



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE & Health
Manuscript Number:	Ms_IJTDH_33539
Title of the Manuscript:	Weight loss and nutritional status of 6-59 months children after Positive Deviance/Hearth approach in Southern Benin rural area: associated factors to later underweight
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

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This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound.

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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Compulsory REVISION comments	1. It would be helpful for the authors to explain how did they estimate the sample size of the research (sample size calculation formula, for example: Indian Journal of Psychological Medicine 35.2 (2013): 121–126.). 2. Potential limitations of the study (i.e. only an association, and not causation, can be inferred from a cross sectional study) and suggestions for further research could be mentioned in more detail. 3. More details about similar studies could be provided. 4. Collate acknowledgements in a separate section at the end of the article and list those individuals who provided help during the research. 5. Moreover, you are requested to identify who provided financial support for the conduct of the research and/or preparation of the article.	<i>All the comments have been taken into account in the new manuscript. The corrections are highlighted in yellow</i> 1. Sample size calculation The following formula was used to calculate the sample size $n = \frac{U_{1-\alpha/2}^2 \times p(1-p)}{d^2} \quad [12]:$ Where $U_{1-\alpha/2} = 1.96$ (standard normal variate at 5% type 1 error). P is the proportion of children who got rehabilitated after Hearth. d=5% (Precision). In Ze, $p = 152/160$ and $n = 74$ children, In Lalo $p = 66/81$, we have 237 children. As, we didn't find this number of children in Lalo, we applicate the rate of sample of Ze for Lalo. Thus, $t = 74/152 = 0,48$; $t = n/66 = 0.48 \Rightarrow n = t \times 66$, It gives $n = 32$ children in Lalo. 2. Limitations of the study The cross sectional nature of this study makes causal relationship between underweight on the 77th day and studied factors which is less probable. Moreover, since the study has been done in two areas in Southern Benin, it could be difficult to make generalizations. However, as it was conducted in rural area of the country, it will give us an initial base for the sustainability of Hearth. In addition, even if it would cost of additional means, some measurements between 12th and 77th days may have provided more information on weight loss evolution after PD/H. We didn't have the opportunity to investigate certain aspects like morbidity, socio economic factors, poverty that



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		could significantly contribute to the degradation of the children nutritional status after PD/Hearth in Lalo and Ze. So, this study opens a large research field that could more document the current situation before the scaling up of this approach in the whole country 3. More details about similar studies Please see discussion. Similar results were obtained in other municipalities of Benin (unpublished works) where weight loss is noticed after DP/H. Like this paper, it will be interesting to publish them for better documentation of the situation in order to find adequate solution. 4. Acknowledgements We thank Sabi Boum, Pauline Setondji and Evariste Mitchikpè for their support during the preparation of the study and, Lydie Fagbohoun, the staff of GRAIB and CEBEDES NGOs for their support during the field work. 5- Financial support This study was realized with the financial support of Plan-Benin NGO through the Community Nutrition Program and “Conseil de l’Alimentation et de la Nutrition (CAN)” of Benin who is the initiator of this program.
<u>Minor</u> REVISION comments	The paper has some grammatical or spelling errors, stylistic problems in references, typos, etc. I suggest editing by a native speaker/writer (nevertheless, the paper is perfectly understandable).	This is considered in the improved version
<u>Optional/General</u> comments	It is an interesting article that covers an important issue and should be considered for publication with minor revisions. Strengths of the manuscript are the importance of the study, and the soundness of study design. The study has appropriate statistics and instrumentation, text easy to follow and a good review of the literature.	Thank you!