

### Review Form 3

Journal Name:	European Journal of Nutrition & Food Safety
Manuscript Number:	Ms_EJNFS_122931
Title of the Manuscript:	Assessment of the Nutritional Quality of Meals Served at the Abidjan Penitentiary Center: Implications for Inmate Health
Type of the Article	

#### PART 1: Review Comments

Compulsory REVISION comments	Reviewer's comment	Author's Feedback <i>(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
<p><b>Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. Why do you like (or dislike) this manuscript? A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.</b></p>	<p>i. The authors conduct a good scientific and technical analysis of the nutritional quality of the food served to inmates, thereby highlighting very important challenges and concerns. The fact that the prisons are overcrowded is a sad affair prevalent in innumerable countries and thus brings to fore the ubiquitous gap between theory and praxis. The article rightly points out that while the nutritional recommendations have been set fairly in theory, it is far from adequate in reality. The authors do not go much in detail what these gaps are and how they can be addressed – which could have made the article more robust by offering possible interventions. These problems are interdisciplinary in nature and cannot be solved in isolation. Hence, proposing some initial ideas on how to improve the status quo could enhance the discourse.</p> <p>ii. The article interestingly highlights the fact that the reports from Ghana incorrectly paints an optimistic picture relying on the nutritional information from only raw food ingredients whereas cooking processes lead to a loss of nutrition. It would have been better if the authors also provided data on how large this discrepancy was in the case of PPA by calculating the nutritional values of meals using aggregate nutrition calculators (which consider only raw ingredients) and comparing them against the nutritional values of cooked meals obtained from empirical methods.</p> <p>iii. The authors also mention some of the peripheral reasons for a lack of adequate dietary nutritional intake such as overcrowded prison cells and the interestingly small gap between breakfast and lunch and the very large gap between lunch and next day's breakfast. These notes add to the gravity of the issue and highlight severely negligent measures at PPA. It could have also been helpful to add the reasons for some of these challenges, especially noting the reasons behind the fact that no food is served to inmates after 9 a.m. This is definitely a very important reason for the inmates' aggravating moods and violent behaviour. In this spirit, it is commendable that authors have highlighted this in the article.</p>	
<p><b>Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)</b></p>	Yes	
<p><b>Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here.</b></p>	Yes	
<p><b>Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?</b></p>	Yes	

**Review Form 3**

<p><b>Please write a few sentences regarding the scientific correctness of this manuscript. Why do you think that this manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound? A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The statistical analyses are telling in bringing out the gaps in the nutritional recommendations and actual intakes. However, it could have helped if the authors also took note of the recipes that were followed in preparing the food items. As cooking is a chemical process, every minute decision can change the nutritional content of the food and in this light, noting down the recipes allow for understanding the nutritional nuances even better. For example, many lunch meals mention rice being a major component. However, it is not clear if it was unpolished rice vs polished rice, whether it was white rice or a different variation, whether the rice dish was exactly the same every time, whether the starch was removed from rice or not, whether the cooked rice dish contained more water than necessary as a means to increase the quantity of the dish, etc. Noting down the specifications of recipes and thereby meals, could have provided additional insight into the nutritional analyses as micronutrient/macronutrient recommendations are only a starting point.</li> <li>ii. It is unclear why authors did not conduct a food group analysis i.e. what percentages of cereal intake, legume intake, animal protein intake, oil/fat intake, fruit and vegetable intake, etc were met and the concomitant gaps. This could have added important facets of analysis to the study, especially because they do mention the recommended thresholds for these food groups.</li> <li>iii. Raw data has not been made available for reproducibility of analysis by the authors. This is generally not a good scientific practice.</li> <li>iv. It is not clear if the authors have used any standard or commonly known indices for the nutritional assessment and if not, why.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	
<p><u>Minor</u> REVISION comments</p> <p><b>Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>	
<p><u>Optional/General</u> comments</p>	<p>Overall, the paper is a good starting point in noting quite a lot of issues with the way food systems at penitentiary systems are operated, the way nutritional analyses can give a peek into the execution of food policies (both in prisons and outside) and gaps in ways that nutritional analyses are usually conducted (aggregate calculation vs compositional calculations). Therefore, I vote to accept this article as the analysis is robust and technically sound. However, it would be interesting to see future work on more nuanced nutritional and food compositional analyses and hear more from the authors about the gaps that they could not address in this study.</p>	

**PART 2:**

	<p><b>Reviewer's comment</b></p>	<p><b>Author's comment</b> (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)</p>
<p><b>Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?</b></p>	<p><i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i></p>	

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