Reviewer’s report

Title: Potential consequences of expanded MUAC-only programs on targeting of acutely malnourished children and ready-to-use-therapeutic-food allocation: lessons from cross-sectional surveys

Version: 0 Date: 19 Nov 2019

Reviewer: Peter Chege

Reviewer's report:

PComments

Title

The word impact is not appropriate as it denotes an intervention study- can be replaced with eg potential outcomes

1. The reason why Expanded MUAC was globally recommended is not given. The reasons for its recommendation may outweigh the mis categorization

2. Is its use in emergency a appropriate or it is just its use in any situation?

3. The reason why MUAC may lead to mis-categorization is not given

4. Is there a significant cost in management of SAM and MAM

5. The data can be tabulated as per specific region to bring out the aspect of races- re analyses for this needed

6. Why not recommend modeling of MUAC to capture the missing link

Other comments

* Abstract page 2 line 6 - word impact

* Abstract page 2 line 13 - the use of profile of children = used of word profile not clear

* Abstract page 2 line 23 - was issues of cost assessed. If not the issues of cost to be reported sparingly

* Background page 3 line 26 - about 79 million
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.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

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 recommend additional statistical review

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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