Author’s response to reviews

Title: Perceptions of Sudanese women of reproductive age toward HIV/AIDS and services for Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV

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Dear Dr. Kathleen Deering,

We are very thankful for giving us a second opportunity to revise our manuscript (MS: 1026508913162086) and we are delighted to see that you are interested in our topic. Herewith we submit the revised version of our manuscript entitled “Perceptions of Sudanese women of reproductive age toward HIV/AIDS and services for Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV.”

We believe that we further improved the contribution of this manuscript to the literature by following to the reviewers’ comments. Detailed responses to the reviewers’ comments pint by point are described below.

We have also shared the manuscript with a professional language editing service for an English Proofreading.

We remain committed should you have any further suggestions for improvements of our manuscript.

On behalf of authors,

Sincerely,

Ibrahim E Elsheikh

Sudanese Public Health Association (SPHA)
Maastricht University/CAPHRI

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for responding to the last round of comments. The authors have addressed most of the comments, although I found one point that requires correction:

Many thanks for your constructive comments and feedback during this last round.
of review. We are delighted to provide responses to the comments as shown below:

Essential

Line 88-89 Option B+ is triple ARVs from as soon as diagnosed, regardless of CD4 cell count, so the phrase 'Depending on cluster of differentiation count' should be removed.

Thank you we have removed the extra phrase. Now the revised sentence reads as follows:

Sudan has adopted option B+ for the PMTCT treatment protocol since 2012 (10). In option B+, women receive triple Antiretroviral (ARVs) starting as soon as they are diagnosed and continuing for life (11).

Discretionary

I would also suggest the following change:

Based on the author's response letter, in line 97-99 of the manuscript I would suggest instead something like 'Very limited research about PMTCT has been done in Sudan, and has focused on knowledge and attitudes towards HIV voluntary and counseling testing services among pregnant women (ref), and descriptive research about maternal HIV infection (ref).'. This would make the new sentences added by the authors a bit more informative. I don't think it is necessary to mention unpublished research.

Well noted, the paragraph was revised to read as follows:

Very limited research about PMTCT has been done in Sudan, and has focused on knowledge and attitudes towards HIV voluntary and counseling testing services among pregnant women (12) and descriptive research about maternal HIV infection (7).