Reviewer’s report

Title: Determinants of Stunting among children aged 6 to 59 months in pastoral community, Afar Region, North East Ethiopia: Unmatched Case Control Study

Version: 1 Date: 25 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Mary Penny

Reviewer's report:

The authors are to be congratulated for their concern to understand and publish the reasons for stunting in their population.

However, the results are similar to what might be expected from the literature so it is difficult to see what additional information is added from the study above the usefulness of this information to local authorities in the country.

However my main concerns are about the methodology chosen and in particular the creation of the two clusters: stunted and not stunted. It is not clear how these two groups were selected. The authors state that "All children age 6 to 59 months living in the selected kebelles were measured for their z-score of height for age and categorized as stunted and not stunted using WHO standard growth chart" but it is not clear how the 161 cases and 161 controls were selected from all these children as presumably there were more than 322 children measured in total, this is important as bias may have been introduced by this selection process. The method used for measurement of the mothers does not sound very accurate but this may not be a major problem. It is a pity that no dietary information other than breastfeeding was included, for instance main staples in the diet and access to animal source foods as this might also have been useful information that might potentially be used for planning interventions.

The text does need substantial editing to correct the English.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

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.

Unable to assess

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:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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