Author's response to reviews

Title: Diarrhea and dengue control in rural primary schools in Colombia: Study protocol for a randomized controlled trial

Authors:

Hans J Overgaard (hans.overgaard@umb.no)
Neal Alexander (neal.alexander@lshtm.ac.uk)
Maria Ines Matis (matizmaria@unbosque.edu.co)
Juan Felipe Jaramillo (jjaramillo@unbosque.edu.co)
Victor Alberto Olano (olanovictor@unbosque.edu.co)
Sandra Lucia Vargas (vargassandra@unbosque.edu.co)
Diana Marcela Sarmiento (disars@yahoo.com)
Audrey Lenhart (alenhart@liverpool.ac.uk)
Razak Seidu (razak.seidu@umb.no)
Thor Axel Stenström (thor-axel.stenstrom@smi.se)

Version: 2 Date: 24 August 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
To the Editor of Trials

MS: 1514278952749028
Diarrhea and dengue control in rural primary schools in Colombia: Study protocol for a factorial cluster randomized controlled trial Hans J Overgaard, Neal Alexander, Maria Ines Matis, Juan Felipe Jaramillo, Victor Alberto Olano, Sandra Lucia Vargas, Diana Marcela Sarmiento, Audrey Lenhart, Razak Seidu and Thor Axel Stenstrøm

The following changes have been made in response to the referee comment:

1) In your Statistical methods section, please provide references to the primary literature such that the reader can be certain that all tests used will be appropriately adjusted for clustering. Please also explain how the possible treatment interaction between the two interventions will be resolved such that the factorial nature of the trial can be resolved.

We have clarified these issues in the Statistical methods section (in track changes). In particular, we point out that the proposed analysis is consistent with the sample size method. This method is explained in Hayes and Bennet 1999 [43]. A secondary analysis will include a binary explanatory variable representing the interaction term between the two interventions.

The editorial requests are commented below:

1) The title has been changed to Diarrhea and dengue control in rural primary schools in Colombia: study protocol for a randomized controlled trial

2) a) We have reviewed the instructions for authors and have not made any changes as the manuscript seems to be formatted according to the guidelines.

b) All manuscript sections listed are included and ordered correctly.

c) The two figures are submitted as separate pdf-files and only the figure captions appear in the main body of the manuscript.

d) The two tables are pasted into the end of the document text file since they are considered to be integral to the manuscript. These tables are not too large and do not need to be uploaded separately as additional files.

Sincerely,

Hans Overgaard
Project coordinator /Research scientist