Author's response to reviews

Title: Psychosocial interventions for children exposed to traumatic events in low and middle income countries: study protocol of an individual patient data meta-analysis

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Sir,

I wish to submit the manuscript entitled:

“Psychosocial interventions in children exposed to traumatic events in low and middle income countries: an individual patient data meta-analysis” to be considered for publication in Systematic Reviews.

The burden of mental health and psychosocial problems in children exposed to traumatic events in humanitarian settings in low- and middle-income countries is substantial. Randomized studies have shown promising effects of psychosocial interventions, but at the same time this evidence has shown complexity with regard to setting, conflict-phase, gender, and age. These complex findings raise the urgent need of a detailed evaluation of the specific factors which influence size and direction of intervention effects.

The aim of our study is to carry out an individual patient data meta-analysis using data from all available randomized controlled trials comparing psychosocial intervention with waiting list or no intervention arms in children exposed to traumatic events living in low- and middle-income countries. A comprehensive analysis will help to understand why some children benefit from different interventions more than others and will provide a strong rationale for implementation and large-scale preventive programs worldwide.

I hope that our work may be of interest for your Journal.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Yours truly,

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