Author’s response to reviews

Title: A study protocol for an mHealth, multi-centre randomized control trial to promote use of postpartum contraception amongst rural women in Punjab, Pakistan

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Response to Victoria H. Jennings (Reviewer 1)

Thank you for your positive feedback.

We acknowledge this as a weakness of the study, and the methodology used. We had considered the option of implementing a two-way communication methodology via text messaging. However, the idea was not appreciated by the rural communities, where the study will take place, as they did not want to bear the cost of outgoing messages. However, we will receive delivery/read reports of messages through which we will build a database accordingly.

Response to Michael T. Quinn, Ph.D. (Reviewer 2)

Thank you for your feedback.

Process and outcome measurement will be done through a pre-test (at the time of recruitment) and a post-test (post-intervention). Data on all constructs within the framework will only be captured on the timepoints specified above. We have revised the protocol to clarify this.

If the intervention yields low uptake or does not produce an impact, we will build a separate database, listen to the calls to assess whether the messages were appropriately delivered, and assess the impact of appropriate message delivery on constructs scores and uptake. The protocol has been amended to adequately reflect this.
Thank you for highlighting this. We will add questions in our post-test questionnaire and ask participants whether they had any interaction with the Lady Health Worker around family planning/maternal and child health care. This variable will subsequently be included as a control variable into the analysis.

Thank you for highlighting this. Description of how psychometric data will be captured and treated has been added into the protocol.