September 27, 2024

Dr. Susane Hahne, Editor-in-Chief

Epidemiology & Infection

**Dear Dr. Hahne,**

Please find attached the article “HYG-2024-14065” entitled “The 2023 Fatal Dengue Outbreak in Bangladesh Highlights a Paradigm Shift of Geographical Distribution of Cases”for your consideration in your journal. We have addressed the concerns that the reviewer and editor have raised or justified our position and are confident that the reviewer (s) will be satisfied with our response and updated version of the manuscript for publication.

We incorporated reviewer suggestions by utilizing that Muslims in Bangladesh have been celebrating Eid for centuries, with millions of people traveling across the country each year during the holiday. However, in 2023, the Eid vacation coincided with a surge in dengue cases in Dhaka City. The dengue outbreak, which began in 2022, continued throughout 2023, unlike previous years when the country typically experienced significantly fewer cases in February and March. Up until June 28, when Eid-al-Adha was celebrated, 76% of 6,014 reported dengue cases came from Dhaka. Whereas in the first six months of the year from January to June during the period 2000-2022, an average of only 266 cases were reported nationwide. The sharp increase in dengue cases in 2023 coincided with the Eid festival, which facilitated the spread of the virus as millions of people left Dhaka and surrounding cities, such as Gazipur and Narayanganj, to return to their rural homes.

We have extensively assessed the association of dengue cases with climatic factors (daily average temperature, total daily rainfall, and average daily relative humidity), and showed in “Result and Discussion” section.

Additionally, to assess the association of dengue cases about potential locations and sex, we added the urban-rural ratio and male-female ratio in the predictive model. However, in the adjusted model male-female ratio was not included due to the insignificance of the variable. We included those associations in the Results and Discussion Section. We have reviewed the manuscript further for typos and grammar and corrected these using track changes. Finally, we would like to thank you and the reviewer /editor for helping us to improve the quality of this manuscript.

Sincerely,

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