



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE & Health
Manuscript Number:	2013_IJTDH_7437
Title of the Manuscript:	The Epidemiology of Trachoma in the Lower Shire valley of Southern Malawi
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

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:

(<http://www.sciencedomain.org/page.php?id=sdi-general-editorial-policy#Peer-Review-Guideline>)



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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)
<u>Compulsory</u> REVISION comments	Abstract Line 7: Lower Shire valley – Please capitalize the ‘v’ in valley. Lines 9-10 methodology: Kindly insert the sample sizes for the children and the adults. Lines 12-14: Confidence intervals should be reported as (95% CI: 16.4-20.8) Lines 6, 18, 19: There are problems with spaces between words. Introduction - Throughout the manuscript there is incorrect spacing between words- some words are not separated from the next word. Please thoroughly check this and correct. E.g. line 25 – reportedendemic....Line 26 – scarsresulting. Line 33 – 34: <i>The presence of flies (Musca sorbens) play an important role in trachoma transmission...</i> Kindly add a statement on “How? What role do they play?” Line 34: there is an excess burden..... Please replace excess with “increased burden” Line 34: Please elaborate more on the increased burdens for trachoma on women. Give a few examples if possible. Line 37: <i>and many more millions with active disease.....</i>: Change to “and an estimated 40 million who have active disease”. (VH Hu, 2010) Line 49: District level mapping of trachoma is required... Line 57: “lower shire valley” – Please capitalize the first letter of each word. Line 53: lower shire – Please capitalise the first letter of each word. Line 56: Add a reference for the WHO recommended mapping methodology. Line 59: “lower shire valley” – Please capitalize each word. Line 59: change to “especially because none of them have been	The manuscript has been revised accordingly and proof reading has been done See revisions Revisions done See line 52-57 See line 69 All revisions done



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	surveyed before.” 12. Line 64: Sub-Saharan Africa – change to sub-Saharan Africa. 13. Line 66: Start by saying “In consideration to the issues discussed above, we sought to..... Methods 14. Line 77: Please rephrase “both these have had previous trachoma” Maybe say and both districts have previously reported trachoma. 15. Figure 1: Kindly insert a scale on the map. North/ South direction. 16. Line 80: Remove “Both” and start the sentence with “The” 17. Re-write the lines 80-82. 18. Lines 90-92: This paragraph needs to come first – before the statement on ethics. Start the methods sections with this paragraph. 19. Line 96: acceptable degree of certainty to achieve narrow confidence intervals..... If the degree of certainty is stated it would read better. 90% or 95% 20. Line 99: Expected prevalence of 20% of TF/TI..... Its best to combine if the epidemiological patterns are similar. Otherwise confounders may affect the results 21. Line 106: = 1537children aged 1-9 years – Does this value account for non-response, because I think this is the minimum sample size. 22. Line 107: 1152 adults over – ditto (see comment above) 23. Line 110: prevalence of trichiasis - is the disease not clustered, if so then the design effect should be the same as above 24. Line 116: All members of the selected households were examined _ Is it all members or only members within the age range? Sample Size 25. Line 95: The size of the sample was been chosen.... Please remove “been’. 26. Line 108 – 109: In the abstract it is reported that adults 15 years and above. In the sample sizes – it is reported adults over 14 years. Please correct this. 27. Lines 106 and 108: Insert the sample sizes in the abstract methods. 28. Line 115: Insert a reference for probability proportional to size	See line 128 See line 152 See response from manuscript
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	sampling technique. 29. Line 125: from the United Kingdom (UK) 30. Line 139: Add a 'd' to organize 31. Line 141: remove "the' from "all the 6 teams" Clinical examination 32. Line 145: Each eye of ??? participants was..... 33. Line 153: Suggest it change to " At the end of each day, a debriefing was held, where the investigators....." 34. Line 162: Malawi Liverpool welcome trust. Please capitalize the first letter of each word. Results 35. Line 169: Re-phrase this sentence. 36. Table 1: Please report the average age and the median. 37. Please check that CI has been fully spelt out the first time it was used before using the abbreviation in the results. 38. Lines 181: Please rephrase "tended to pick" in children. 39. Line 191: households in both districts was a presence of a dirty face. Discussion 40. Reference the statement made from lines 212 – 215. 41. Lines 229 – 230: This sentence is a repeat of what was said in Lines 207 and 208. 42. Lines 237: Of importance note. Please correct to Of note or Of importance. 43. Line 240: Add a reference to the "Hoeshsmann study" 44. Line 243: millennium development goals - Please capitalize the first letter of each word. 45. Lines 250-251. Rephrase the last sentence. 46. Lines 254: In summary, the Lower Shire Valley should be considered..... 47. Please check: sometimes "Trachoma" and other times "trachoma" 48. Please check: MDA is spelt out the first time before the abbreviation is used elsewhere.	Yes See line186 Revised see 158 See line 238 See line 10 Revisions done see page 11 from line 260 Sections revised thoroughly see page 14 line 315
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<u>Minor</u> REVISION comments	Introduction Line 38: Consider rephrasing the sentence “The good news is that there is now even a strong..... I would suggest you remove “the good news..... even a strong and replace with “ There is a renewed and strengthened commitment by donors and partners.....” Line 54: A study done in one of the districts.... Rephrase to “a study done in the Chikwawa district suggested.....” Line 56: Following this..... Rephrase sentence to “Following this, a recent study conducted in the same district on the prevalence of trachoma, using the WHO recommended mapping methodology, found that trachoma is still.....” - Please check “lower shire valley” has each word capitalised through the introduction and elsewhere – Presently it is capitalised in some places used and not in others.	This section has been revised and all corrections made .see line 62-72
<u>Optional/General</u> comments	In the introduction/ discussions, the authors should integrate how environmental housing conditions, access to water etc. cause individuals to contract trachoma and how this is associated with the prevalence of trachoma in the community. i.e. how does trachoma spread?	See line 43-48 and 87-106