

## Peer Review

# Review of: "Simultaneous Wasting and Stunting (WaSt), Wasting and Anaemia (WaAn), and Wasting, Stunting, and Anaemia (WaStAn) Among Children Aged 6–59 Months in Karamoja, Uganda"

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This study addresses a critical public health issue by examining the prevalence and determinants of simultaneous wasting, stunting, and anaemia (WaStAn) among children in Karamoja, Uganda. The use of secondary data from the FSNA provides a strong foundation for the analysis, leveraging data collected by reputable organizations. The study's findings are concerning, particularly the high prevalence of WaStAn and its strong association with multiple socioeconomic and demographic factors. The identification of age, sex, maternal education, and food security as key determinants is valuable for guiding targeted interventions.

However, there are areas that require further clarification and improvement. First, the methodology could benefit from a more detailed description of how WaStAn was operationally defined and measured within the dataset. Providing specific cut-off points and criteria for wasting, stunting, and anaemia will enhance the study's transparency and reproducibility. Additionally, it would be helpful to include information on how missing data, if any, were handled and whether adjustments were made for potential confounders in the statistical analysis.

The discussion effectively highlights the implications of the findings, but it would be strengthened by a deeper exploration of potential mechanisms underlying the observed associations. For example, the role of infections, dietary diversity, and seasonal variations in food availability could be further elaborated upon. The recommendations are comprehensive, but prioritizing them based on feasibility and potential impact would be beneficial for policymakers.

The study makes a meaningful contribution to understanding childhood malnutrition in Karamoja, and with minor refinements in methodology and discussion, it could have even greater practical and academic impact.

## **Declarations**

**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.