Author’s response to reviews

Title: Implementation project of Non-Pneumatic Anti Shock Garment and m-communication to enhance maternal health care in rural Tanzania

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor and Reviewers:

Thank you so much for the opportunity to respond to your comments and improve the paper. Our point by point response is as follow:

Reviewer #2: It is a relevant project involving a great effort of the team on the implementation of a complex intervention aiming at saving maternal lives. Thank you so much for your kind words and support.

1. I have only one major comment. My suggestion is to delete all the considerations and mentions about results regarding maternal mortality. This manuscript is dealing with the evaluation of the process of implementing the NASG. The assessment of changes on maternal mortality would need a different analytic approach that is beyond the focus of this manuscript.

Response: Thank you for noting this, in this case we accidentally used the term “maternal mortality,” when we should have used the term for the concept that we did collect data on and
analyze, which was the Case Fatality Rate (CFR). We have removed the terminology on maternal mortality, and we have used CFR. In addition, we have modified the language we use about the CFR to indicate that there may be other temporal factors besides the NASG that were also temporally associated with the decrease in CFR and not indicate causality. Please see pages 2, 3, 18, and we have added a new sentence on p. 23 of the limitations: There are methodological limitations with comparing CFR at baseline to CFR at endline, including the fact that other factors besides the NASG could have affected the CFR outcomes during the project period. We will conduct further analyses on this data to investigate this association.

2. Please delete first sentence of the Discussion section.

Response: Please see page 18, Sentence was moved to end of discussion paragraph, and changed to: The study also showed a temporal association of a 67% decrease in CFR in the study facilities at the project endline.

Minor comments.

3. Please check if the link in page 9, line 22 is adequately working.

Response: Link was corrected.

4. Please check if the link in page 11, line 54 is adequately working.

Response: Link appears to function (if copied and pasted, within Word an error was generated)

5. Please do not use an acronym -NASG- in the title.

Response: This has been changed, see p. 1

6. Please place tables and figures at the end of the text each one in a separate page.

Response: Tables and figures are now at the end of the document, each on their own page.

7. Page 19, line 32 the value of the % is missing

Response: Corrected to 96.8%