**Reviewer’s report**

**Title:** Prevalence and associated factors influencing stunting in children aged 2-5 years in the Gaza Strip-Palestine: a cross-sectional study

**Version:** 0  **Date:** 13 May 2016

**Reviewer:** Janis Randall Simpson

**Reviewer’s report:**

Thank you for the opportunity to review this manuscript.

The findings of this research should be of interest to those working in this geographical area.

However, this manuscript needs a considerable amount of editing before it would be acceptable for publication. The English language and grammar need a lot of work with too many details for a scientific review process.

Abstract: The finding of the association of stunting with parental consanguinity has no lead up in the abstract until the results are presented. Some statement of the rationale for even looking at this variable should be given in the introduction to the study.

Introduction: Again, there is not enough background given for choosing consanguinity as a variable - just one study is cited and it is stated that this has not been fully explored within the UNICEF framework.

Methods: There is no rationale for the sample size of 334. It is not indicated how many research assistants were involved in the data collection and no details of their training or inter and intra rater reliability. Page 6, lines 19-20 - it is not clear what consistency across indicators was checked and tested means?

Data analysis: Were the weights related to the multistage cluster sampling applied in the data analysis? It is not clear from the way the data analysis is written up that the UNICEF model characteristics are included in the data analysis?

Results: A lot of the text could be deleted as it is mostly a repetition of data in Tables 1.

Discussion: The discussion could be much more comprehensive that it is and that includes the limitations.
Table 3: It seems odd that the p-value, presumably for the difference in proportions of stunting among the geographical areas is not significant, given the wide range of proportions.

Table 4: There is no footnote to accompany the Mother's height variables.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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