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: 2 Date: 24 Dec 2019

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses one or several testable research questions? (Brief or other article types: is there a clear objective?)
Yes - there is a clear objective

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?
Yes - the approach is appropriate

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with sufficient technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?
Yes - experiments and analyses were performed appropriately

STATISTICS - Is the use of statistics in the manuscript appropriate?
Yes - appropriate statistical analyses have been used in the study

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?
Yes - the author's interpretation is reasonable

OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Has the author addressed your concerns sufficiently for you to now recommend the work as a technically sound contribution? If not, can further revisions be made to make the work technically sound?
Probably - with minor revisions

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS: This manuscript addresses an important public health issue. The authors have responded to most of the comments raised.

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:
However, the authors should respond to the following minor comments. The manuscript should be considered for publication once they have provided the information.

(1) Regarding question 4 stated below, the authors are yet to reference the statement "In page 3, line 24-26, the authors should reference this statement "Evidence revealed that the problems responsible for child under-nutrition are numerous and basic problems like political instability, slow economic growth and lack of education are among them"
Response: Evidence revealed that the problems responsible for child under-nutrition are numerous and basic problems like political instability, slow economic growth and lack of education are among them. Underlying causes such as, food insecurity, lack of maternal and child care services provision, and immediate causes, like infections and inadequate dietary intake were the main factors affecting under nutrition.

(2) Some of the responses provided by the authors were not included in the main text. For example one of the reviewer's comments asked that the authors should justify how they arrived at the independent variables considered in this study and the authors responded as follows "Authors have made a review of different literatures on the subject area or similar studies conducted so far were carefully reviewed. UNICEF conceptual framework for causes of malnutrition (stunting) was also considered. Based on this immediate causes (inadequate intake and diseases), underline causes (household food insecurity, poor maternal and child care, lack of access to health service and unhygienic environment) and basic causes (political, ideological, economical…) causes of malnutrition were considered. Besides of this we have tried to contextualize the identified variables with livelihood of the people, with health service coverage, with health seeking behavior of the people in the pastoral community. Finally, based on the inputs from different literatures and the context in the study setting we reached in to the independent variables".

The response provided was not included in the manuscript.

(3) Regarding underlying assumptions of the model (question 10). The authors did not mention whether they perform residual plots or not. The authors should provide this information.

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 am able to assess the statistics

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

Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

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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?

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