Reviewer’s report

Title: Changes in mental disorder prevalence among conflict-affected populations: a prospective study in Sri Lanka (COMRAID-R)

Version: 2 Date: 18 November 2014

Reviewer: Gilad Gal

Reviewer’s report:

Introduction
The authors report on the lack of knowledge regarding certain aspects of forced migration. Yet, it would be beneficial to the readers to have some knowledge on what is known about mental health outcomes.

Methods
It should be cleared out if the participants were displaced themselves or are part of families who were displaced, and thus were born at the displacement location. In addition, the age of displacement should be mentioned. As the data appear in Table 1, a reference could be added.

The PHQ is a screening tool which focus is current disorders. It is worthwhile mentioning this aspect to avoid confusion between life-time and current prevalence.

Results
Table 2 should be cleared out. The differences in prevalence between samples 2 and 3 are all negative, while in some cases they are higher in sample 2 and in others in sample 3.

The text on Table 2 relates to differences in the prevalence of certain CMDs (2nd part of the text), while there is no statistical basis for this argument.

Table 3 – the number of cases presented (e.g., 85/450) is not adequate. As the comparison is between those with/without CMD, the N should represent the entire group (e.g., 450)

Discussion
Some parts of the discussion (e.g, 2nd paragraph p 14) are descriptive and do not discuss the results of this study. It will be better placed in the introduction.

The substantial reduction of CMD prevalence over 1 year of follow-up is somehow unexpected and puzzling. I think further attempt should be given to explain it. Which is the disorder most associated with the reduction, and which background or sociodemographic variables could explain it?

Although the study is presented as a follow-up study the time frame should be considered explicitly. The sampling of the baseline study was performed in 2011, and the follow-up in 2012, occurred more than 20 years since the raise of the
Conflict. This time frame represents a selective part of the displacement course which could have an impact on the findings, and therefore be presented as a limitation.

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

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.