Author’s response to reviews

Title: Pattern and determinants of contraceptive usage among women of reproductive age from the Digo community residing in Kwale, Kenya: Results from a cross-sectional household survey

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

Thank you very much for the comments. See responses below:

1. Please follow submission guidelines and only include the following sections in your main manuscript:
   - Background
   - Methods
   - Results
   - Discussion
   - Conclusions

   Please do not include a: "PLAIN ENGLISH SUMMARY" section.

   Response: We have removed the "PLAIN ENGLISH SUMMARY" section and adhered to the sections listed above.
2. Thank you for providing a section on author contribution. We use this information to note which author contributed what to the study. We had noticed only four of the five authors are mentioned in this section. Please revise this section to include all authors, so that all authors listed in the manuscript can qualify for authorship.

An 'author' is generally considered to be someone who has made substantive intellectual contributions to a published study. We respectfully request you please amend this statement to adhere to the guidelines for authorship that are applicable in your research field or, in the absence of any guidelines, to the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) guidelines. According to the ICMJE guidelines, to qualify as an author one should have:

- made substantial contributions to conception and design, or acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data;

- been involved in drafting the manuscript or revising it critically for important intellectual content;

- given final approval of the version to be published. Each author should have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for appropriate portions of the content; and

- agreed to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

Acquisition of funding, collection of data, or general supervision of the research group, alone, does not usually justify authorship.

If you would please amend the statement to reflex these requirements, we would appreciate it.

Additionally, please use this statement to confirm that all authors have read and approved of the final manuscript.

Response: Thank you for noting the oversight. We have modified the section on 'Author's Contribution' to capture all the named authors and their contribution. We have also indicated the approval of the final manuscript by all authors.
3. Please upload all figures as separate figure files and remove them from the main manuscript. Please do not include the figure captions within the figure files, but instead place them at the end of the main manuscript in a section titled “Figure legends”.

Response: All figures have been uploaded as separate figure files. We have also added a section for the figure legends.

4. We would appreciate if you added a section titled “Supplementary files” where you list the following information about your supplementary material:

   - File name
   - Title of data
   - Description of data

Please ensure that all additional files are explicitly referred to in the main text. Any items which do not meet these requirements may be deleted by our production department.

Response: We have added a section titled "Supplementary Files" and listed the information above for the two supplementary files uploaded.

5. Please fill out your STROBE checklist.

Response: We have uploaded a filled out STROBE checklist.