Author's response to reviews

Title: Sexual Practices among Adolescents in Tanzania

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Author's response to reviews: see over
RESPONSES TO REVIEWER’S COMMENTS

Dear Kåre,

Thank you very much for taking your time to review our manuscript. We have addressed your comments as follows:

COMMENT 1

The statement that caused misunderstanding has been re-written. It can be seen in the second paragraph.

COMMENT 2

The sentence that was not clear leading to wrong interpretation has been fixed. The better sentence appears in the second paragraph (4th sentence) of the Background section.

COMMENT 3

It is true that our original thinking in designing the study, we thought that it was a good idea to study students in Forms 3 and 4 in order to gain older students for the targeted age group. Your advice that this is a weakness of the study has been included in the discussion section (paragraph discussing limitations).

COMMENT 4

In Table 2, we have revised and removed ‘any type of sexual practices’. Since the table is referring to ONLY sexually active adolescents, we have constantly used the denominator of 885 in the ‘Total’ column.

COMMENT 5

As explained in comment 4, the denominator referring to adolescents experiencing a particular sexual practice has been set to 885.

COMMENT 6

The statement that was shedding a wrong impression has been revised. We agree that there are no dangers of protected anal sex. It was not our intention to give that impression.

COMMENT 7

As we mentioned to you earlier, the error was on considering a ‘9’ as a valid number of sexual partners instead of ‘missing’ number of sexual partners. We have accepted to add a footnote in which about 60% of the decline in the proportion of adolescents reporting number of sexual partners is due to excluding married out-of-school adolescents and the remaining 40% due to this correction of valid number of sexual partners.
COMMENT 8

Using this section of data set (that excludes married out-of-school adolescents), the proportion of sexually active adolescents is 32.2% (885/2749).

Thank you for the review