Author’s response to reviews

Title: Gridlock from Diagnosis to Treatment of Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis in Tanzania: Low Accessibility of Molecular Diagnostic Services and Lack of Healthcare Worker Empowerment in 28 Districts of 5 high burden TB Regions with Mixed Methods Evaluation

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Author’s response to reviews:

Response

We thank the editor and reviewers for the second review and comments and suggestions for improving this report. Below, you will find a point-by-point description of how the editor comment and reviewer no. 1 and 2 comments have been attended in the manuscript. Original reviewer’s comments are in regular face, responses in bold typeface.

Editor Comments:

In addition to the referee comments, please address the following editorial points:

1. Please copy edit your manuscript. See below for more information.
2. Please ensure your manuscript is formatted in line with our submission guidelines: https://bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/submission-guidelines/preparing-your-manuscript/research-article

-Please add your abstract to the main manuscript PDF

Response

• The abstract has been added in the main manuscript

-Ensure all section headings are as outlined in the submission guidelines, including the Declarations

-Author Contributions section: please indicate the role of all seven authors

-Ethics approval and consent to participate: please add detail on consent to participate, including if this was written or verbal. If this was not required, please add relevant detail about this (e.g relating to the ethics committee or any relevant local legislation).

Responses

• The manuscript has been outlined according to the submission guideline. The following has been changed;

- Line 93 Background instead of Introduction

- Line 352 Added a list of Abbreviations

- Line 363 and 366 Consent to participate details has been added

-Please provide figure titles/legends under a separate heading of 'Figure Legends' after the References. Figure files should contain only the image/graphic, as well as any associated keys/annotations. Where titles/legends are present within the figure files, please remove them.

Response

- The legends in the figures are now removed and now listed after the references
Reviewer reports:

Carl Abelardo Antonio (Reviewer 1): Thank you for addressing all concerns that I raised during the initial review.

Response
- We highly appreciate for the reviewing again the responses.

Halima Dawood, MBBCh, MSc (Reviewer 2): The manuscript has been revised as per the recommendations of both reviewers and now is more understandable.

Minor correction: Abstract: The sentence :" The median number .... was 2 months...." needs correction.

Responses
We highly appreciate for reviewing again the manuscript and highlight point for correction. Now we have changed line 69. Initially the statement read ‘The median number of XpertMTB/RIF were not functioning was 2 months (IQR 1 – 4)’. Now after corrections the reads is ‘The median time of XpertMTB/RIF equipment not functioning was 2 months (IQR 1 – 4).’

The manuscript will benefit from professional editing.

Response
The manuscript has been professionally edited by SKH.