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: 27 Apr 2016

Reviewer: Sonja Hess

Reviewer’s report:

The present paper summarizes a survey of 357 children and associations between stunting and potential risk factors. Although the survey seems to have been implemented well, the small sample size of the survey and a fairly small number of considered risk factors is a limitation of the study. It is also not clear whether the random choice of only 3 study areas (refugee camp, urban area, and rural area) results in a representative sample of the Gaza Strip-Palestine. Due to the above mentioned reasons, the reviewer believes that this paper is more suited for publication in a regional or local journal.

Additional comments:

- The final conclusion that it is important "...to raise awareness of the importance of the prevention and control of nutritional problems to combat stunting among children..." is not supported by the presented results. None of the associated risk factors identified in the survey were nutrition related.

- Page 3, line 22 seems to be a wrong citation for that sentence. Also, stunting is not considered irreversible as catch up growth is possible.

- More information is required regarding the data collection of feeding practices. From the result section, it seems that this was limited to a recall of breastfeeding practices.

- Table 1: 'breastfeeding' needs to be defined. What time period was considered?

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

Yes

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.

No

**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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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