Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 19 July 2013

Reviewer: Musawenkosi ML Mabaso

Reviewer's report:

Reviewer’s comments

This work is relevant, the method used and data collected is sound. The authors just need to work on a few language issues for example use “Overall or Generally” instead of “Globally”, choose whether its “chiefs or heads of households”, avoid using ”” as suggested in my comments.

The results are well presented but the discussion is a bit thin in some sections with little or no references. They could do without presenting a lot of results and rather try and discuss their findings backing and contrasting this with similar work in the continent.

Finally the conclusion is supposed to synthesize their main finding and their relevance to malaria control efforts in the country.

Discretionary Revisions

Abstract

Introduction

Line 1, reword as follows “Malaria is ranked as the first public health problem…”

Line 4, replace the present paper present with “This study presents or This paper presents”

Results

Line 6 start as follows “Overall 50% of…”

Line 10 start as follows “In almost all the sites” paracetamol was cited as the first line drug …followed by chloroquine”

Conclusion

Replace perennisation with “year round transmission of malaria”

Introduction

Paragraph 1, line three delete “and” reword the last part as follows “which has an estimated 1-3 million deaths annually.

Paragraph 1, Line 4-5 reword the first part as follows “It ranks first as the public
health…in children less than 5 years of age, and account for…”

Paragraphs 2, Line 4 reword as follows “The following partners were involved in the project”

Paragraphs 3, Line 4 reword as follows “This consisted of an epidemiological…components

Methods

Study site

Paragraphs 2, Line 2 replace numerical “3” with “Three” and make sure that you change this in all the subsequent sentences that start with numerical numbers under methods.

Paragraphs 2, Line 6 check whether the decline in rainfall is during the wet season or dry season.

Make sure that you give consistent description of all your sites; for example, in your first site you include annual rainfall, rainfall seasonality and main occupation but no annual average temperature and total population.

Sampling methods

Were these households randomly selected? If so how? Give a brief explanation.

Filling of questionnaires

Line 5-6, delete he/she

Your vocabulary must be consistent. Is it chiefs or heads of households?

Results

Sex distribution

Line 1, delete whatever the site and start with “In most of the sites…”

Religion

Instead of “03” use one digit number “3” correct this where it appears anywhere in the text.

Profession of household heads

Line 1, delete whatever the site and start with “In most of the sites…”

Characteristics of the habitats and living conditions in the households

a) Information concerning the habitats

Paragraph 3, line 2, reword as follows “On the contrary, in Meidougou and Dompta, the ceiling was present in both sites in 66% and 84% of households, respectively.”

b) Management of fever and malaria
Paragraph 2, line 1, reword the first part as follows “In almost all the sites paracetamol was cited as the first line drug …”

Minor essential revisions

Discussion

There are sections in the discussion that could be better handled with more references contrasting and backing up current observations with findings of other studies in Africa. Try to tell a more coherent and sound story with little repetition of your results. Remove the different sections here and try to link up your discussion.

a) Mean age of household heads: When you discuss mean age you say it is probably due to local culture. What do you mean do you have references to back up this statement?

c) Matrimonial status: You mention differences between Christian and Muslim culture do you have references to back up this statement?

f) Literacy level of household chiefs: Reference(s) for the first 4 lines?

Characteristics of the habitat and living conditions in households

I am sure are references that you can use to back up your first paragraph

Conclusion

Instead of presenting numbers in this section try and synthesize the significance of your findings and its relevancy to malaria control in Cameroon.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interest