Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence and sociodemographic correlates of stunting, underweight, and overweight among Palestinian school adolescents (13-15 years) in two major governorates in the West Bank

Version: 5 Date: 27 October 2009

Reviewer: Bernard Maire

Reviewer's report:

Dear Editors,

I believe that the authors have answered appropriately to previous comments. The aim, strength and limitations of the article are now clear enough, and the different parts have been significantly improved.

There is a 'Minor essential revision': in the 'Measures' section, under the header 'anthropometric measures' the authors state that BMI was categorized using the US NCHS/WHO 2000 growth charts and they refer to Kuczmarski et al. (ref. n° 18). As a matter of fact, this refers to a re-working of the old NCHS/WHO 1977 reference growth curve, but should be better called 'CDC 2000 reference'; WHO on another side has reconstructed on its own the same 1977 reference curve to produce a BMI-for-age reference for children and adolescents, but it has some distinct features and the article to cite then would be different (de Onis M, Onyango AW, Borghi E, Siyam A, Nishida C, Siekmann J. Development of a WHO growth reference for school-aged children and adolescents. Bull WHO 2007;85:660-667.).

I would suggest then the use of '2000 CDC reference' instead of 'NCHS/WHO reference' everywhere it appears in text or table footnotes.

Also I would suggest to use the word 'thinness' instead of 'underweight' for a low BMI-for-age, as recommended by WHO, as underweight is used for preschool children when speaking about low weight-for-age and it may be misleading for readers.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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.