Author’s response to reviews

Title: Prevalence of behavioral disorders and Attention deficit Hyperactive disorder among school going children in Southwestern Uganda

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Author’s response to reviews:

Comment: These are very helpful in allowing readers to get a broader overview of the content of the research. For this reason, I think it would be helpful for readers if you could briefly detail this information in the main text.

Response: Thank you for this comment. The following text has been added.

While this paper reports on screening data collected from caregivers, subsequent study assessments will include children. . (methods section, line 23, page 4)

Comment: You note in the text that Table 1 reports the median age of the participants. However, the table notes that the figures in parentheses relate to standard deviation and that t-tests were used to examine differences between the ages of the male and female participants. Both of these can only be combined with mean scores. Have you reported the average age rather than median age?

Response: Thank you for noticing this. Median was a typing error. We used the mean age not the median. (Results section, Line 38 , page 5)
Comment: I note you have included the degrees of freedom for the chi-square statistic. I also think it would be helpful to state the exact p values calculated from the statistical tests conducted or give the reasons for why these are not able to be reported.

Response: Thanks so much for your comment. We have added a column in tables 1, 2 and 3 to indicate the exact p-values.

Comment: Tables 2, 3, and 4 report the number of participants and percentages of those who scored positively (and negatively) on the following: from the Disruptive Behavior Rating scale (total score, ODD and CD sub-scales), Iowa Connors Scale (total score, ADHD and ODD sub-scales), and Impairment Rating scale (4 items or more concerns expressed). You have noted the composition of the scales but there is no information for readers to identify the criteria for a participant being categorized as scoring positively on these scales (and also sub-scales). It would be helpful to address this.

Response: Thanks for this comment. The following revisions have been made.

Respondents were considered positive for ODD if they endorsed a total of 4 or more items as "pretty much" or "very much". Similarly, respondents were considered positive for CD if they endorsed a total of 3 or more items in any category or any combination of categories as "pretty much" or "very much" on items 9 through 23. (methods section, line 36, page 4)

Respondents were considered positive for ADHD if they scored 9 or higher for questions 1 through 5. In the same way, respondents were considered positive for ODD if they scored 9 or higher for questions 6 through 10. (methods section, line 4, page 5)

A score of 3 or higher in four or more domains was considered a significant impairment. (methods section, line 14, page 5)

Comment: If improvements to the English language within your manuscript have been requested, you should have your manuscript reviewed by someone who is fluent in English.

Response: We have had 2 independent reviewers to address the fluency of the manuscript.