Author’s response to reviews

Title: Maternal mortality in the informal settlements of Nairobi city: what do we know?

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Author's response to reviews:

Cover letter

Dear editor,

This is let you know that the co-authors and I have reviewed the article and made several grammatical and typographic corrections. Some sentences changed but with no content change in most of the cases. These changes are numerous and have not been highlighted one by one.

There are however two areas which I would like to bring to your attention where substantial changes/additions were made.

Table 1:
As can be seen from the excerpt below, one of the reviewers earlier recommended removal of non-maternal deaths from the papers thus;

Reviewer: Olufemi Taiwo Oladapo

“Removal of non-maternal deaths from the entire paper is likely to provide a more straightforward information. Providing characteristics for non-maternal death may not be very necessary for readers to understand the content of the paper. Besides, it was not the primary aim of the paper”.

In the revision that followed, the above recommendation was implemented. However after taking another look at the value of information in the table; we realised that the usefulness of the data in the table would be limited without a comparison. We have henceforth decided to reinstate the column for non-maternal deaths to put into context and aid understanding of the distribution among the maternal and late maternal deaths over the same period.

Table 3:
In table 3, the column originally labelled “All pregnancy outcomes 2003-2005” had been removed during our revision on. We have now decided to bring back this column but limited to “All pregnancy outcomes 2003-2005 who did not die”. The reason for this change is similar to the one mentioned above for table 1; to aid interpretation of the distribution among maternal and late maternal deaths by comparing it with the distribution among women who had a pregnancy outcome yet did not die.

We argue that these two changes are important yet do not fundamentally change the content of the paper. The changes provide better understanding and value to the paper given the additional context provided in the columns added.

Your sincerely

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