Reviewer's report

Title: Factors influencing implementation of Ministry of Health-led Private Medicine Retailer Programmes on Malaria in Kenya

Version: 2 Date: 29 September 2009

Reviewer: Caroline Jones

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. Page 14, Results section (ii) Value & feasibility of programme goal.

The section starts with the statement that among mothers interviewed the level of awareness of the programme positively influenced their support of the programme. I have two concerns about this statement: (a) as far as I'm aware there were no in depth interviews with mothers, their views were collected through FGDs and, as such, it would be clearer if the text read: among mothers who participated in the FGDs... (b) this leads on to the second and more important point - what evidence is there to support this claim? That is, (i) how do you define/measure/categorise 'level of awareness' or exposure to the intervention?; (ii) Were FGD participants selected on the basis of their 'exposure' to the intervention & either placed in 'mixed' groups or in groups of 'less aware' & 'more aware'? The reader needs some idea of how the data were categorised and analysed in order to support the conclusion reached.

Minor Essential Revisions
There are several grammatical and spelling errors that should be addressed:
1. pp 4 second para, 4th line: recommends should be recommended.
2. pp 4 second para last line: insert 'the' before PMR programmes.
3. pp 6 second para penultimate line: delete 'perceptions'
4. pp 6 last para third line: change comma to semi-colon after 'prevention'
5. pp 6 last para last line: either add an 's' to training or change were to was.
6. pp 7 first line: insert 'was conducted' after the evaluation.
7. pp 7 para 2 line 2: delete apostrophe at end of leaders'
8. pp 8 para 2 line 9: Change the start of the sentence from It to, The interviews
9. pp 8 para 2 line 10: change 'covered in FGDs' to 'to those addressed in the FGDs'

10. need to make a decision on whether you will use: anti-malarial or anti malarial (with or without hyphen - need consistency)

Discretionary revisions:
1. It might be useful to address the issues of maintaining quality among PMRs
since it is not clear how many post-training visits each PMR received (that is, how much support supervision was provided). The evaluation was conducted only 6 months post implementation and it would be useful to have the authors’ views on the likelihood that the positive impact of the intervention being maintained at say 12 or 18 months post implementation.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

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

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests