Author's response to reviews

Title: Challenges in tackling tuberculosis on the Thai-Myanmar border: findings from a qualitative study with health professionals

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To Whom It May Concern

Dear Editor in Chief

We wish to submit our revised manuscript entitled “Challenges in tackling tuberculosis on the Thai-Myanmar border: findings from a qualitative study with health professionals.” We confirm that this work is original and has not been published elsewhere. We would like to state a point-by-point description of the changes we made as follows.

Editorial comment:
1. Was specific ethical approval sought or obtained from an appropriate body in Myanmar?
   Yes. The study team sought advice from the Tak Province Border Community Ethics Advisory Board (T-CAB) regarding ethical approval in Thailand as well as Myanmar. The T-CAB board members consisted of NGO workers, teachers and villagers who live in either Thailand or Myanmar. The study team was informed that official approval was not needed since the primary aim of the study was to explore perspectives of stakeholders in TB control and the study subjects did not include vulnerable populations such as patients with TB, refugees and undocumented migrants.

2. If no to the above, please explain why this was not possible.
   N/A

3. Please clarify whether the ethics committee in Thailand approved the whole study, or just the component relating to participants in Thailand
   The ethics committee at the University of Oxford in the UK approved the whole study (i.e regarding participants in both Thailand and Myanmar).

We look forward to your favorable response to the revised manuscript.

Sincerely,

Aiko Kaji

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