Author's response to reviews

Title: Experiences and responses to disrespectful maternity care and abuse during childbirth; a qualitative study with women and men in Morogoro Region, Tanzania

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor:

We would like to thank the editors for their request for more detail regarding our study design (including sampling strategy). Please see pasted below and in the text of the manuscript our re-write of this section.

“Respondents included women, their male partners, community health workers (CHWs) and community leaders. Sampling was based on health centers, as they were the lowest level of health facility providing care for complicated deliveries, and one study aim was to examine factors affecting whether women accessed such care. At eight health centers across four districts, health center staff were asked to identify one village with more difficult access to the health center, yet within the health center catchment area. The data collection team then presented the study to leaders in both the village where the health center was located, and in the village described as having difficult access to the facility. In Tanzania, the long-standing policy has been for every village to have a village health committee, which appoints two CHWs. Leaders interviewed included religious leaders, as well as members of an elected village board and/or village health committee who identified CHWs. Leaders and CHWs were interviewed irrespective of gender, age, education level, or length of service. Leaders as well as CHWs helped identify women in the village who had delivered in the preceding 14 months. In addition, data collectors canvassed the village and invited eligible mothers and fathers to participate. Women and their partners were eligible if they had delivered a baby within the preceding 14 months regardless of reports on quality of care, or experiences of disrespectful care. All women providing consent were interviewed, until 2 - 4 women had been interviewed for that site. The research team sought to capture insights across several respondent groups in order to triangulate findings across study respondents, which is discussed in more detail in the data collection section.”

Kindly,

Shannon A. McMahon, Asha S. George, Joy J. Chebet, Idda H. Mosha, Giulia V.R. Besana, Rose N.M. Mpembeni and Peter J. Winch