**Appendix**

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| **Operational definitions** |
| Characteristics | Operational definition |
| **Early antenatal care access** | Early ANC access was defined as initiation of the first ANC visit during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy |
| **Maternal age** | Maternal age was categorized into either of three age categories: “15-19 years”, “20-24 years”, “$\geq $ 25 years)” |
| **Maternal education** | Maternal education was dichotomized into “currently in school” or “not currently in school” |
| **Maternal employment** | Maternal employment was dichotomized into “employed” or “not employed” |
| **Marital status** | Marital status was dichotomized into “currently married” (including married, come we stay) or “not currently married” (including single, divorced, widowed, and steady boyfriend).  |
| **Partners’ education attainment** | Partners education status was categorized into three categories: “primary school and below” (respondents with no formal schooling, and respondents who at least attended primary school), “some high school” (respondents who at least attended high school), and “some college “(respondents who at least attended college). |
| **Gravida** | Gravida was dichotomized into “previously pregnant” or “not previously pregnant” |
| **Prior pregnancy complications** | Prior pregnancy complications was dichotomized into “had prior pregnancy complications” or “did not have prior pregnancy complications” |
| **Travel time to health facility** | Travel time was dichotomized into “>30minutes” or “$\leq $ 30 minutes” to health facility  |
| **Location of health facility** | Location was dichotomized into “urban” or “rural” health facilities  |