Author's response to reviews

Title: The rise in stunting in relation to avian influenza: a comparison of the 2005 and 2008 Egypt Demographic and Health Surveys

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editors and Colleagues at BMC Public Health,

Hope this letter finds you all well.

I am writing to re-submit our manuscript entitled, “The Rise in Stunting in Relation to Avian Influenza: a Comparison of the 2005 and 2008 Egypt Demographic and Health Surveys,” to BMC Public Health Journal. This paper examines determinants of stunting among children 6-59 months of age in Egypt, within the context of an avian influenza outbreak in 2006. Our original submission on September 18, 2014, was reviewed, and it was requested that we add detail into the introduction, and abstract, regarding the linkages between stunting (or chronic malnutrition) and avian influenza. We have provided this detail in the introduction and abstract, specifically how the avian influenza epidemic, resulted in culling/removal of poultry, an animal source food, which has impacted both livelihoods of families and household level food supply in Egypt. We present evidence of the role of animal source foods, in contributing to optimal child growth. The avian influenza and mass removal of such food sources, can contribute to nutrient deficiencies, and subsequent stunting and poor growth outcomes – which can be an overlooked outcome of epidemics affecting poultry and livestock.

In addition, we responded to editorial suggestions dated November 26, 2014 on the conceptual framework to include clearer annotations regarding outcomes of stunting and determinants of stunting. Those edits are included here in the version here.

We feel this contribution is unique, and these data are likely to be of great interest to scientists, researchers, clinicians, and public health practitioners who read your journal.

This manuscript describes original work and is not under consideration by any other journal. All authors approved the manuscript and this submission.

Thank you for receiving our manuscript, in its revised form and considering it for another review.

We greatly appreciate your time and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,