Author's response to reviews

Title: Prevalence and care seeking for chronic diseases among Syrian refugees in Jordan

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Version: 4 Date: 24 September 2015

Author's response to reviews: see over
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Please consider our revised manuscript, “Prevalence and care seeking for chronic diseases among Syrian refugees in Jordan” for publication in BMC Public Health Below please find point-by-point responses to the reviewer comments.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.
Reviewer’s report
Title: Prevalence and care seeking for chronic diseases among Syrian refugees in Jordan
Version: 3 Date: 16 September 2015
Reviewer: Stine Byberg

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
Methods section: Socio-economic status is mentioned in the discussion section and in table 2 but not in methods and results. Please describe how socio-economic status was obtained in the methods sections and describe the findings in the results section.
Description of socioeconomic status measures and methods of ascertainment were added to the methods section. A background characteristics section was added to the results section and expenditure findings were added in addition to a brief overview of other variables in the care seeking model.

Results section: you describe how many need care - how do you define whether or not care is needed. Please describe this in the methods section.
“Needed” care was replaced with “received” care after inspection of the questionnaire. The instrument did not measure the need for care, but rather the last time care was received for the condition.

Minor Essential Revisions
I still think the paper would benefit from a flow chart of the participants to give an overview, starting with number of households selected for interview, how many of these actually gave an interview (what were the reasons for not giving an interview), and out of these, how many households reported NCDs.
Figure added in the results section outlining the flow of participants including response rate and breakdown of individuals participating in the survey and, within that, those with NCDs. Reasons for not giving an interview were not recorded.

In the discussion you state that an explanation for the lower degree of health care seeking among households with higher education could be due to lower burden of NCD. I think you should explore whether this is the case as you have the data available instead of speculating.
Discussion of analysis of household education and the number of NCD diagnoses in the household was added to the discussion section.

Discretionary Revisions
There are a number of spelling mishaps. Please review the manuscript thoroughly for spelling errors.
Manuscript was reviewed for spelling errors.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests: I declare that I have no competing interests
Reviewer’s report
Title: Prevalence and care seeking for chronic diseases among Syrian refugees in Jordan
Version: 3 Date: 10 September 2015
Reviewer: Ahmed Amara

Reviewer’s report:

The author has responded to most comments. However, some of the concerns raised about the discussion and conclusion sections were not addressed appropriately.

Discussion: The author should strengthen the discussion by adding information about the prevalence of NCDs among Syrian population in Syria (Syrian refugees have not been in displacement for long time compared to for example, Iraqi refugees); is it different from the prevalence reported in this study? What about other refugees in Jordan and the region? Do they face difficulties to find appropriate health care for NCDs? What is their care-seeking behavior? Internationally, the challenges of NCDs among urban refugees become evident when Iraqis fled to neighboring countries in 2003. The author can find studies on chronic conditions related to this refugee population.

Estimated prevalence of selected conditions pre-crisis in Syria were added as was a discussion of prevalence and care-seeking among Iraqi refugees in Jordan in 2008.

Conclusion: Some ideas presented here fit better the discussion section, especially those of health financing options. User fees and out-of-pocket spending as ways to finance refugees’ health care introduced in the conclusion. Its better to move this part to the discussion or remove it.

The portion of the conclusion including discussion of user-feed and out-of-pocket spending was moved to the discussion section near the discussion about cost.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests: I declare that I have no competing interests.