Author's response to reviews

Title: Addressing inequity to achieve the maternal and child health Millennium Development Goals: looking beyond averages

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor in Chief, BMC Public health journal

Subject: SUBMISSION OF A REVISED MANUSCRIPT FOR EVALUATION

I am enclosing herewith a revised manuscript entitled “Addressing inequity to achieve the maternal and child health Millennium Development Goals: looking beyond averages” and a point by point-by-point response to reviewers. We have incorporated all the best available evidence to support the plausibility of the process we conducted the analysis to ensure our results validity of our results given the available data.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Sincerely,

George .M. Ruhago
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Response to reviewer 2 comments

1. Since LiST uses cause-specific mortality effects and impact, since they used all cause effects, how did they actually implement the model? How were the deaths distributed across SES quintiles from the DHS data set? Currently there is no available data in Tanzania on cause-specific mortality by SES. We therefore used unadjusted mortality data. We assumed that the higher/lower than average neonatal, infant and under-five mortality rates in each quintile reported in demographic and health survey were distributed in proportion to the original distribution of cause-specific mortality. To clarify our assumptions, we have added a statement on page 7.