Supplementary table 1.

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| Characteristics of 327 children at discharge (start of outpatient treatment) | | |
|  | Placebo  (n=163) | Probiotics  (n=164) |
| Age (months) | 17.7 ± 8.6 | 18.1 ± 8.8 |
| Sex (male) | 58% (95) | 59% (97) |
| Weight (kg) | 7.1 ± 1.6 | 7.2 ± 1.6 |
| Length or height (cm) | 70.6 ± 6.0 | 70.6 ± 6.4 |
| MUAC (cm )  MUAC < 11.5 cm | 11.8 ± 1.5  41% (67) | 12.1 ± 1.4  40% (65) |
| Height/Length-for-age z-score | -3.5 ± 1.3 | -3.6 ± 1.3 |
| Weight-for-age z-score | -3.4 ± 1.2 | -3.3 ± 1.2 |
| Weight-for-height/length z-score  Weight-for-height/length z-score < -3 | -2.2 ± 1.4  25% (40) | -1.9 ± 1.2  24% (40) |
| Edema | 0% (0) | 0% (0) |
| HIV seropositive children | 9% (15) | 12% (20) |
| HIV positive mothers | 24% (39) | 28% (46) |
| Children with SAM at discharge | 45% (73) | 43% (71) |

Data are recorded as mean ± sd or % (n).