Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 20 July 2015

Reviewer: Stine Byberg

Reviewer’s report:

Major compulsory revisions

Methods p. 7: Why did you not interview every member of the household? This would likely have improved the accuracy of the prevalence estimates. Was there any attempt to validate the correctness of the respondent’s statements on behalf of the other household members?

Results p. 9: please state how many participants had more than one condition – I am assume a double burden of NCDs must be of extra concern in relation to health care seeking?

Results p. 11-13: Since many of the chronic conditions have a similar pattern of health care seeking the paragraphs with all the different NCDs seem to be a repetition in many instances – please reduce these paragraphs to include for which chronic conditions inability to afford care was a problem; for which conditions there were regional differences etc.

Figures and tables: please include a figure displaying the participant flow – this will make it easier to understand the results.

Minor essential revisions

Abstract: could you make the aim of study more clear? It is not exactly clear what the objective of the study is from a sentence such as “…and better understand issues related to accessing health services”

Introduction p. 4: The first paragraph in the introduction should be shortened. Thus, how refugees put a strain on the host country is well known. I would instead like if you could write more about the Jordanian health system and how refugees are viewed upon and which barriers (formal/informal) exist for refugees in health care seeking.

Introduction p. 5: Could you elaborate a bit more on why “The implications of the increasing NCD burden in refugee populations have been striking in the Syria crisis”? I don’t doubt the relevance of NCD’s in the Syria crisis but I don’t see any data backing this statement in the paper?

Introduction p. 5: please elaborate more on the Jordanian health system and how refugees are received. Are the Jordanian doctors reimbursed by UNHCR? Are
they even allowed to treat unregistered refugees and how is that viewed upon? What are their incentives to provide consultations? Language barriers?

Methods p. 7: How did you make sure that the nearest Syrian household (information derived from the starting household of the cluster) were refugees as well and not work/family reunified migrants?

Methods p. 8: could you provide information on who conducted the interview? I can see in the limitations section of the discussion that Jordanians conducted the interview but it would be good to state it here as well. And how were the unregistered refugees approached? I assume they must be cautious about being interviewed?

Methods p. 8: please describe if you saw/requested any documentation to verify the conditions, such as doctor’s receipts, prescriptions, vaccination cards, medical records etc.

Methods p. 9: why did you only include variables with a statistical significance of p<0.1 in the adjusted analyses? Some variables may have confounding effects even though they are not significantly associated with the outcome. It seems you have the power to include all variables from the unadjusted analysis?

Results p. 10: do you have any idea whether refugees were diagnosed with their chronic condition in Syria or after fleeing to Jordan?

Results p. 14: did you assess whether the participants were compliant/well medicated for their condition?

Discretionary revisions

Abstract: please add total number of participants in the results section

Introduction p. 4-5: please add a reference to your statement “While these priorities remain, the burden of NCDs in displaced populations is increasing”

Methods p. 8: the referencing style in the second paragraph is not equal over the entire paragraph

Results p. 10: please rewrite the sentence starting in line 9 and in line 20 as the meaning of these is not clear.

Discussion p. 15: please rewrite the last sentence on the page

**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