Author's response to reviews

Title: Excessive fluoride in portable water sources in Bondo-Rarieda area of Siaya county, Kenya

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Version: 2

Date: 5 November 2013

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To

The Editor of the BMC Public Health

The problem of excessive fluoride in potable water sources is a major challenge facing eastern Africa states that lie along the Great East African Rift Valley (GEARV) including the Sudan, Southern Sudan, Ethiopia [1], Kenya [2], Uganda, and Tanzania [3] all the way to Malawi [4] and South Africa [5] in the south. However, except for very few general surveys, few studies have been conducted to assess groundwater fluoride in Eastern Africa away from mainstream volcanic belt of the GEARV. The extent of the adverse effects of high fluoride water in communities away from these volcanic rock regions, therefore, remains unclear.

The current paper, which is entitled "Excessive Fluoride in Portable Water Sources in Bondo-Rarieda Area of Siaya County, Kenya" presents the results of a study that evaluated the fluoride levels of potable water sources in Bondo-Rarieda Area, Siaya County, at the northern shores of Lake Victoria in Kenya. It highlights the risks posed to residents who depend on this water for their daily cooking and drinking. Fluoride levels above the recommended values were recorded in majority of the water sources and it has been estimated that about 40% of children in the area could be at the risky of dental fluorosis.

Publication of this article in any form deemed fit by the editors is very important to the eastern Africa region because it dispels an erroneous and widely held notion that high fluoride water in this region is a less significant concern in areas that are away from volcanic highlands associated with the GEARV. The results of this survey will not only inform local water policy but also spur similar surveys in the entire Great lakes Region around the Lake Victoria that will churn out requisite data for deeper understanding of the fluoride problem, which will inform future interventions in tackling the fluoride problem in this region.

This article is my own original unpublished work and it has not been submitted to any other journal for publication. It is now my sincere pleasure to turn it in for your consideration for publication in your esteemed journal.
Sincerely,

Enos Wamalwa Wambu
Author