Author’s response to reviews

Title: Cross-sectional survey of knowledge of obstetric danger signs among women in rural Madagascar.

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Version: 2 Date: 03 Aug 2017

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Objet : Point-by-point response to the comments:

Please see our responses in italic addressed after each comment. (File also attached in the "file section")

Reviewer #2, Lisa Thompson, RN, FNP, PhD:

Discussion section:

Page 16: “In the study in Tsegedie district, Ethiopia, among 485 women, 49.1% mentioned vaginal bleeding as a danger sign during pregnancy followed by 41.6% of women who mentioned swelling of leg or face.”
Sign was changed to sign.

Page 17: “Even, if a Cochrane review published in 2007 failed to establish the effectiveness of ANC education for childbirth, the results of the cited studies and our findings demonstrate the challenge of providing high quality information during ANC.”

The comma between even and if was removed.

Pages 17-18: “As previously noted by Pembe and colleagues, often individual counseling times are short, and influenced by the complex interaction between patient and health care provider, as well as socio-cultural aspects.”

Sentence was changed, according to the suggestion: “As previously noted by Pembe and colleagues, individual counseling times are often short and influenced by the complex interaction between patient and health care provider, as well as other socio-cultural aspects.”

Page 18: “However, it failed to improve women’s knowledge of danger signs during the other periods. Probably due to the recent conducted campaign the PANDA could not show an effect during pregnancy.”

Sentences were reframed and improved.

Page 18: “Therefore, the challenges in respect to quality ANC should be considered in current and future programs. This plays also an important role for the PANDA mHealth application.”

The two sentences were reframed, according to the suggestion: “The challenges to providing quality ANC should be considered in current and future programs, including the important role that an mHealth application may have on these services.”

Page 18: “Lastly, danger signs for the postpartum period were not strengthened sufficiently.”

Sentences were improved to: “Lastly, knowledge around danger signs for the postpartum period was not strengthened sufficiently.”
Another important point of consideration in respect to education is the question if family planning counseling should be included in the ANC visits in Ambanja, Madagascar.

Sentence was modified according to reviewer’s suggestion: “Another important point of consideration is, given the high attendance at the ANC visits, whether family planning counseling should be included in the ANC visits in Ambanja, Madagascar.”

Furthermore, we believe, that the women...

Comma between believe and that was removed.

As the opportunity to time pregnancies has been linked to a reduction in maternal and child mortality, the inclusion of family planning into ANC has been recommended. (20, 21)

Sentence was modified according to reviewer’s suggestion: “Timing pregnancies has been linked to a reduction in maternal and child mortality; therefore, the inclusion of family planning into ANC has been recommended. (20, 21)”

Even if in a recent review, the mixed results...

Comma has been removed.

Kenya and South Africa, have...

Comma was removed.

mHealth experts should consider to improve the educational section of the PANDA mHealth intervention and to test it on a larger scale.”

“to improve” was changed to “improving”.

The receipt of information were....

Second “the” was deleted and were was changed to was