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Abstract Information

Abstract Title : AuthorAID in the Eastern Mediterranean: Enabling authors and editors to publish high-quality research
Abstract : **Background.** Researchers everywhere face increasing competition to publish (or perish), and editors face increasing pressures to make their journal more prestigious, competitive and highly cited. Calls for more training for researchers and editors have become common, but access to good training and support varies around the world. Outside settings where resources are plentiful in terms of expertise and funding, face-to-face training opportunities are available only during occasional professional development events such as conferences and workshops. The volunteer project AuthorAID in the Eastern Mediterranean (AAEM) aims to help fill the gap in training and support opportunities.

**Methods.** We reviewed the outcomes of AAEM to date based on information on its website, records of editing and training support maintained by the two co-coordinators, and articles published.
about AAEM.

**Results.** We report quantitative outcomes for the number of manuscripts edited by AAEM volunteers and published. Qualitative outcomes are described as the types of resources produced by AAEM for researchers and editors, and made freely available on the AAEM website. In addition to manuscript editing, AAEM provides guidance on publication ethics and good publication practices for both editors and researchers.

**Conclusions.** AAEM helps editors keep up to date on policies that support good editorial practice, and helps authors prepare better manuscripts and avoid publication practices that editors consider inappropriate. It thus makes a small but useful contribution to education and training in support of high-quality research publication in Eastern Mediterranean countries. Because it is a volunteer project, professionals who provide support through AAEM remain highly motivated to help facilitate the publication of new knowledge from countries that are emerging as producers of high-quality research. Because it is small and noncommercial, with minimal administrative requirements, expertise and time donated to AAEM can be delivered directly and efficiently to authors, editors and other potential users.