Reviewer’s report

Title: Intrahousehold management and use of nutritional supplements during the hunger gap in Maradi region, Niger: a qualitative study

Version: 1 Date: 26 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Hélène Delisle

Reviewer's report:

The study is relevant, interesting and potentially useful for policies and programmes. The paper is well written, clear and pleasant to read. I only have a few (rather minor) comments:

1. Caregivers are instructed not to mix the supplements with other foods (except for SC+). However, this strategy is used to facilitate acceptance by the target child. Should there not be some flexibility in the instructions?
2. Study period: Data was collected in 2012 and it is submitted for publication 6 years later… The authors may want to explain the reason for such a delay.
3. Methods: Why did the authors not analyze their data using specialized qualitative data software? And how did the two data analyzers solve their (likely) coding disparities?
4. Results: The authors may consider listing the principal themes and subthemes in a table, thereby providing some elements of the "black box"
5. In Table 3, what is the purpose of the column on household support since this is not a topic covered in the present paper?
6. Reference 27 would need to be corrected and completed.

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.

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript
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 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