



Somalia: Ageing Situation and the Demand for Geriatric Care

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1. Round 1

1.1 Reviewer 1

Date: 23 July 2024

Reviewer:

The first sentence lacks clarity. "Somalia officially the Federal Republic of Somalia is a country in the Horn of Africa that was used to term 'the Switzerland of Africa'." This sentence should be rewritten for grammatical accuracy and clarity. Consider explaining the historical context behind Somalia being referred to as 'the Switzerland of Africa.'

The acronym "TFR" (Total Fertility Rate) is used without an explanation. Please define acronyms at their first mention to improve reader comprehension.

The section on population dynamics discusses the future elderly population growth. However, it could be strengthened by including projected estimates on the proportion of elderly people in the next 10-20 years, based on current fertility rates and life expectancy trends.

The article mentions that "the whole healthcare infrastructure of Somalia collapsed during the civil war." This point could benefit from additional specific data regarding the current state of healthcare, including available facilities, healthcare personnel, and geriatric care services.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the updated document.

1.2 Reviewer 2

Date: 28 July 2024

Reviewer:

The statement "Somalia bears a high importance to global affairs due to its geo-political advantage" could benefit from further elaboration. What specific geopolitical factors are being referred to? Adding details on its strategic location or other geopolitical aspects would enhance understanding.

When citing the Somali population estimate for 2022 ("The estimated population of Somalia in 2022 is 17,701,119"), it would be helpful to indicate the source of this information directly in the text for transparency and reliability.

The description of Figure 1 states that "both the population growth rate and the fertility rate are increasing." However, the data presented in the figure does not clearly support this, as the fertility rate seems to be decreasing over time. Please revise either the figure or the description to maintain consistency.

The challenges mentioned for Somalia's healthcare system, particularly geriatric care, are broadly stated. Consider providing concrete examples or data points, such as the number of hospitals or geriatric specialists available, to support these claims.

The discussion on fertility rates and the future elderly population ("Indeed the large number of potential mothers generates momentum...") could benefit from clearer causal explanation. What evidence supports the claim that high fertility will inevitably result in higher demand for elderly care? Are there factors that could mitigate this effect?

In discussing the UNFPA report, you state, "45.6 percent of the population was below the age of 15 years in 2014." Providing additional context on how these statistics have changed since 2014 and how they project forward would enhance the relevance of this data.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the updated document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.