**Reviewer’s report**

**Title:** Physical growth: is it a good indicator of development in early childhood in low- and middle-income countries?

**Version:** 0 **Date:** 22 Dec 2018

**Reviewer:** Rômulo Fernandes

**Reviewer’s report:**

**Introduction**

Authors should give examples of which nations are low and middle income, it is relevant to the reader understand where these findings are fit the be applied;

Second paragraph has no reference/citation to support the statements made. Please, insert it;

Authors should present clearly the relevance of this possible relationship between physical growth and early development, as well as possible implications related to this relationship (if confirmed);

**Methods**

It is not sufficiently clear how the dataset was analyzed. Is this manuscript based in a ecological approach? Authors need explain in deep when the analysis is inside each nation and when the analysis is using the nation as the sample unit. Please, explain in more details these details.

Coefficients is correlations should be accompanied by its 95%CI.

**Results**

Results should be presented prefentially as figures.

**Discussion**

The relationship observed was mainly of low magnitude, even in a huge sample size. Pearson correlation is per se a measure os effect-size, so it is not clear if this relationship is "clinically relevant". Authors should discuss this issue better, mainly because it is not clear if this relationship would be different in high-income countries (a suggestion made by the authors);

Please, explore better the limitations of the study.
I was wondering if the relationship would be stronger if other markers of physical growth were used. Please, this aspect should be explored.

**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.

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.

I recommend additional statistical review

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

Acceptable

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