Reviewer's report

Title: A rapid screening tool for psychological distress in children 3-6 years old: results of a validation study

Version: 2 Date: 7 May 2012

Reviewer: Elisabeth Schauer

Reviewer's report:

Discretionary Revisions:

Can authors please stress the problem that once the instrument is in use there will surely not be enough 'clinical psychologists' to provide care for all children who are in need of care - so as to press on the plight of absence of humanitarian aid and investment as it relates to psychological rehabilitation of children in complex settings.

Can authors please stress that trauma-related childhood experience (violence, abuse, neglect, etc) are key to be found early on, since this is a major issue for adolescent and adult psychopathology and that mother's might not be the best people to honestly report these experiences, since they might be the main perpetrators or they might want to protect a family perpetrator. Ideally mothers must be interviewed along side their children to get a full picture of the the source of distress and psychological suffering inflicted on children.

Can authors please mention excellent diagnostic tools such as MACE, which should be translated and adapted for use in international settings.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests