Author's response to reviews

Title: Factors associated with prenatal folic acid and iron supplementation among 21,889 pregnant women in Northern Tanzania: a cross-sectional hospital-based study.

Authors:

Olukemi Ogundipe (ogundipe@bcm.edu)
Cathrine Hoyo (cathrine.hoyo@duke.edu)
Truls Østbye (truls.ostbye@duke.edu)
Olola Oneko (onekoolola@yahoo.com)
Rachel Manongi (rmanongi@yahoo.co.uk)
Rolv Terje Lie (rolv.lie@isf.uib.no)
Anne Kjersti Daltveit (anne.daltveit@isf.uib.no)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear editor BMC Public Health

Thank you for efforts made by you and the reviewers to improve our manuscript entitled “Factors associated with prenatal folic acid and iron supplementation among 21,889 pregnant women in Northern Tanzania: a cross sectional hospital based study”. In this second revision we have further changed the manuscript according to the reviewer’s suggestions. Our answers to the reviewers follow below.

We hope the revised manuscript is acceptable and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Anne Kjersti Daltveit
Reviewer 1:

1. Pg 7, Description of variables, 4th line, change "drugs" to "medications"
   Answer: We write “drugs” because the questionnaire (English version) says “drugs”.

2. In general, there are still periods in the wrong place, missing commas, grammatical errors, Discussion: typos "dit" and "Ina". But editor should be able to correct.
   Answer: We have corrected some typing errors included the two above mentioned.

3. Discussion: As mentioned before, using China as an example of use of FA in a developing country is comparing apples and oranges. Need to use data from Africa or South Asia or Latin America as a comparison.
   Answer: We did not manage to find a relevant reference and have removed the reference and changed reference numbers (number of references is now 27). We have also deleted text related to previous reference 8.

4. Table 1,2,3: Since 9.9% are not married, suggest replacing "husband" with "partner"
   Answer: We have changed husband with partner in tables and in document.

5. Table 3: where is "b" superscripted in table? Add to all Adjusted headers, not last one.
   Answer: “b” is added to all Adjusted headers.

6. Table 3: for each "other" list in footnote, so don't have to flip back to text to see what other means.
   Answer: We use superscripted “c” in Table 3 to state the meaning of other diseases before/during pregnancy.

Reviewer 2:

On re-reading I have noticed one further issue. The authors use the term multivariate to describe their final model. Multivariate regression suggests a single regression model with more than one outcome variable, as opposed to multivariable or multiple regression (multiple independent variables). Could the authors clarify which is the case (minor essential revision).

Answer: We agree. The correct term is multivariable or multiple regression when there is only one dichotomous outcome. We have changed the term from “multivariate regression” to “multiple regression”.