Author's response to reviews

Title: Tuberculosis burden in China: A high prevalence of pulmonary tuberculosis in household contacts with and without symptoms

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Dr. Harriet Mayanja
Editor

Re: Manuscript # 1555600346102912 - *Tuberculosis burden in China: A high prevalence of pulmonary tuberculosis in household contacts with and without symptoms*

Dear Dr. Mayanja:

Thank you very much for your value comments and effort on our work. We replied all comments point by point in below. We hope we address all comments, but we keep open for further improving the work.

**Editor comments:**

1) Figure 2 - Add % (46, 9, 12)

   We did.

2) Line 76 - "but not always the first infected cases' can be deleted. Infection is different from disease

   We wanted to say the index case is the first patient who was found, but might be not the first patient in this family. There might be other patients but had not been found yet. We now corrected it as “but not always the first real patient” in Line 78-79.

3) Table 2 - "Household contacts" (HHC) section still confuses me. The "Index
patients. Index patients section also encompasses the contacts. Why then a separate HHC section. Also the numbers of contacts in each subsection different. I wonder if the HHC section can be removed and some parts amalgamated into the Index patients section.

We are sorry for confused description in previous version. In fact, we put three kinds of factors in our study. The first kind was characteristics of the index patients (age, sex, Cavitary disease Treatment history and treatment delay). The second kind was characteristics of the people who lived with index patients (age, sex and symptoms). The third kind was links between index patients and contacts (relationship and whether living same bedroom). We clarified the description in Lines 147-152.

Turn to Table 2. The index patients section presented characteristics of the index patients and how many index patients have been put in analysis. The number of contacts in column 3 means how many people who had contacted with the index patients listed in column 2. Take 15-64 age group as an example, the row told: there were 1224 index patients who were 15-64 old and 1224 index patients had contacted 2568 people, among 2568 people, there were 69 TB.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Number of IC*</th>
<th>Number of Contacts</th>
<th>Cases in Contacts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 - 14</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-64</td>
<td>1224</td>
<td>2568</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In contact section, contact mean how many household contacts have been involved in analysis. Similarly take 15-64 age group as an example, this row told: there were 2649 contacts (not index patients) who were 15-64, among 2649 contacts, there were 70 TB.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Number of IC*</th>
<th>Number of Contacts</th>
<th>Cases in Contacts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 - 14</td>
<td>359</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-64</td>
<td>2649</td>
<td>70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Household contacts