Author’s response to reviews

Title: Study of laboratory staff’s knowledge of biobanking in Côte d'Ivoire

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Version: 1 Date: 15 Jul 2020

Author’s response to reviews:

Respond to specific reviewer and editor comments
Thank you for your contributions.
Reviewer 1:
Question 1: The country in the title should start in capital as is the case in the rest of the paper.
Response: The name of the country in the title began with an uppercase letter.
Question 2: The term biocollection is mentioned further in the paper. What is the distinction between biobank and biocollection?
Response: A biobank is a institution whose function is to collect, store and make available biological samples and their associated data. Biocollection is the act of collecting and storing biological samples and their associated data. The difference is that the biobank is a structure and biocollection is not an institution.
Question 3: This statement is repeated in background and in methods. "A biobank is defined as a structure that receives, processes, stores and makes available biological samples and associated data for research". In fact when repeated in the methods, it is not clear what the authors intend to convey. Perhaps a description/summary of the questionnaire questions (or a copy) could be useful to the reader.
Response: Your point has been taken into account. The summary of the questions in the questionnaire is added to the document (page 4; line 102-104).
Question 4: This statement "Côte d'Ivoire, a limited-income country, is not to be outdone" - needs rephrasing.
Response: This sentence has been reworded (page 2; line 54-56).

Question 5: More elaboration on what ECOWAS is and more information about the ECOWAS biobank could help improve the context and background. What is stored in those biobanks, what do they do, how do they operate, any information on how they have contributed to e.g. public health or relevant national, regional programmes? This could strengthen the discussion on importance of improving knowledge about biobanks etc...
Response: Your comment has been taken into account (page 2 and 3; line 56-65).

Question 6: The statement - "Then the laboratories of each class constituted were chosen taking into account the level of the technical platforms and the private or public nature of the laboratories" - what are the specifics of these technical platforms
Response: These technical platforms have new-generation equipment used for diagnosis and scientific research (page 4; line 93-95).

Question 7: PICI is mentioned firstly in results. Some background on this earlier in the manuscript is important, also since this is the most advanced organisation regarding biobanks, adding this to the background will further add context.
Response: Your comment has been taken into account (page 2 and 3; line 56-59).

Question 8: These results should be added to Table 2. - "In this study, 52.68% and 56.59% of participants respectively reported that they had already heard 118 of biocollection and biobank. Among these, the staff from the PICI had all heard of biobank, while 119 62.23% of the staff from the other laboratories surveyed had never heard of biobank."
Response: These results have been added to Table 2 (pages 8 and 9).

Question 9: The statement - Regarding the knowledge of the role and activities of a biobank, 48.78% gave an accurate answer." - What is referred to as the correct answer? How was this question asked exactly and what constituted correct answer?
Response: The question asked is: What are the role and activities of a biobank? The correct answer is: collection, conservation and provision of samples with their associated data (page 7; line 138-140).

Question 10: A summary description of the types of questions asked should be included in the Methods section.
Response: Your comment has been taken into account (page 4; line 102-104).

Question 11: This statement - "Of these, 2% were unaware of the importance of traceability of biological samples" - was this question asked - please include results in Table 2.
Response: These results have been added to Table 2 (pages 8 and 9).

Question 12: Same applies to the following parts - "As for the biobank of Côte d'Ivoire, 44.88% said they knew about its existence and location. As for the regional biobank of ECOWAS countries, 63.41% were unaware of its existence. Six of the respondents stated that they use biobanks other than the one in Côte d'Ivoire for the conservation of their biological samples. These were the biobanks of Europe and North Africa"
Response: These results have been added to Table 2 (pages 8 and 9).

Question 13: pHd should be PhD or perhaps postgraduate students?
Response: Exactly!!! The phd is PhD or postgraduate students.

Question 14: Discussion is brief, lacks depth ends abruptly and lacks connecting to the background and context. More elaboration on why these results are important in context of Cote
d'Ivoire or of other countries in the region would be useful. How can these results be used and what strategies could be developed to address the situation based on these findings?
Response: Your comment was taken into account in the discussion (pages 11, 12 and 13).

Question 15: Recommend that sentences should not start with a number- instead should be spelt out in full.
Response: Your comment has been taken into account (page 12, line 189).

Question 16: Second paragraph on page 10 could be elaborated and discuss relevance of these results in relation to West Africa/Africa. Further discussion on ongoing similar research or biobank establishment and use in Africa will enrich the discussion. IN fact should be introduced in the background as well.
Response: Your comment was taken into account in the discussion (pages 11, 12 and 13).

Question 17: What is meant by this statement? "Indeed, the code "Bio" in the term "Biobank" does not refer to the role of a biobank" - Add more information to discuss the point.
Response: Your comment has been taken into account (page 13; line 201-205).

Question 18: Likewise as in discussion -the Conclusion is light touch and could benefit from additional information on proposed strategies to address the need highlighted in the paper.
Response: Your comment has been taken into account in the conclusion (page 13).

Reviewer 2:

Question 1: Check the correctness of the reported name of the Country in the title.
Response: The name of the country has been corrected in the title.

Question 2: In general, the paper need an implementation of the references due to the huge amount of literature that has been published on the topic.
For example, I suggest to implement with more recent references, as follows, considering to add other that you will find in the flourishing literature on biobanks:
* pag.1 line 40 description of a biobank:

* Pag.1 Line 49 three interests of biobank:
Add references at each of the three purposes, for example:
Some other references have to be added to references 7 regarding low income countries and biobanks, for example references from South Africa

Response: These references have been added in context (page 2 and 3). Thank you very much for your help.

Question 3: The discussion paragraph need to be implemented in the central part where the comparison with other published studies is described (line155 and 161), discussing with more details the differences and similarities with other published studies.
I suggest some reference as starting point, to be compared with as well:

Response: These references were added in the discussion (pages 11, 12 and 13). Thank you very much for your help.

Question 4: Finally in the last two sentences there are some affirmation that are quite old, today it is well established and accepted to what biobank refers, please clarify.
Response: Clarification was made in context (pages 2 and 3), discussion (pages 11, 12 and 13).

Question 5: References n.5 and 6 are not complete, please specify.
Response: These references have been removed because they are incomplete.