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: 1 Date: 25 Sep 2019

Reviewer: Hasina Rakotomanana

Reviewer's report:

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. 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"

Abstract

Line 29 Specify the age of children included in study Line 30 Was the questionnaire validated and/or adapted? Line 32 Replace "recorded" with "conducted" 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 Line 39 Insert "caregiver" before "knowledge of breastfeeding…" 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.

Background

Line 49 Is "high levels of IDP" the right wording? What do the authors mean by "states" here? Governments? Line 76 "…many Somalis have become IDP". Would be better with some numbers. Line 79 "…and outside of the official IDP camps." Line 85 "UNICEF estimated…" Line 86 "malnourished", what type of malnutrition? Line 87 Insert "high" before "levels of malnutrition" Line 87 "…humanitarian…” Line 93 "…died before they are 5" Line 100 Delete one "in" Line 101 "…August…" Lines 107-110 Is this for another study? formative research with key informants? Materials and methods

Lines 117-118 Already explained in lines 148-149 Line 127 What is the correct spelling? "aqal" or aqual" (line 201)? Line 134 Define CNV at first use Lines 157-160 Reference for these cut-offs? Lines 164-168 What was the cut-off (with MUAC) used to classify a child as malnourished? Line 187 Insert "verbal consent" Results

It would be better to discuss the results in order of their apparition in 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 Dharkanley? 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? 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 Line 232 Reword "malpractice" Lines 232-234 Numbers and frequency would be good here Discussion

Replace "percent" with "%" Lines 253-259 Reword/rearrange this paragraph to support the authors' point, it looks like merely reporting what this study has found. I would be very interested in having discussion or more insights about the difference between the 3
camps/areas? Line 311 Reword "…positive results from Baidoa…" Tables Consider having one column for number of cases and another one for percentages.

**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.

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:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?
5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal