Author’s response to reviews

Title: Evidence for heterogeneity in China’s progress against pulmonary tuberculosis: uneven reductions in a major center of ongoing transmission, 2005-2017

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Editor's comments:

1. In the section 'Funding', please also describe the role of the funding body/bodies in the design of the study and collection, analysis, and interpretation of data and in writing the manuscript.

Done. We added "The funding agencies were not involved in the study design, data collection, data analysis, data interpretation, and preparation of the manuscript." in the Funding section.
2. Please provide a list of all the abbreviations used in the manuscript. This list should be placed just before the Declarations section. All abbreviations should still be defined in the text at first use.

Done. The following content was added in a section called Abbreviations before Declarations:

API: Application programming interface
BCG: Bacillus Calmette–Guérin
CI: Confidence interval
GDP: Gross domestic product
IQR: Interquartile range
LOESS: Locally Weighted Regression
NIDRS: National Infectious Disease Reporting System
PTB: Pulmonary tuberculosis
STL: seasonal-trend decomposition procedure based on LOESS
TB: Tuberculosis

3. We note that you have not included an acknowledgements section in the declarations. If you have no acknowledgements please put ‘Not Applicable’ in this section.

Done. "Not applicable" was added to the Acknowledgement section.

4. Please rename “Additional material” to “Additional Files” and move this section to come after the references. Please copy and paste the information from the “consents” of this supplementary file into the additional files section, and remove the contents page from the file.

Done.

5. Please rename “Introduction” to “Background”.

Done.

6. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions.
Done.

Reviewer's comments:

Deepak Aggarwal (Reviewer 1):

1. A very well written manuscript

We thank the reviewer for their positive assessment of the research.

2. Authors should mention few important statistical findings (in figures) in the results section of the abstract.

We thank for the reviewer's comment. The following sentences was added to the results section of the abstract:

From 2005 to 2017, 976,873 cases of active PTB and 388,739 cases of smear-positive PTB were reported in Sichuan Province, China. During this period, the overall reported incidence rate of active PTB decreased steadily at a rate of decrease (3.77 cases per 100,000 per year, 95% confidence interval (CI): 3.28 – 4.31) that was slightly faster than the national average rate of decrease (3.14 cases per 100,000 per year, 95% CI: 2.61 – 3.67).