Author's response to reviews

Title: Performance and Determinants of Routine Immunization Coverage within a Polio Eradication Program in Uttar Pradesh, India: Social Mobilization Network (SM Net) and CORE Group Polio Project (CGPP)

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Version: 2 Date: 2 October 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
MS: 1903199674815423 RESPONSE TO EDITOR’S QUESTIONS

Thank you for your recent submission (above) to BMC International Health and Human Rights. We noticed that you recently published a related paper in BMC Infectious Disease, and currently have a second manuscript (MS: 1970656130643510) under consideration at BMC Infectious Disease. Could you please clarify:

1. The different research questions addressed in these three manuscripts;

The first paper (published) asked whether or not there was value added by the reference project as measured by performance indicators of supplemental immunization activities (i.e., mass immunization campaigns for polio). We compared longitudinal data from project areas with non-project areas to assess value added of the project.

The second paper (manuscript under consideration) sought to identify the determinants (among program activities) of performance----of supplemental immunization activities (i.e., mass immunization campaigns for polio). We analysed which social mobilization activities of the project were associated with better or worse performance.

The third paper asks two separate questions: (1) is there any evidence that intensive polio eradication activities (supplemental immunization activities and social mobilization activities in support) have disrupted the routine immunization services; and, (2) what are the determinants of routine immunization performance. The focus is on the performance of routine immunization systems whereas the first two papers focused on performance of supplemental immunization systems.

2. How the submission to BMC International Health and Human Rights represents and advance over your published paper and the manuscript under consideration at BMC Infectious Disease; and

The third paper asks different questions and represents an advance by filling in different gaps in the literature.

3. Why you chose not to cite these two papers in your current submission?

The third paper is about routine immunization services, whereas the first two papers focus on supplemental immunization activities. In addition, I am not clear on how to cite a manuscript that has not been published or accepted for publication. If this is important to the editor, please let us know and we can add one or two of these references.