Author's response to reviews

Title: The risk of Type 2 oral polio vaccine use in post-cessation outbreak response

Authors:

Kevin McCarthy  
(kmccarthy@idmod.org; kmccarthy@intven.com; kevin.ahmad.mccarthy@gmail.com; kevmc@alum.mit.edu)

Guillaume Chabot-Couture (gcouture@intven.com)

Michael Famulare (mfamulare@intven.com)

Hilary Lyons (hlyons@intven.com)

Laina Mercer (lmercer@intven.com)

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To Dr. Martinelli, Editor:

We are pleased to resubmit the revised version of “The risk of Type 2 oral polio vaccine use in post-cessation outbreak response” (BMED-D-17-00182) for consideration for publication in BMC Medicine. We have incorporated your requests to add credit to WHO for the data collection, curation, and for granting access to the IDM researchers for this study, and your request regarding the placement of WHO disclaimers regarding the depiction of administrative boundaries. We thank you for considering this revised manuscript, and look forward to your decision.

Sincerely,

Kevin McCarthy

1- Please add credits to the figure legends to supplementary figs 1 and supplementary fig 3 – explaining where the data are from and that you had permission to access/use it

Thank you for this suggestion, the credit for the data collection and access is much clearer when placed immediately where the data is used. We have added this information to the appropriate figure legends. The legend for Supplementary figure 1 now reads:
“Wild Poliovirus Type 1 outbreak in West Africa, 2008-2010. Countries are roughly ordered northwest to southeast from top to bottom. This data was obtained from WHO’s Polio Information System (POLIS) AFP case reporting database. Permission for access to the POLIS AFP case database was granted to the Institute for Disease Modeling researchers through the World Health Organization.”

And the legend for Supplementary Figure 3 reads:

“Top: WPV1 outbreak in West Africa, 2008-2010, representing the calibration target for this exercise. Middle and bottom: Two example simulation outputs from the preferred region of parameter space. The case data presented in the top panel was obtained from the POLIS AFP case reporting database. Permission for access to the POLIS AFP case database was granted to the Institute for Disease Modeling researchers through the World Health Organization.”

2- As there is only one map in supplementary figure 6, the legend should be revised to read: “The boundaries and names shown and the designations used in this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city, or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. “

The legend of Figure 6 has been updated to incorporate the requested changes to the disclaimer. We have also clarified that IDM was granted permission by WHO to use these administrative boundary shapefiles in this manuscript. The legend now reads:

“Population map (from Worldpop) and country/province boundaries (thick/thin solid black lines, from POLIS) used to generate the metapopulations for the simulation [9, 17]. Permission for use of the depicted boundary shapefiles was granted to the Institute for Disease Modeling researchers through the World Health Organization. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used in this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city, or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.”

3- Please remove the WHO map disclaimer from the ethics statement declaration in the main manuscript (unless you have strong objections against doing this)

The WHO disclaimer regarding the use of these administrative borders has been removed from the ethics statement, and is now present only in the legend for Figure 6 as noted above.