Reviewer's report

Title: Health-related quality of life of Palestinian preschoolers in the Gaza Strip: a cross-sectional study

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Reviewer: Panos Vostanis

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting and well designed paper on the health-related quality of life among pre-school children in an area of political and war conflict, and on associated risk factors. As the authors rightly point out, there has been surprisingly limited research in this field, despite a large body of research on the mental health impact of war on children. This study draws together different environmental, trauma-related, family and child health (physical and mental health) factors to conceptualize an important model.

The sampling is described in detail, and draws from children and representative kindergartens in the area. The measures are widely used. The analysis combines descriptive data, between-group comparisons and a multiple regression model. The findings are clearly discussed in the context of previous research.

The paper would benefit from two additional considerations:

1. Although there is no evidence from other war zones, how do the findings contrast with similar (if any, even if not directly comparable) studies from low-income countries in relative stability?
2. What are the public health implications for policy and Gaza services, and other similar regions in the world?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests, other than having co-authored many papers with one of the authors (Dr AA Thabet).