**Reviewer’s report**

**Title:** Body size perceptions and preferences favor overweight in adult Saharawi refugees

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**Reviewer:** Sonia Tarallo

**Reviewer's report:**

In this manuscript, entitled "Body size perceptions and preferences favor overweight in adult Saharawi refugees" the authors analyse the body size perceptions and preferences in adult Saharawi refugees.

They performed a cross-sectional study that compromised of 180 women and 175 men randomly selected Saharawi refugees in five refugee camps in Algeria, with age 18-80 years. For the evaluation of the body size perceptions, they considered the body figure scale developed by Stunkard (Stunkard AJ, 2013) and they also measure the real BMI with anthropometric measures (weight and height).

In this study the authors have obtained significant results regarding the:

- The high percentage of participants are normal weight, but they also have the 42% of obese and overweight, in particular women respect to men.

- The body seizes perception increased with age. In particular, approximately the half of the old participants did not desire a smaller body size. Probably because the overweight or obese has been associated with richness, health, strength and fertility.

- On the contrary, in the young Saharawi refugees the perception of body size, is correlated with a Western preference, in the slim body (because they spent your holidays in Spain, where the perception of body size are also influenced by magazines, television or films).

The study is very clear and well written.

I have only some comments:

- Could the perception of body size be influenced by the refugee condition? I mean that being refugees, they could feel to be underweight and undernourished.
Could the authors provide any explanation why so many obese women are present? This condition depends on nutrition transition, or these women are obese before the refugees status?

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