

Dear Editors,

It is a pleasure to submit, on behalf of my co-authors, our manuscript entitled “Incentivizing safe sex: A randomized trial of conditional cash transfers for HIV and sexually transmitted infection prevention in rural Tanzania” to *BMJ Open*.

We think this is an important paper reporting the results of a novel approach for HIV and STI prevention. Given the limited repertoire of proven efficacious HIV prevention interventions, this research could have an influential role in HIV prevention programming, HIV policy, and HIV research. This study provides a new avenue for HIV prevention through conditional cash transfers that can be described as a "structural" behavioral intervention that has shown to be also effective in other domains such as nutrition and education.

This paper had been submitted to *BMJ* (manuscript BMJ/2011/883504) and went through two rounds of review. We are submitting to *BMJ Open* the last version (second revision) we submitted to *BMJ*, in exactly the same format. If needed, we would be happy to make any modification requested for the *BMJ Open* format. We are also uploading a document entitled “Review History with responses at *BMJ*”. This document includes the first and second submission decision letters and reviews received at *BMJ* together with our answers to each point. Our answers are in bold. In addition, to help identify the modifications made to the manuscript during the review process, I am attaching, for both revisions, versions of the manuscript including “track changes” from the precedent version. I am confident those “track changes” versions capture all the substantial changes we made to the manuscript, but a few final corrections of typos and other formatting changes might not have been captured.

We are looking forward to receiving the feed-back from your reviewers and editors and are grateful for your consideration of our manuscript.

Best regards,

Damien de Walque