Author's response to reviews

Title: Effectiveness of the government cash transfer program in supporting households caring for orphaned children in Kenya: cross-sectional evidence from western Kenya

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BMC International Health and Human Rights

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed our manuscript titled ‘Effectiveness of the government cash transfer program in supporting households caring for orphaned children in Kenya: cross-sectional evidence from western Kenya’.

We have now revised our introduction and discussion to emphasize human rights in relation to the cash transfer to orphans and vulnerable children program in Kenya.

We have included the following information in our revised introduction to address this concern:

Kenya’s most vulnerable families caring for orphaned and separated children are unable to uphold many of their basic human rights [1]. These families lack social security and a standard of living adequate for their health and well-being, including food, clothing, housing, medical care, and necessary social services [1] that are basic human rights as outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights [2] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child [3]. Cash transfer programs can be an effective means of alleviating poverty and facilitating the attainment of an adequate standard of living for people’s health and well-being and other international human rights [12, 13]. An independent report for the UNOHR found that cash transfer programs can assist governments in complying with children’s human rights outlined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and that these programs can be an effective tool in reducing child poverty. However, the report notes that the evaluation of cash-transfer programs often lack a child-focus [12]. This study addresses this gap by evaluating the effectiveness of the CT-OVC program and its direct impact on the health and well-being of orphaned children.

We hope we have adequately addressed all comments regarding this manuscript. We welcome additional comments and criticism that will assist us in disseminating this important information.

Yours sincerely,

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