Author's response to reviews

Title: Nutritional status and HIV in rural South African children

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Version: 2 Date: 12 December 2009

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Dear Editor,

We would like to submit our manuscript, “Nutritional status and HIV in rural South African children” for consideration for publication in the BMC Paediatrics Journal.

The study documents poor nutritional status among children aged 12-59 months and heightened nutritional vulnerability in HIV positive children compared to their HIV negative counterparts. Technicalities of HIV testing of young children and ethical issues limit evidence on nutritional status of HIV positive children in randomly selected samples at population level; this is a key strength of this study. Our study thus makes an important contribution in establishing the wellbeing of HIV positive children in the general population.

This study is important as malnutrition remains a key public health concern in sub-Saharan Africa where the adverse impacts of the HIV pandemic are most experienced. This study therefore informs policies and interventions directed at child health and survival in countries in sub-Saharan Africa with high prevalence of HIV/AIDS.

We carefully chose BMC Paediatrics Journal to publish these results owing to its scope i.e. publishing work related to child health which is of policy significance and also given its wide international readership.

We therefore look forward to favourable consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

Kimani-Murage