Author's response to reviews

Title: Transmission dynamics and control of Ebola virus disease (EVD): A Review

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Author's response to reviews:

Comments on the revised manuscript "Transmission dynamics and control of Ebola virus disease (EVD): A Review" by Gerardo Chowell and Hiroshi Nishiura

In the revised manuscript, the authors replied most comments, reorganized the paper structure and added some important new details. I have a few minor comments as follows.

1. It is hard to distinguish dark blue and dark red when Figure 8 is printed in white and black. Please use empty box for non-HCW like Figure 2 in the original paper (Ali S. Khan and others, The reemergence of Ebola hemorrhagic fever, Democratic Republic of the Congo, 1995. J Infect Dis. 1999 Feb;179 Suppl 1:S76-86.)

Response:
Thanks. We have modified the figure to achieve this purpose.

2. Page 8, line 3, "Central African" to "Central Africa"; lines 7-8, "has facilitated" to "have facilitated".

Response:
Addressed as indicated.

3. Page 14, lines 2-3, "the CFR of the ongoing epidemic, estimated at 53% in real-time (as of 31 August 2014) may be deemed to be relatively low". Note that case fatalities using
the cases with definite recorded clinical outcomes are consistent (overall 70.8%, Guinea 70.7%, Liberia 72.3%, and Sierra Leone 69.0%) with previous results. Please refer to a recent paper "Ebola Virus Disease in West Africa The First 9 Months of the Epidemic and Forward Projections" (http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa1411100) for detail.

Response: Addressed as indicated. We have also incorporated other results from this report in our paper.

4. Page 15, line 2, interventions strategies" to "intervention strategies".

Response: Addressed as indicated.

5. Page 16, lines 4-5, values of this parameter", which parameter, l(t)?; line -1, delete "," in ".

Response: Actually, this should be R0 because this is in the context of absence of interventions. We have adjusted the notation.

6. Page 17, line 8, as result of" to "as a result of"; Figures 4 and 5 should be the plots of R (de_ned in the middle of page 16), not R0 (de_ned at the bottom of page 14).

Response: Actually, this should be R0 because this is in the context of absence of interventions. We have adjusted the notation.

7. Page 21, lines 7-8, please make sure there is no grammatical or syntactical error in the sentence "a group of individuals looted of equipment and potentially contaminated materials an isolation facility in a quarantined neighborhood".

Response:
Addressed as indicated.

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