



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE & Health
Manuscript Number:	2013_IJTDH_6496
Title of the Manuscript:	Insecticide Treated Bednet Possession among Pregnant Women in Gulu: a post conflict district in Northern Uganda
Type of the Article	Research Paper

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound.

To know the complete guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

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SDI Review Form 1.6

PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Compulsory REVISION comments	The study is of interest as it evaluated a government intervention in an emergency situation(ITNS in IDP camps), however i have the following concerns: Methods: Proportional to size cluster sampling is ambiguous. I assume the authors used probability proportional to size and if so it would be better to be more explicit and explain how this was done. For instance how were the 20 clusters selected and their sizes and how many individuals per cluster were sampled to get 769 women from the 20 clusters? This will give an idea to the reader on the proportionality and probability of being selected? How representative was this sample and how you controlled for selection bias need to be clarified? Results Table2: possession and use shows 42% possession and 85% use above 5times a week. It would have been better to rank use in terms of the number of times one slept under a net per week. For instance does sleeping under a net 3times a week poor usage or good usage? Since these were self-reported practices how did you validate this information? These people could have told you lies! Need to clarify this as well. If you found 42% had an ITN, it would have been of interest to establish how they got these ITNs. For instance if majority acquired these ITNs for free as a result of government intervention thru antenatal care then obviously the issue of having a business would not affect possession. What of other factors that may influenced possession like cost and availability	Correction made. The suggested change of ranking ITN use per week has been made. We asked the respondents first whether she had any ITN. Then we asked her whether she had slept under the ITN the previous night. We then asked her the numbers of times she had slept under her ITN the week before survey. The last questions asked her how often she sleeps under her ITN. In case there was mismatch in the information given, we



SDI Review Form 1.6

	of the nets? On factors influencing use, it would have been better to have assessed knowledge of malaria transmission and role of ITNs. A mother may possess an ITN but fail to use it for various reasons; did you also look at this?	repeat the previous question so that she explains her responses. We believe that through this information gathering, we were able to validate the information given. We did not ask respondents to show us ITN hanging in her house because the camp houses were grass thatch huts which were small. ITN were therefore only hanged when people were going to sleep and removed in the morning to provide space in the house. We look at socio-demographic characteristics associated with ITN possession but not use. We recommend that other study be done to take care of your concern.
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<u>Minor</u> REVISION comments	You show evidence that “having no business” influenced possession however for clarity there is need to define what you mean by having some business. Is it owning a shop, growing cabbages, selling mangoes on a roadside? It would have been better to rank socioeconomic status rather using terms like having some business. Discussion In the discussion, you need to look at Singh M et al. Malaria Journal 2013, 12:268 who assessed factors associated with ownership and use of ITNs. Plse also compare your finding with those of Ahmed SM et al. PloS One 2010, 5:e12660 (Possession and use of insecticidal bednets among the people of Uganda)	Having some business we meant that a respondents were able to sell goods daily in the markets or kiosk to make money. However, we also asked them on their mean monthly household income to gauge whether they would be in position to purchase ITN should it be brought for sale. Comments have been incorporated into the discussion.
<u>Optional/General</u> comments		