**Reviewer’s report**

**Title:** A comparison between health research output and burden of disease in Arab countries: evidence from Palestine

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 03 Feb 2018

**Reviewer:** Randah R. Hamadeh

**Reviewer’s report:**

A very important paper with implications to academics, researchers and health policy makers. I have some comments:

**Abstract:**

Line 12: "examining" should be "examined"

Line 19: "chronic respiratory", should be "chronic respiratory diseases"

Line 26: "Arab countries", it should be "Palestine". Cannot generalize.

**Introduction:**

* Line 5: "Bank and Gaza" add respectively "Bank and Gaza, respectively"

* Line 13-15: The three lines require revision, as they are not clear

* Line 15: "In their Lancet seminal report", year of report is needed

* Line 20: "The Institute of Medicine". It is an old reference, 1998. Better use a recent one, if the only available, indicate that it is from the US.

* Line 23: "measure represents" should be "measure that represents"

**Methods:**

* Page 4, line 27: Did you use the impact factor of the journal at the time of publication or at the time of study?

* Page 4, line 28: The number of citations for the publications of 2015, particularly at the end of the year would be less due time. How did you address this?
* Page 5, line 2: No need for caps
* Page 5, line 3: Source of funding: The "not reported and not clear" should be listed last.
* Page 5, line 3: "international/or NGOs": Where all the NGOs international?
* Page 5, lines 8-13: No need for defining deaths, DALYs, YLL, YLDs

Results:
* Page 6, lines 6-8: No need to repeat the numbers since they are in the figure, just provide %.
* Page 6, line 10: "Regional institutions". What was the definition of regional? MENA or EMR?
* Page 6, line 18: "less than 5 times or not at all", not at all should not be included with less than 5. It should be "none", "1-5"
* Page 6, lines 23-25: If you do not put the exact % then they will not correspond with the exact figures in the table. Write instead, "sources of funding were not mentioned in about two thirds of the articles. Of those reporting, over two thirds were international". NGOs are not mentioned in text.
* Page 7, line 10: put coma before "respectively"
* Page 7, line 11: replace "over-studies" by "over-studied"
* Page 7: Double check if figures 2 and 3 are mixed up. "Figure 2 shows that research output was poorly correlated with disease burden, irrespective of whether measured in terms of DALYs (rho = -0.116, p = 0.7) or death (rho = 0.217, p = 0.5)." If you go to figures, it is figure 3.

Discussion:
* Page 10: In the section "Enhance the capacity of national researchers to conduct prioritised research", I suggest urging academic institutions to have health research plans that addresses the diseases that play a major contribution in the burden of disease in Palestine.
* Page 7, line 28: "maternal and neonatal" should be "maternal and neonatal diseases"
* Page 8, Line 2: RCT has been used earlier. Use RCT throughout the discussion and not in full.
* Page 8, Line 27: "infectious diseases [20]" should be "towards infectious diseases [20]."

* Page 9, Line 31: "developin" should be "developing"

* Page 10, line 16: "and should be "change to "should be"

* Page 10, lines 19-23: In my opinion, there is no need these lines are they are detailed.

Conclusions:

* Page 10, line 26: "Non-communicable disease" add s "Non-communicable diseases"

Tables:

* Table 1, Line 20: Should be 2011-2015

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An article of importance in its field

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

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