthropometric measurements - statements require rephrasing.

It would be better to define naturalistic observations in the methods.

Why was written informed consent not obtained from participants?

MAM, SAM, GAM - needs to be expanded, the first time it is being used in text, although the same has been mentioned later in abbreviations.

Was data collected on smart phones?

Why were severely ill children excluded?
Results

175 For data on caregivers (n=1655) and households (n=1655) see table 1.-statement needs to be reworded

They reported "rarely/sometimes hunger in the households giving the impression of underreporting of hunger in the household and not fully in concurrent with child anthropometry (n=2370) illuminating the nutritional situation (table 2).- complicated statements to be avoided

The hygienic practices and observations (n=1655) were under what can be considered hygienic practices (table 3). - rephrase the statement

Discussion can be improvised with references to relevant literature addressing different aspects of the results - malnutrition prevalence, hygienic practices, awareness etc

Limitations section needs to reworked on. Strengths have also been combined & different types of validity interspersed with other limitations & strengths needs to be simplified for better readability.

Conflict of interests to be declared, especially the role of funding agency

Table titles to be improvised. Need to be stand alone, self explanatory titles.

Number n (%) to be written in column headings rather than in the first row in the tables

What statistical analysis was performed - needs to be mentioned in data analysis section. What does the p value depict - needs to be interpreted in the results section.

When the knowledge was poor & faulty hygiene practices were observed, was any effort made to correct them or give them proper advice? This can be mentioned in the manuscript.

Some minor grammatical errors are needed & english language editing is recommended for better readability of the manuscript.
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.
No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
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