Reviewer's report

Title: Post-conflict mental health needs: A cross-sectional survey of trauma, depression and associated factors in Juba, Southern Sudan.

Version: 2 Date: 21 January 2009

Reviewer: Claudia Catani

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Review on Manuscript titled 'Post-conflict mental health needs: A cross-sectional survey of trauma, depression and associated factors in Juba, Southern Sudan.'

The authors have replied in very much detail to the comments on the original version of the manuscript and have made important changes which have led to a clear improvement and more clarity of the paper.

By adding important parts to the introduction and discussion sections, the authors have succeeded to highlight the additional scientific value of the present study even when compared with already existing data on a Southern Sudanese population.

Even though I am in general very satisfied by the revised version of the manuscript, I am still left with a few uncertainties:

Minor Essential Revisions
- The authors describe that the average interview time was 42 minutes. I am still very doubtful about the validity of the interviews ... 42 minutes are definitely not much time to determine trauma load, PTSD symptoms and depression in a way that allows for establishing PTSD and depression prevalence rates. In particular, if interviews are carried out by trained lay-interviewers. At least, the authors could mention this issue in the limitations section.
- There is now sufficient information about the differences between men and women with respect to exposure to different traumatic events. I would even say that, given that table 4 has been added, there is no need to describe the gender difference for each traumatic event type in the text, as well. I would recommend that you only presenting the table and including an extra column where you can present the statistics (significance) for each comparison.

Discretionary Revisions
- I am not completely convinced by the authors' justification for not including the SF-8 in the present analyses. I do not agree that adding information about the general health status outcome would make the manuscript too complex (in the end, it is only one more measure). I am rather of the opinion that it would add further value to the paper since there is a lot of literature arguing for an important relationship between trauma, PTSD and general or physical health (Schnurr, P. P., & Green, B. L. (2003). Trauma and Health: Physical Health Consequences of...
Exposure to Extreme Stress: American Psychological Association.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests