Author’s response to reviews

Title: 'Just because she's young, it doesn't mean she has to die': exploring the contributing factors to high maternal mortality in adolescents in Eastern Freetown; a qualitative study.

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Reviewer reports:

Much stronger draft! Thank you for your careful responses to each of the comments in the previous version. I have a few additional minor comments, which are below. They are also highlighted in the attached pdf in case that is a helpful reference for finding the exact clauses/words to which the comments refer.

Line 82: Is there a citation that you can add here? I have added Donnelly’s Lancet article from 2011. (now line 79, ref 4)

Line 143: perhaps "other participating professionals" rather than “these participants”? Change made. Now on line 132.

Lines 281-286: Much stronger and clearer way of phrasing this. Thank you!! great.

Line 299: Typo (need to add “of” after “entrenched system”) Change made. Now on line 260.

Line 324: typo (“b[7]ut”) I have sorted this and resolved another Endnote issue I had with ordering.

Line 427-429: It sounds like you have good reason to know this to be true -- is there a line that you could add from one of the interviews or FGDs to help fill the reader in? Ooh, not really. It was more of a sense I got than a direct quote.

Lines 461-2: This sounds more like a taboo around sex than around contraceptive use. Suggest removing or changing the above sentence (line 459) I have taken out the second quote and just left in the short one about cancer.

Lines 463-467: Suggest splitting this into two sentences as it is currently very long. Perhaps “…finish developing. A major concern…” I have actually gone for 3 shorter sentences – reads better thanks.
Lines 928-936: Are there any citations that can be added to bolster this section? I have added Banke-Thomas et al (25) and have changed ‘anecdotal evidence’ to ‘personal communication’

Line 951: The word “their” is used several times but seems to refer to different groups of people in some of the instances. Any way to tighten the language here? I have addressed this

Line 1096: The ending is a little abrupt. Perhaps worth adding 1-2 sentences more to tie it all up? I have added a concluding paragraph.

Additional changes in clean copy from last read-through

Line 72 – decapitalised Ministry

Line 99 – decapitalised International Midwifery Fellowship to keep consistency with the abstract

Line 131 – removed a space between having and been

Line 259 – space removed between study and describes

Line 363 – I have resolved the Endnote issue so the references are grouped

Line 564 – space removed between with and social

Line 782 – typo: gi changed to girls

Line 815 – space removed between effective, and ‘and’