Author's response to reviews

Title: Geographical information system and predictive risk maps of urinary schistosomiasis in Ogun State, Nigeria

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Editor-in-chief

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Dear Editor,

We have received the three reviewers’ reports of our revised manuscript. We once again thank the reviewers for their useful comments. The comments of reviewer 3 have been noted. All the grammatical errors and observations of reviewer number 3 have been corrected.

Specifically another sub-heading titled “Regression calculation” has been created under Methods and the regression equations in the results have been transferred under this sub-heading. All grammars have been corrected and improved upon. The fresh comments of reviewer 2 are hereby addressed.

General

1. We had hoped to collect fresh data from schools not covered by parasitological survey and compare it with results from our model for validation; as such we did not reserve any of the original dataset for validation purpose. We have highlighted this drawback in the discussion.

2. The reason why little has been done to map urinary schistosomiasis in relation to environmental factors in Nigeria is the lack of government support as well as low capacity of the country schistosomiasis control programme. Our study is remains perhaps the first attempt to map the disease in relation to environmental factors anyway in Nigeria.

Minor essential revisions

1. The binary approached used follows the work of (Brooker et al 2000) in Tanzania, which also used same approach. We wanted to be able to show which areas in Ogun state are likely to have urinary schistosomiasis. None the less, we have noted need to use binomial proportions. Hopefully this will be used for other parts of Nigeria.

2. The infection maps sub-heading in the methods have been removed and descriptive map (figure 1) is referred in the survey section.

3. All the regression calculations have been moved to the methods under regression calculations.

4. The non-assessment of spatial correlation in the questionnaire data have been due acknowledged in the discussion.

Discretionary revisions

1. All grammatical errors highlighted in manuscripts have been corrected and improved upon.

Once again thank you for the reviews. We await your decision.
Thank you

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