Author's response to reviews

Title: Active Trachoma Two Years After Three Rounds of Azithromycin Mass Treatment in Cheha District, Gurage Zone, Southern Ethiopia

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Response to Reviewers

To: Editorial Manager of BMC Pediatrics

Article title: Active Trachoma Two Years After Three Rounds of Azithromycin Mass Treatment in Cheha District, Gurage Zone, Southern Ethiopia

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Dear Dr. Jonathan King.

Thank you very much for your constructive comments. We have addressed the comments and have revised the manuscript accordingly. We have provided a point-by-point response to the comments.

Point by point Response

Major revisions

1. With regard to the baseline active trachoma prevalence before azithromycin distribution in the district, a pilot survey (that didn’t follow the standard WHO recommended trachoma survey methods) was conducted that revealed a 43% prevalence of active trachoma (TF only). This data was not published in any journals to be referenced. We have now compared our result with the regional result from the 2006 national survey and put a statement on the limitation part as well.

2. As stated in the document, the 65.5% three times azithromycin distribution coverage speaks only for those children who were included in the survey. (i.e. the denominator is the total number of children included in the survey that includes children 1 to 3 years old, which are not legible for three times distribution during the time of the survey. The district has a census data on the population size of children 1-9 years old and that is how they were able to determine the azithromycin distribution coverage.
3. The finding about the “scary” pit latrine is better described in the results now. The issue was most households use a pit latrine with two logs of wood overlying the pit with a wide gap between the two woods. This is by all means to scary for children.

4. Actually we used the compact segment sampling method the way you described it. We did divide the cluster into segments and randomly (by lottery) started the data collection from one end of selected segment. Sorry if we have made confusion in the previous response.

**Minor revisions**

1. As the title of the study dictates, we presented the data about active trachoma. The PI is interested to do another survey on TT prevalence, TT surgical rate and recurrence in the community.

2. There are no activities on fly control in the community like chemical spraying or use of fly traps.

3. The sentence where ref 16 sited was corrected. The order of reference was also corrected