Author’s response to reviews

Title: Pregnancy and early motherhood among adolescents in five East African countries: a multi-level analysis of risk and protective factors

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Response to Reviewers Comments

Thank you for allowing us to resubmit a revision of our manuscript now entitled, “Pregnancy and early motherhood among adolescents in five East African countries: a multilevel analysis of risk and protective factors” for publication consideration in your Journal (BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth).

We appreciate the reviewer comments, which we have considered carefully. An outline of the reviewers’ comments and our changes are described below. In addition, responses to the reviewer’s comments appear as highlighted text in the manuscript.

Reviewer 2

We apologize for skipping these comments during the initial revision of the manuscript. We have now addressed both comments in the revised manuscript.
(1) Table 1

Please add units to the age place.

Thank you for identifying this error – we have added median age to the rows in table 1 where age is indicated without units (see table 1).

(2) Please unify the uppercase and lowercase letters in table 2-4. (poorer → Poorer ?) (daughter (ref)→ Daughter (ref) ?)

Thanks for picking this error – we have now unified the uppercase and lower case letters in tables 2-4.

Reviewer 3

The finding that media exposure served as a protective factor in reducing the odds of a pregnancy is interesting. I was wondering if the authors could hypothesize about this association in the context of the populations they studied. As the impact of media on youth is controversial, this can add an interesting perspective to the study.

Thank you for the comment. As the reviewer indicated, findings on the effect of mass media on adolescent sexual behavior is not conclusive. Our study also showed that access to two or three media sources were protective in Kenya, Malawi and Uganda but not in the other two countries indicating that the effects of mass media on adolescent pregnancy is mixed. So, given this mixed finding, we recommend further study of the effect of media on adolescent sexual and reproductive behavior using stronger design (longitudinal, randomized trail) than hypothesizing the relationship. We have included this points in the revised version of the manuscript – see discussion/conclusion section line number 392-394 and 455-456).