Author's response to reviews

Title: Verbal Autopsy completion rate and factors associated with undetermined cause of death in rural poor resource setting of Tanzania

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Author's response to reviews: see over
To editor,

Thank you for the valuable comments and we real appreciate. We would to address the raised comments as follows in bold:

- In your Abstract and Conclusion, you mention InterVA specifically. If you prefer InterVA over other computer-based probabilistic models, please explain your reasons. Otherwise, we would like you to be more generic in these sections. Also, we're wondering why you recommend neural networks, as this project has been abandoned. Please address these issues in the Conclusions section of the Abstract and main text. _the comments were addressed by removing the specific InterVA and neural network. The generalization way were considered see the conclusion and the abstract._

- Figure 2 shows that physicians are a large contributor to lost VA. Could you discuss this result in more detail? Do you think it's a problem with training, incentives, or time? Since this is one of the most important issues in your results, we would like you to expand this. _Yes, physicians contribute to lost VA due to the fact that logistics for handling the forms while are in there hands is real a challenge. At the same the undetermined contributes to this proportional see pg 7 paragraph 2 the third line_.

- We feel that the description of the protocol of physician review and certification of the cause of death on p. 4 is too general. We would like more information about characteristics of physicians and other parameters like rotation, training, etc. _The comment were considered and additional information was added see page 4_.

- Could you divide the results in your tables by age and sex of the sample, using 5-year age groups? _We are thinking that grouping the tables in terms of age basing on the type of forms was more appropriate for this analysis. For example, the relationship to respondent is quite different for neonates, children and adults and even the VA tool used are age specific neonates (0-28 days), post neonatal period (29 days to 12 years) and adults (above 12 years)_.

- If possible, could you divide the level of education further to see if there is an effect on the results (ie, incomplete primary, primary, secondary)? _I did consider this comment, there were almost no difference in the results._