Author's response to reviews

Title: A qualitative study of perceived risk for HIV transmission among Police Officers in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Editorial Manager,
BMC Public Health

Dear Editor,

We have taken into consideration your advice of seeking for assistance in English editing of the following manuscript:

Perceived risk for HIV transmission among police officers: a qualitative study of potential volunteers for a phase I/II HIV vaccine trial in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Also we have pleasure in addressing the two reviewers’ comments. See attached.

Sincerely Yours,

Edith A.M. Tarimo, (RN, BSc. Nursing, MPhil, PhD)
MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISIONS

1. Background
Language has been edited and the subjective statements have been amended

The statement that police officers engage in multiple sexual relationships and low condom use is supported by results from the general population. See page 5, lines 4-6, references [9-12].

The statement that the study had two research questions has been deleted from the background, but maintained in the method section to increase clarity. See page 7: Data collection, lines 3-5.

2. Methods
Explanation has been added to clarify the statement that ‘Police officers can make independent informed decision. See page 6: Study population, lines 9-14.

The number of people who attended the education sessions has been included. See page 6: Study design, lines 2-3. Sixty six participants were recruited for FGDs. See page 7, lines 2-3 from the top.

Number [9], currently [13] under study design is a reference number. See page 6, line 2.

We agree with the reviewer’s observation that the question, ‘Can you tell me your views about the problem of HIV and AIDS?’ in the data collection is a leading question using a problem. Since our primary intention was to explore cultural norms, views and opinions among police officers (POs) that would influence willingness to volunteer for an HIV vaccine trial, we thought that starting with exploring POs’ perception about the problem of HIV/AIDS in their local context using a leading question was important to facilitate the discussion.
In this study, cultural norms refer to those of the institution they are working with.

The participants were approached after the meeting. A list of participants who attended the workshop was generated according to work stations and socio-demographic characteristics of the workshop attendees. See page 7: Data collection, lines 9-12.

The statement regarding ‘secured place’ has been amended; now it reads ‘private place’. See page 7, line 12.

The data analysis section has been amended to show exactly how we did an interpretive analysis. See page 8: Data analysis, Lines 1-17.

3. Findings

Language editing has been done by a professional. See pages 10-21.

Most of the introductory text has been further analyzed and amended to avoid repetition of what is presented as quotes. See pages 10-21.

The authors have tried to present most of the findings in a new perspective. Thus, the findings in this article are those related to risks associated with institution rules and practices as well as the working environment among members of the police force as suggested.

Better conclusion has been drawn from the findings after revising the data presentation. See page 3 in the Conclusion of the abstract & pages 25-26 in the Conclusions of the article.

As stated before, quality of written English has been taken care of by a professional English editor.
REVIEWER 2: OYINDAMOLA

COMMENTS

TITLE

1. The title has been amended according to the reviewer’s comment. See title page: ‘A qualitative study of perceived risk for HIV transmission among police officers in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania’

2. Background
Last paragraph, line 6 from below, the words research questions have been deleted. The sentence “Part one…” has been amended to make the sentence reflective. See page 5, lines 12-14.

3. Methods, Study setting: More description of study site has been included. See page 5, lines 1-8.

4. Study design and sampling: Line 4: ‘We recruited diverse groups…’ has been amended according to the reviewer’s suggestion. See page 6, lines 5-7.

5. Data collection: Initials of the authors have been deleted. See page 7.

6. Data analysis: Names and initials have been deleted as suggested. See page 8.

7. Results: The mean age of the participants has been added. See page 10: Participants, lines 2-3.

The results have been cut down from 4,515 to 2,843 words to accommodate the reviewer’s comment. Therefore, more emphasis has been put on the new knowledge as suggested by reviewer 1. Spelling errors have been corrected throughout the document. The number ‘85%’ was the assumption from the participant’s expression; the authors do
not have scientific explanation on this number. Therefore, this number has been deleted from the text to avoid confusion.

Some of the issues on wearing gloves have been deleted from the last category to minimize repetition. See pages 19-21 under the Category: Compromising risk taking practice to saving life.

**Discussion**

The discussion has been amended according to the reviewer’s comments. For example, the repetition of all results in the first paragraph has been deleted and all other parts of the discussion were revised accordingly. See pages 22-26.