Title: Bridging knowledge translation gap in health in developing countries: visibility, impact and publishing standards in journals from the Eastern Mediterranean

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr Henderson,

Please find enclosed our manuscript, revised according to the further comments of the reviewer. The suggestions from the reviewer helped us to organize the manuscript so that the message is now much clearer.

All changes are underlined in the revised manuscript. We also checked again the style of the language by a native speaker, and we rechecked the formatting of the manuscript according to BMC guidelines.

We hope that our manuscript is now suitable for assessment and publication in the journals.

Sincerely, Ana Marušić

Reviewer’s comments:

Minor essential revisions.

Comment #1
- Please add additional sub-headings in the results and in particular discussion section, to facilitate focusing on essential findings and inferences.

Answer: We added the subheadings, they are now underlined in the text of the Results and Discussion sections.

Comment #2
- Please clarify (for example, number, list in a box) the recommendations that are noted within the last section, to improve the indexing of journals in the region, and suggest a time frame when a similar assessment should be done in the future (to see if the situation has evolved).

Answer: We organized the recommendations in the numbered points in the relevant section of the Discussion (pages 12 and 13). We also added a new paragraph about international policy makers in general and specifically for the Eastern Mediterranean region. The need for regular assessment exercises such as the one described in our study has also been emphasized in this paragraph (underlined text on page 13).
Discretionary revisions
Comment #3
- Kindly consider being more selective in the presentation of results.
Answer: We have really tried to minimize the results presented in the main body of the manuscript and have already moved all details into additional files. It has be kept in mind that our study actually comprised three extensive assessment exercises, and deleting more results would undermine the clarity of the presentation and arguments.

- Are there any particularly important mechanisms for greater collaboration across the region?
Answer: We how address this in the revised paragraph on page 13.