Author's response to reviews

Title: Improving educational achievement and anaemia of school children: design of a cluster randomised trial of school-based malaria prevention and enhanced literacy instructions in Kenya

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Dear editors,

We thank the reviewer for his thorough and very helpful review. In response to his review, we have made the following changes:

a) In order to ensure consistency between the clinical trials registration and this protocol, we have made the following amendments to our registration:

- Both education achievement and anaemia are now primary outcomes;
- Recruited children are from classes 1 and 5;
- The sample list is given as 6000;
- We have included the number of children randomised in each arm in the flow diagram and revised the figure legend accordingly. We have also included the percentage of eligible children who were recruited.
- Cost-effectiveness and community acceptability are now added as secondary outcomes.
- The unit of analysis is specified as both cluster and individual level

b) We now indicate that control schools will receive the interventions at the end of the study (p.5).

c) We undertake regular community meetings, especially in control schools, to prevent attrition and non-cooperation. This is now indicated on p. 21.

d) We now indicate that we will interview key people from both intervention and control schools in order to explore the acceptability of not immediately receiving the interventions (p.16)

e) We now mention that school-level, as well as household-level, information will be used in the analysis to account for potential confounding, but also to explore the differential impact of the interventions (p.15).

We hope our manuscript is now acceptable for publication in Trials. Please let us know whether we can clarify anything further.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Simon Brooker, KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Fellow