Author's response to reviews

Title: A public private partnership to fight against malaria along the Chad-Cameroon pipeline corridor: I. Baseline data on socio-anthropological aspects, knowledge, attitudes and practices of the population concerning malaria

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Version: 2 Date: 24 September 2013

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Syrra Sanchez

I would like to thank the reviewers for reading our manuscript. The comments and suggestions made by reviewers have all been considered to improve the manuscript. Additional references were added in the manuscript and conclusions synthesize the main findings.

The Competing interest, Authors contributions and Acknowledgement sections have been removed from the title page and placed at the end of the manuscript after Conclusions. Duplicate copies of the figures from the main manuscript have also been deleted. Figures, legends and titles are part of the manuscript file and are given after the reference list as advised. The document has been corrected by an English speaker.

Finally find below the point by point responses to the comments of the two reviewers.

Considering all the reviewers recommendations, please find the revised version of our manuscript.

NB: correct name Roger Moyou-Somo instead of Roger Moyou Somo

Best regards,

Professor Roger Moyou-Somo
Reviewer: Musawenkosi ML Mabaso

Reviewer’s comments

The document was reviewed by an English speaking colleague to take care of the language issues. In the different sections of the Discussion, we have deleted large section of the text whenever the results were overlapping with the discussion. The suggested grammatical and spelling corrections made by the reviewer were all integrated in the manuscript. Finally, many references were added in the #Discussion section#

Discretionary Revision

Abstract

Introduction:

Line 1: the sentence has been reworded as recommended by the reviewer

Line 4: #the present paper presents# has been replaced with #this paper presents# as recommended

Results:

Line 6: #at least 50%# was replaced with #overall 50%# as requested by the reviewer

Line 10: as recommended, #whatever be the site# was replaced with #in almost all the sites#--- --- #followed by chloroquine#

Conclusion: perennisation was replaced with #year round#

Introduction

Paragraph 1

Line 3: as recommended by the reviewer, #and# was deleted and the last part of the phrase was reworded as follows #90% of them from sub-Saharan Africa which has an estimated 1-3 million deaths annually#

Line 4-5: the phrase was reworded as follows #It ranks first as the public health problem in Cameroon -----------less than five year of age and account for 40-45% of medical consultation.,#

Paragraph 2

Line 4: as recommended, the sentence was reworded as follows: #the following partners were involved in the project#

Paragraph 3

Line 4: as suggested, #it was made-up of---- aspects# was replaced with #this consisted of an epidemiological, entomological ---- components#

Methods

Study sites
Paragraph 2
Line 2: we have replaced the numerical #3# with #three#
Line 6: obviously the decline in rainfall is during the dry season! The phrase was reworded as follows: #the monthly rainfall declines from about 400mm in the wet season to about 100mm during the dry season#
For consistency, the annual average temperature (23-25°) and the total population (2570 inhabitants) for this site were added
Random selection of household: we have described the randomization procedure.
Filling of questionnaires, line 5-6: as requested, #he/she# was deleted.
Consistency of the vocabulary: for us, chief of household and head of household are synonymous and we just wanted to avoid repetition. We have chosen to use head throughout the manuscript.

RESULTS
Sex distribution, line: we have replaced #whatever the site# with #in most of the sites ---#
Religion: we have replaced #03# with #3#
Profession of household heads, line 1: as requested by the reviewer, #whatever the site# was replaced with #in most of the sites ---#
Characteristic of the habitats and --------------
   a) Information concerning the habitats
Paragraph 3, line 2: the phrase was reworded as suggested by the reviewer.
   b) Management of fever and malaria
Paragraph2, line1: the phrase was also rewarded as suggested

Discussion
Many references were added. Sections were removed as requested.
a) A reference was added here
c) Matrimonial status: We have reference to back up our statement. We have deleted it.
f) Literary level -----. We have added a reference for the first 4 lines
Characteristics of the habitat: here also, we have added some references

Conclusion: The #Conclusion# was reworded as requested.
Reviewer: Rajendra Maharaj

a. Minor Essential revisions
1. The manuscript was edited by an English speaking colleague. In addition, the first reviewer suggested many grammatical and spelling corrections which were all integrated in the manuscript.
2. The objective of our work was on the one hand to obtain baseline data for subsequent evaluation of the project, and on the other hand, to make recommendations for the implementation of the project. We have reworded the conclusion section to include recommendations for the implementation of the project.
3. As recommended by the reviewer, figure 2 was deleted.
4. Under method, the questionnaire did not contain a section to determine if the dialect translation was correct. We acknowledge that this constitutes a limitation of the study and we have discussed it under the appropriate section.
5. The remark of the reviewer concerning this point is also pertinent and constitute a limitation of the study.
6. In the study site2, 6 villages were chosen instead of 3. This was because the sizes of the villages were very small.
7. The remark was taken into account throughout the manuscript. For example, we wrote #first school leaving certificate# before abbreviating #FSLC#.
8. Under Results, sex distribution of household heads: rf remark 10
9. Discussion overlaps with results. In the different sections of the Discussion, we have deleted large section of the text whenever the results were overlapping with the discussion.
10. We have deleted the India reference.
11. Marital status of household heads. We have no reference to back up our statement; so we have deleted it.
12. Comparison with Swaziland#: We think that comparisons with other African studies should be maintained. If we want to compare our results only with studies done in zones with the same culture and vectorial system, then we should not even compare our results with other Cameroonian reports since the culture and the epidemiological pattern vary from one geo-ecological zone to another in the country!
13. We have increased the number of Cameroonian references.
14. The Conclusion section was reworded to include recommendations for public-private malaria control.
15. Limitation of the study: the limitation that has hampered the study was discussed at the beginning of the #Discussion# section.
16. References 6 and 7 appear under Discussion, socio-demographic characteristics, where it is stated that #in previous works, the sample sizes varied from one study to another [4 - 8]#. 6 and 7 are included in this bracket.