

PEER REVIEW HISTORY

BMJ Paediatrics Open publishes all reviews undertaken for accepted manuscripts. Reviewers are asked to complete a checklist review form and are provided with free text boxes to elaborate on their assessment. These free text comments are reproduced below.

ARTICLE DETAILS

TITLE (PROVISIONAL)	Access to healthcare for children in Palestine
AUTHORS	Waterston, Tony; Nasser, Dina

VERSION 1 - REVIEW

REVIEWER	Ghannam, Jess University of California San Francisco USA Competing interests: None
REVIEW RETURNED	20-Aug-2017

GENERAL COMMENTS	A very important paper worthy of publication in BMJ PO. My only comment, having worked extensively in Gaza, WB, and EJ, is that there are additional CBO, NGO, and private initiatives worthy of description. For example, the building of pediatric oncology service in Gaza and Wellness Support Programs through UNRWA in the West Bank. Otherwise, well-researched and written and worthy of publication.
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REVIEWER	Mercer, Raul FLACSO (Latin American School of Social Sciences). Buenos Aires, Argentina Competing interests: No
REVIEW RETURNED	26-Aug-2017

GENERAL COMMENTS	<p>Authors should make explicit what is the purpose of the manuscript. When the authors mention that the “population growth rate is one of the highest in the world”, can they provide the actual figures? The authors also mentioned that “For most independent observers the occupation by the Israeli state is the major determinant of the health problems for Palestinian children. Based on this fact, it will be important to clarify how they characterize “independent observers” and which other determinants of the health situation for Palestinian children are affecting this population?</p> <p>At the end of the document it will be important to add some reflection regarding the challenges that Palestine children face in the future considering the need to provide an immediate response to their critical situation</p> <p>The acronym OPT and oPt should be used in a uniform way</p> <p>There is no detailed information regarding the mental health conditions, particularly as a result of chronic stress. This should be highlighted and more objective information, if possible, been provided.</p> <p>Regarding essential materials (medication) there are two paragraphs with some difference in the figures:</p> <p>In the first part the authors mentioned:</p>
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	<p>"Gaza faces severe equipment and stock shortage and in May 2017, 34% of essential medicines and 32% of medical disposables were at 'zero stock' in Gaza, meaning that less than a month's supply was available."</p> <p>In another part of the manuscript the authors say: "The Ministry of Health in Gaza recently announced that 33% of essential medicines and 31% of medical disposables are at 'zero stock', meaning that less than a month's supply is available on shelves."</p> <p>Figures should be revised and only one of the paragraphs should be kept in the manuscript.</p> <p>Figures on disability are below of the average information dealing with this problem. Authors should explain the potential causes of biased information and sub-registry.</p>
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VERSION 1 – AUTHOR RESPONSE

Responses to referee 2:

The purpose of the MS has been described

The source of data on population growth has been provided

sources for the statement on determinants of health have been provided

One of the paragraphs on medical equipment in Gaza has been removed

VERSION 2 – REVIEW

REVIEWER	<p>Mercer, Raul LACSO (Latin American School of Social Sciences), Buenos Aires, Argentina Competing interests: No competing interests</p>
REVIEW RETURNED	04-Nov-2017

GENERAL COMMENTS	<p>Changes requested by the reviewer were added to the new version of the manuscript. This is an important piece to advocate for children's rights, particularly the right to health and freedom in areas of conflict and military occupation.</p>
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VERSION 2 – AUTHOR RESPONSE