Reviewer’s report

Title: Trends of Antenatal Care and Health Facility Delivery Attendance Following Community Mobilization and Health Facility Strengthening Interventions in Kitgum District, Northern Uganda

Version: 3 Date: 31 October 2012

Reviewer: yenita agus

Reviewer’s report:

A. Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The study aim is not clearly statement, for example “Interventions aimed at increasing uptake of maternal health services should address both demand and quality of service”? However, in the background part “In this study, we present trends of ANC and skilled delivery attendance by pregnant women and their male partners following implementation of selected program Interventions targeted at raising demand and improving quality of services in a Rural Health Facility in Kitgum district, Northern Uganda. In other part (Data analysis) “the program aimed at improving uptake of PMTCT, ANC and skilled attended delivery services in Kitgum Matidi HC III”. The study aim in most experimental studies is to have identical intervention for all subjects in treatment group.

2. The design of this study is not quite clear, If, the study of interventions study, the authors should be clear explanation about what is the specifics procedures to be used those receiving the intervention. What is intensity of the intervention?. Description of Program intervention is look like a project explanation. The authors should explain using the table to identify what is intervention, over how long a period will the intervention be administered, how frequently will it be administered and when will the treatment begin, and who was administer the intervention?

3. The authors should make a research questions and what data analysis you did depends on the research question. Then, to be better for author to make a frame work of this study to make this manuscript easier to understand.

B. Minor Essential Revisions

The authors can be trusted to make these.

1. How to using the abbreviation: For examples: In background part; millennium development goals (MDG) it should be Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Focused Antenatal Care (ANC) is it correct?. Please check how to using Abbreviation in APA style. Elsewhere, in the text of the manuscript the authors using the wrong use of abbreviation, the wrong use of a term for example what are the authors would like to use pregnant women, women or pregnant mothers (inconsistency) and spelling mistakes.

2. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? Abstract is too long more than 300 words. The abstract word should be considered a word
count limit. Explanation stated in abstract is not quite clear; for example in conclusion part the authors explain about the aim of the study. The researcher should try to make a one idea in one sentence.

3. Are the references incomplete or out of date? Do researchers use APA reference style or some other? For more accurate the researcher should check manuscripts against your reference-both ways. Please check the BMC (Pregnancy and Childbirth) instruction. For example: Several studies show that women who attend ANC are more likely to seek skilled delivery care (Bloom et al, 1999, Yanagisawa et al, 2006, WHO/UNICEF, 2003 and Stanton et al, 2007). Nevertheless, at least 20% of all women who attend ANC four times or more in sub-Saharan African and in Asian countries do not seek skilled delivery attendance [11] (WHO/UNICEF, 2003). What is the style of this reference (using number or authors?) if the using number should be number is not like this. If using authors please look the APA style. Inconsistency information of many parts of this manuscript is there.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? This manuscript is long; author used a lot of sentences and repeated some parts. Please consider the author will use Introduction or background?.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data. The discussion is repeated some data that have been reported in the result section. The authors should refer to another journal to make the discussion part will be interest for the reader.

“The entire paper needs proof reading for consistency and readability as some of the terms used are inconsistent and some of the material is a little difficult to understand”

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interest