Author's response to reviews

Title: Birth Preparedness and Complication Readiness among child bearing age women in Goba Woreda, Oromia Region, Ethiopia

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Point by point response for reviewer’s comment

Editorial Comment:

Title: Birth Preparedness and Complication Readiness among child bearing age women in Goba Woreda, Oromia Region, Ethiopia

"1. Background: only covers definition of BP/CR and not the justification of the study? Why this locality does it differ from other localities where similar studies have been conducted in Ethiopia? Please add to the paper the details and rationale you provide in your responses to this reviewer and reviewer 3. This would be most appropriate in the final paragraph of the background.

Response: the comment is accepted and corrected accordingly.

2. it's surprising that more respondents were prepared yet fewer knew about BP/CR? I hope this is explained later in the results. Please include the comments you make in your response in the discussion of the paper

Response: the comment is accepted and corrected accordingly. Look the discussion section.

3. Definition of operational terms, is these standard or not? For example, the definition of BP/CR used in this study? Please include the references to the source literature for your operational definitions

Response: the comment is accepted and corrected accordingly. It was obtained from similar study conducted before in Adigrat town in Ethiopia.

4. Specify currency and duration of income in the text. Please add the duration of the income in the text - is it weekly/monthly/annual household income?

Response: the comment is accepted and corrected accordingly.

Reviewer 3

5. Page 3, para 4 - reference is needed for the first sentence. This section needs to be placed in the context of the health service provision. More information is needed about the local background - health care in the country, transport infrastructure, ambulance service, blood transfusion, etc. In many other countries
women have intrapartum care from an early stage in their labour, so recognition of complications would be done by HC staff and other similar comments. The request for more contextual information by this reviewer is important to help readers understand the setting of the study and to judge whether the results are applicable to other settings. This is necessary regardless of the approach you have taken for your study. Please add details as requested by this reviewer.

Response: the comment is accepted and corrected accordingly.

6. Page 3, para 5 'mandatory' - who says? Mandatory (meaning compulsory) is probably not the right word choice - would 'recommended' be a better choice?

Response: the comment is accepted and corrected accordingly.

7. Statistics are reported inconsistently e.g. page 3 in same sentence 10% and '9 in every 10'. Please be consistent i.e. report 10% versus 90% OR 1 in 10 versus 9 in 10

Response: the comment is accepted and corrected accordingly.

8. Page 9, para 2 - Result - how many mothers were approached? How many refused? Please include the information in your response in the results section of the paper.

Response: the comment is accepted and corrected accordingly. Look the first paragraph of the result section.

9. In Ethiopia there will be many reasons why the burden is placed on women, but these should be acknowledged. The recommendations in the paper are that women should be better prepared and better educated. Surely there is also a great need to improve access to skilled care at delivery and improve access to facilities for all women. Please address these issues and your recommendations for future research in the discussion.

Response: I appreciate your insight regarding this issue but as it was incorporated under the last sentence of the study area section of the methodology part of the paper, there are one health post in each kebele, 4 health centers, one Hospital and blood bank in the woreda. One ambulance from Hospital as well as Red Cross society each serves the community in providing transportation service from home to the health institutions. Therefore, don’t you think that it is difficult to recommend for improving accessibility of health facility in the presence of these institution? But, I defiantly admit that your idea could be right in another remote part of Ethiopia.

Reviewer 4

10. While the sampling procedure was quite complicated (multistage), it is not clear whether this complexity was or was not taken into account when analyzing the data. For instance, were the case weights adjusted to reflect the sampling procedure? There might be reasons for adjusting or for not adjusting the weights. But what was done should be described and documented precisely and discussed in the paper. Please address this comment in the paper nit just in the
responses.

Response: the comment is accepted and corrected accordingly. Look sample size determination section under the methodology part of the paper.