Author’s response to reviews

Title: Increasing Utilisation of Perinatal Services: Estimating the Impact of Community Health Worker program in Neno, Malawi

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Responses to the review of the paper “Increasing Utilisation of Perinatal Services: Estimating the Impact of Community Health Worker program in Neno, Malawi”
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The editor, BMC Pregnancy and Child Health,
Thank you for reviewing our manuscript. We have revised the paper and please see the revisions below:

Reviewer 2 comment 1
It still should probably be emphasized a bit more that no outcomes were measured. This was mentioned in passing, but it's the ultimate test of whether the intervention is worthwhile.
Response
Thank you very much. We have added a paragraph to emphasize the fact that we did not measure maternal and neonatal outcomes in this study. Additionally, we have also included this point in the conclusion section

Discussion section, Line 394-401
“This study measured changes in utilization of ANC, facility based births and postnatal care in response to a CHW intervention. However, the facility improvement work could have improved the quality of care provided during antenatal care visits, intrapartum care and postnatal care. Increasing the utilization of perinatal services with potential improvement in quality of care across perinatal continuum of care may have led to a reduction in maternal and neonatal adverse outcomes. Measuring changes in improvement in quality of ANC, maternal and neonatal outcomes could have strengthened the evidence of the impact our study. However, we did not measure these outcomes in our study”

Conclusion section, Line 423 to 425
“Future research should investigate reasons why CHWs did not improve the utilization of postnatal care and also measure the impact of CHWs on neonatal and maternal outcomes in Neno district.”

Reviewer 2 comment 2
Some minor English issues, e.g. "Delays ... has been attributed" on page 5.
Response
Thank you very much for pointing this out. We asked an English native speaker to review the manuscript. We believe we have corrected all the minor English errors. Please see the edits in the manuscript.