Author’s response to reviews

Title: Epidemiology of influenza in West Africa after the 2009 influenza A(H1N1) pandemic, 2010-2012.

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**Author’s response to reviews:**

Dear Editorial Team,

Thanks so much for your feedback and comments, which will definitely help improve the quality of this manuscript.

The necessary corrections have been made at the indicated section (Declarations) based on your comments and we hope that this will suit your expectations.

Kindly please find below the updated Declarations' section.

**Declarations**

**Ethics approval and consent to participate:**

- Consent to participate: The manuscript contains in its methodology section details about the procedure for enrollment, which includes obtaining verbal consent from patients/participants (or parent/guardian consent for children). Only after verbal consent was obtained, that nasopharyngeal and/or oropharyngeal specimens collected along clinical and epidemiological data using a case report form. Any patient who refused to provide verbal consent to participate in the surveillance was not enrolled (No specimen and no epidemiological data collected) but however, the person was attended to as any other regular patient.

- Ethics approval: “Not Applicable”. Indeed, this study was part of the national influenza surveillance system (not research specific) in all participating countries; using their respective national surveillance guidelines developed based on the WHO AFRO region guidelines. Therefore, as part of a national surveillance activity (and not a research activity), these guidelines and corresponding case report forms did not require going through the respective national ethics committee as it was part of the package of surveillance activities of the different Ministries of Health.

Consent for publication: I, Talla Nzussouo Ndahwouh, have read the Editorial policy and confirm that all authors have provided their consent for publication.
Availability of data and material: The data sets generated and/or analyzed during the write up of this manuscript are not presently publicly available due to the fact that these are data owned by individual and respective participating countries; however, they will be freely made available to any person/scientist wishing to use them for non-commercial purposes, without breaching participant confidentiality, upon request to the corresponding author and pending approval from the respective countries.

Competing interests: All authors are unanimous in declaring that there are no competing interests.

Funding: Two countries were beneficiary of a capacity building (not research) Cooperative Agreement with the United States Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention during the period of study;
- The Cote d’Ivoire Ministry of Health (Award Number: 5U51IP000530)
- The Federal Ministry of Health Nigeria (Award Number: 5U51IP000524)

All remaining six countries received continuous technical support mainly from the CDC Influenza Division as well as other partners (e.g. the WHO AFRO regional office, the US Naval Medical Research Unit No. 3 (NAMRU-3), Cairo) in terms of reagents, trainings, assessments, monitoring & evaluation.

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the view of the CDC.

Authors' contributions: Conceived and designed the study: MAW, TNN, MM, JD-. Conducted the study: TNN, MM, JD, MAW-. Analyzed the data: TNN, MM, JD, MAW-. Wrote the manuscript: TNN, MM, JD, MAW. All co-authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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Many thanks and kind regards,

Talla Nzussouo