Author's response to reviews

Title: Schistosomiasis transmission at high altitude crater lakes in Western Uganda

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Response

Reviewer: Peter Byass

1. **statistics:**
We have changed the arithmetic means into geometric means and used a multivariate logistic regression model to determine the effect the various variables on infection as advised. Un-adjusted odds ratios have been presented.

2. **Conclusion**

The conclusions have been revised as advised

Reviewer: Giovanna Raso

1. **Abstract**

Corrections have been made as advised

2. **Introduction**

Corrections have been made as advised

3. **Results**

WHO classification has been adopted as advised

The column on the table showing which crater lakes were found infected with snails has been added as advised

4. **Discussion**

The first sentence has been revised and the recommended references cited

Reviewer: Russell Stothard

1) **Please draw a sketch map and locations of the sampled population and crater lakes.**

Map has been included

2) **Could you comment if the Biomphalaria were found to shed schistosome cercariae?**
This was not done because we did not have the required facilities for cercariae shedding. This fact has been included in the study limitations and we do recommend that future studies should a) look for schistosome infections in local snails (shedding cercariae) b) extend the sampling to include very young children (<5 years). Although this may seem difficult because in this area such young children are never allowed to go to the crater lakes for fear of drowning. We have looked at the article by Stothard and Gabriel which refers to pre-school children and infants in high transmission foci and has been included in the discussion.

3) **Given that the sampled human population aged from 6-18, how can you be sure that these children have not been infected elsewhere in Uganda through local travel?**

If only a few of these children were infected perhaps we could have assumed that they acquired the infection from elsewhere but given the level of prevalence and the associated relationship with usage of crater water this rules out that possibility. Secondly those other lakes are far away from these villages where the crater lakes are located (75-150km away). Probably the primary cases who infected the crater lakes could have acquire the infection from other places where they may have visited.

4) **Please refrain from using "data is" it should be "data are.**

The correction has been made

*Otherwise we are very grateful to all the reviewers for their objective comments and technical contributions.*