Author's response to reviews

Title: Economic burden of cholera in the WHO African region

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Responses to suggestions of reviewer 2: Professor James R Butler

**Reviewer**: (1) In Tables 2a, 2b and 2c, add two extra lines of results as follows:
- one, to be inserted after line (6), labelled 'Total direct costs'. The cells under the 'US$' columns will then show the summation of the direct costs in lines (1)-(6), and the '%' columns will show the percentage of Grand Total Cost accounted for by direct costs.
- the second, to be inserted after line (10), labelled 'Total indirect costs'. The cells under the 'US$' columns will then show the summation of the indirect costs in lines (7)-(10), and the '%' columns will show the percentage of Grand Total Cost accounted for by indirect costs.

As these tables stand, if as a reader I ask the question, 'How important are the direct costs of cholera relative to the indirect costs in contributing to the overall cost of cholera?', I cannot see the answer and would have to calculate it myself.

**Response by authors**: As suggested by Reviewer 2, we have inserted a row after line (6) in Tables 2a, 2b and 2c, labelled ‘Total direct costs’. In addition, we have inserted a row after row (10) in Tables 2a, 2b and 2c, labelled ‘Total indirect costs’.

**Reviewer**: (2) In the Appendix, in reporting the 'Unit price of medicine for a child and adult at a health centre', and 'Cost of medicines at hospital for children & adults', report the dollar figures to 2 decimal places only instead of 9+ places.

**Response by authors**: In the Appendix, we have rounded the 'Unit price of medicine for a child and adult at a health centre', and 'Cost of medicines at hospital for children & adults' to 2 decimal places as suggested.