Author's response to reviews

Title: The benefits of participatory methodologies to develop effective community dialogue in the context of a microbicide trial feasibility study in Mwanza, Tanzania.

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Version: 2 Date: 31 May 2007

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RESPONSE TO REVIEWER / EDITORIAL TEAM COMMENTS

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Reference: MS 8510730671211629

1. Manuscript Format
The following changes have been made to the original manuscript following comments received by e-mail on 24th May 2007:

a) Competing interests: a section has now been added between the Conclusions and Authors Contributions sections as requested
b) Authors Contributions: these have now been detailed as requested
c) Acknowledgements: have been added as requested
d) Funding / role of sponsor: have also been added as requested

The revised manuscript has also been checked against the Authors checklist for manuscript formatting available at: http://www.biomedcentral.com/info/ifora/medicine_journals

2. Reviewers comments
a) Minor Essential Revisions: the sentence in question reads: ‘Laboratory-based HIV ELISA assays were used in feasibility because of extensive experience with these tests in previous research conducted in Mwanza and the absence of national guidelines on the use of HIV rapid tests at that time (May 2002)’. The authors feel that this sentence does not require revision as there is no missing word.

b) Discretionary Revisions: the following paragraph has been added towards the end of the Background section: ‘The [feasibility] study was implemented through an established collaborative research partnership between the African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF), the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) in Mwanza. These institutions have jointly implemented a variety of highly successful research and health development projects in the Lake Zone region over the last 15 years including a large community-based STI intervention trial, an antenatal syphilis screening and treatment project, the Mine Health Project and other initiatives. The collaboration is widely recognized for providing high quality clinical care in Tanzania’.