

World over, under nutrition among children below the age of five is a very serious problem more especially in developing countries where reducing has not remained clear a challenge throughout the world. It is estimated that one in every six under five children in the world is under nourished and this population is found in South Asia and Africa, (UNICEF, 2010). Although Somalia has been a war torn area which disrupted all functional health and agricultural systems resulting into nationwide food insecurity, in the recent past there has been relative peace across the country which has facilitated the rehabilitation of the agricultural sector and large scale production of food. However, despite these advances in the agricultural sector and food supply chain in Somalia, children under the age of five continue to suffer from under nutrition.

A cross-sectional study involving 395 children below the age of five years was conducted in Badbaado refugee camp to establish the factors contributing to under nutrition among children.

The dependent variable under this study was the level of under-nutrition while the independent variables included; the socio-economic, environmental and health system factors. A semi- structured questionnaire was used to collect data and anthropometric measurements were used to measure different aspects of under-nutrition among the children. Pearson's Chi-Square test was used to establish the level of association between the dependent and independent variables.

The results of the findings indicated that 26% of the children involved in the study were under-nourished with majority of such children suffering mild, while a few had severe under-nutrition.

The factors that were found to have a statistically significant association ($p < 0.05$) with under-nutrition included: socio-economic factors; age of the child, living with both parents at home, level of income and source of food. The environmental factors were access to a balanced diet, access to clean water, occurrence of diarrheal disease and living in stressful conditions. Health facility factors included; access to nutritional education and vitamin doses for the children.

Camp administrators should create awareness through international publications and media communications of the situation on the high level of under-nutrition among children so as to attract international intervention and aid to help the children living in refugee camps by providing food and other nutritional supplements such as vitamins doses.