

We are extremely thankful to esteemed reviewers for their supportive comments to improve the letter to editor.

The esteemed comments have been incorporated into the letter as shown below:

*Reviewed by 00506503*

**1<sup>st</sup> Reviewer's Comments:**

- Minor notes: punctuation should be reviewed, such as the initial list miss a comma between WNFV and YF.

**Response:**

Communicable diseases with increased risk of transmission during flood includes; Viral Hepatitis A, Cholera, Typhoid Fever, Leptospirosis, Malaria, West Nile Fever, Yellow Fever, Dengue and Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever.

- The authors would be more effective if they discuss also about consequences of global climate changes envisaged by accredited models to their region, to emphasize the problem in the next 15-20 years.

**Response:**

If the similar situations remain persistent during the upcoming years, then serious viral epidemics, acting as threatening viral time bomb could wipe out the entire nation.

*Reviewed by 00504943*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reviewer's Comments:**

- The writing should be improved. Such as: 1. "In many hospitals healthcare facilities are in...", "During 2013, 2014 and 2015 Pakistan again faced...", "act as breeding sites for mosquitoes."....
- "have to travel form hundreds of kilometers" of "form" should be "from"; "Pakistan again faced serious flood problem in major provinces, resulting into hundreds of deaths" of "resulting into" should be "resulted in";

**Response:**

Among various hospitals, due to in-appropriate facilities, patients travel from hundreds of kilometers for the sake of basic healthcare facilities. During flood, sometimes travel to only few kilometers, is almost impossible. Pakistan again and again face serious flood problems in major provinces, causing hundreds of deaths and massive displacements due to sheer negligence of National Disaster Management (NDM).

Due to heavy rainfall and rivers overflow, in many regions of Pakistan, standing water becomes breeding sites for mosquitoes.

*Reviewed by 00506472*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Reviewer's Comments:**

- Please add some details (epi data, methods of prevention etc) also for other infectious diseases (Hepatitis A, Cholera, Typhoid Fever, Leptospirosis, Malaria, West Nile Fever Yellow Fever) causing outbreaks in Pakistan following floods, except dengue haemorrhagic fever.

**Response:**

The bacterial infections which are resistant to antibiotics can also be reduced by using bacteriophage therapy. Previously our research group identified and isolated virulent phage against multiple drug resistant pseudomonas aeruginosa responsible for bacteremia, respiratory system infections, gastrointestinal infections, dermatitis, soft tissue infections, urinary tract infections, bone and joint infections and a variety of systemic infections <sup>[8]</sup>. The risk of communicable disease (including Viral Hepatitis A, Cholera, Typhoid Fever, Leptospirosis, Malaria, West Nile Fever, Yellow Fever, Dengue and Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever) from flooding can be reduced via chlorination of water ensuring safe drinking water; vaccination against hepatitis A; Malaria prevention; Health education and proper handling corpses.

There is a strong need to improve surveillance at local, national, and international level to develop Disaster-Preparedness Programmes and Early Warning Systems.

- Please add a comment on how the upcoming dengue haemorrhagic fever vaccine may help in the near future (if and when will be available in the country).

**Response:**

Although new vaccine for dengue fever has proven safe involving nonhuman primates, yet a lot of efforts are required to supply effective vaccines at minimal cost. Uptill now there is no vaccine against dengue haemorrhagic fever in Pakistan.