Author’s response to reviews

Title: The relationship between under-five child death and maternal mental distress in Gamo Gofa Zone, Southern Ethiopia: A community based comparative cross-sectional study

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Response to editor’s comments

1. In your “ethical approval and consent to participate” section of your declarations please confirm if an ethics committee approved the procedure for verbal consent, and why they felt the need for written consent was not necessary for this study. Please also detail how you documented the consent.

Thank you for your suggestions. In the revised version, this section is further elaborated and explained why waiver of written consent was sought. Declaration section, Ethics sub section, page 22, line 412-422

2. In your “ethical approval and consent to participate” section of your declarations please confirm that those who gave consent on behalf of the minors included in this study were their legal guardians.

Thank you once again for the suggestion. This part is revised and indicated that those who gave consent on behalf of the minors were their legal guardians. Declaration section, Ethics sub section, page 22, line 414-415

3. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.

Conformed