Response to Reviewers

Dear Editor,

Thank you for considering our paper for publication in **IJERPH**. Herewith we submit the revised version of our paper entitled: **"Psychological and social impact of HIV on infected women and their families in low- and middle-income Asian countries: A systematic review".** We have carefully read through the manuscript to improve it and address the comments from the second reviewer as reported in the 'a point-by-point response' below.

On behalf of all authors,

Sincerely,
Paul Russell Ward

Reviewer 2

a). Avoid double use of HIV in the title.

Response:

- Title has been revised as following:

  Psychological and social impact of HIV on infected women and their families in low- and middle-income Asian countries: A systematic review

b). Define abbreviations in the Abstract (LMIC and WLHIV), as well as in the text (NKF and LM).

Response:

The abbreviations in the Abstract and text have been defined as following:

- HIV infection adds a significant burden to women in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs), …. (See Abstract: lines 12-130)
- It is known that compared to men or other key-affected populations such as transgender populations and men who have sex with men in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs), …. (See Introduction: lines 47-49)
- …. this review seeks to understand psychological and social impact of HIV infection on Women Living with HIV (WLHIV), …. (See Abstract: lines 15-16)
- In Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) where the majority (70.5%) of PLHIV reside, Women Living with HIV (WLHIV) …. (See Introduction: lines 40-41)
- …. 583 titles and abstracts were screened by two assessors (Nelsensius Klau Fauk (NKF) and Lillian Mwanri (LM)), ….

c). Define in a concrete way the conceptualization of low and medium income countries. d). In the title and in the text, I'm sorry, it could be confused who has low and middle income, families or countries.

Response:

- LMICs are defined by the World Bank as countries with Gross National Income (GNI) per capita between $1,045 or less and $12,695 (7). Countries with GNI per capita of $1,045 or less,

between $1,045 and $4,095, and $4,096 and $12,695 are respectively categorised as low-income countries, lower middle-income countries and upper middle-income countries (7). (See lines 49-54)

e). Figure 2 should be considered as a simplified conceptual model and not only as a conceptual model, since the study could even be considered to have other representations of broad conceptual models, even if they are not called that.

Response:

- Agree. Revision has been made:

  Figure 2. Simplified Conceptual Model for psychological and social impacts of HIV on individuals and families.

f). The study is presented as a systematic review, but could not be better considered as a qualitative meta-analysis.

Response:

- We prefer to present this study as a systematic review because it covers quantitative findings as well. Four included articles employed quantitative methods or mixed-methods (See lines 157-161). A qualitative meta-analysis or meta-synthesis only includes qualitative findings or studies used qualitative methods.

g). Table 2 should be an annex, it is too broad and should be presented in the body of the document or separated into parts and each part should do its own analysis.

Response:

- It depends on the journal's template. It is fine for us if it is presented either as an annex or integrated into the text as the current format.