Author's response to reviews

Title: Assessment of the relationship between bacteriological quality of dug-wells, hygiene behaviour and well characteristics in two cholera endemic localities in Douala, Cameroon.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
The Editor
BMC Public Health
Dear Sir,

Submission of Revised Manuscript (ID: 7070484269438301)

We have addressed all the concerns raised by the reviewers and are submitting a second revision of our manuscript entitled ‘Assessment of the relationship between bacteriological quality of dug-well, hygiene behavior and well characteristics in two cholera endemic localities in Douala, Cameroon’. Responses to reviewers are submitted as separate files. The following corrections have been done on the manuscript:

1. Reference 9 has been cited for Target 7C of the Millennium Development Goals.
2. Information on the population density and housing density of Douala has been included and references 12 and 13 added.
3. All scientific names of bacteria have been italicized and their full names written at first appearance and thereafter abbreviated.
4. Tables were prepared according to BMC Public Health guidelines. The pdf version printed has columns and rows separated by black lines.
5. Additional information requested by reviewers is inserted in the manuscript in bold.

We thank the editors immensely for their excellent job in handling and processing manuscripts submitted to BMC Public Health for review.

Yours sincerely,

Jane-Francis Akoachere, Ph. D
Corresponding Author
Dear Reviewer,

Concerns you raised after reviewing our manuscript entitled ‘Assessment of the relationship between bacteriological quality of dug-well, hygiene behavior and well characteristics in two cholera endemic localities in Douala, Cameroon’ have been addressed as follows:

1. All scientific names of bacteria have been italicized and their full names written at first appearance and thereafter abbreviated.
2. Tables were prepared according to BMC Public Health guidelines. The pdf version printed has columns and rows separated by black lines.

We thank you for your comments which have upgraded our manuscript.

Corresponding Author.
Dear Reviewer,

Concerns you raised after reviewing our manuscript entitled ‘Assessment of the relationship between bacteriological quality of dug-well, hygiene behavior and well characteristics in two cholera endemic localities in Douala, Cameroon’ have been addressed as follows:

1. Reference 9 has been cited for Target 7C of the Millennium Development Goals.
2. The population density and housing density of Doula has been included under the description of study site. A few streams run through study sites but dug-wells are a major source of water.
3. Page 8, line 5 from bottom: raining season has been corrected to **rainy season**.
4. Page 11, line 3 from bottom: superscript R could be written or left out when writing resistance patterns.
5. Page 12, line 10 from top: ESBL has been written in full and thereafter abbreviated.
6. Page 13, line 8 from top: A statement on poor drainage of Douala has been included in the description of study sites. It cannot be removed from page 13 line 8 from top because it is being used to explain results obtained from our study.

We thank you immensely for your comments.

Corresponding Author.
RESPONSES TO REVIEWER’S COMMENTS: Olusegun A. Olaoye

Dear Reviewer,

Concerns you raised after reviewing our manuscript entitled ‘Assessment of the relationship between bacteriological quality of dug-well, hygiene behavior and well characteristics in two cholera endemic localities in Douala, Cameroon’ have been addressed as follows:

1. Background, line 12: Additional information provided in bold has been added to the sentence highlighted. It thus reads: Unfortunately, overcrowding, poor hygiene and sanitation have subjected water in these wells to contamination with pathogenic organisms making them a potential source of health hazard.

2. Background, first sentence of last paragraph: ‘the’ has been deleted.

3. Line 1, page 5: ‘sewerage’ highlighted has been maintained. Sewerage system or sewage system could be used.

4. Study design, line 3: Characteristics of randomly selected wells in study sites were investigated.


6. Sample Collection, line 1: ‘sample’ has been replaced with ‘sterile’.

7. Page 9: Relationship between Well Characteristic and Bacteriological Characteristics of water has been corrected to read ‘Relationship between well characteristic and Bacteriological Quality of water.

We thank you for your comments.

Corresponding Author.