Reviewer's report

Title: Exploring the effectiveness of the output-aid (OBA) program to increase uptake of gender-based violence recovery services in Kenya: A qualitative evaluation

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Reviewer: Ruxana Jina

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Exploring the effectiveness of the output-aid (OBA) program to increase uptake of gender-based violence recovery services in Kenya: A qualitative evaluation

This article read much better than the previous version and only minor essential revisions are now required. There are still some minor grammatical corrections that need to be made.

As a broad comment, I would have expected more input and comment from the users, which does not really come through in this article.

ABSTRACT

Page 2, Findings: “The required process for …and the community.”: As this was just a secondary finding, and not directly linked to the topic, you might want to leave out from the abstract.

Page 2, Findings: “Low provider knowledge…of GBVR services.”: Would fit better into the topic if you change the end of the sentence as follows: “effective provision and management of GBVR services.”

Page 3, Conclusion: Reading the abstract alone, it does clearly make sense why these conclusions or recommendations were made. Consider revising the sentences so that the link between findings and the conclusion become clearer in the abstract.

ARTICLE

Page 5, para 1, line 2: Add “to” to the sentence: “enable the user to purchase the service”

Page 5, para 2, line 2 – 4: Make the following corrections to the sentences: “subsidized price to clients, who purchases a voucher for a specific service. OBA programs provide incentives to clients and healthcare workers and subsidize specific health care packages based on the provision of care with pre-defined quality standards and pre-determined outputs.”

Page 6, prara 1, line 5 – 6: Remove “level facilities” from the sentence: “A total of 10 hospitals were accredited to provide GBVR services.”

Page 6, para 2: The bracket in the first sentence needs to be closed.
Page 6, para 2, line 5: Add a comma to the sentence: “...services, including: (i) a medical examination, treatment and management of injuries...”

Page 6, para 2, line 7: Did you mean “crises prevention” or “crises management”.

Page 6, para 2, line 11: Add “for” to the sentence: “...shelters, and help for survivors in liaising with social services departments....”.

Page 7, Methods, first sentence: You need to add a colon to the sentence: “The paper draws on qualitative data from 97 in-depth interviews (IDI): 69 with health managers....”. In addition, the first sentence can maybe be split into one discussing the IDI and the second the FGD so it is easier to distinguish. The second sentence provides details on information that was obtained through the qualitative work. Was this all obtained from the IDI and the FGD? If not, distinguish between what was collected through the different methods and which participants were asked what.

Page 8, Methods: The first two headings make it seem that these views came out of the qualitative work done with community members. Can the titles be rephrased to reflect whose views are being presented? E.g. Awareness and understanding of GBV vouchers and services by managers and providers

Page 8, para 1, line 1: Change demonstrate to past tense: “Qualitative findings demonstrated a low of awareness of the GBV voucher and lack of...”.

Page 9, second quotation: Make the following change to the first sentence: “I think it (GBV) is much stigmatized.”

Page 10, second quotation, second line: I think the sentence should read as follows: “I, as a voucher distributor based in the community, know that the locals believe I have two....”

Page 10: Could you possibly have subheadings for the findings related to “Opportunities and challenges for GBV program functioning”

Page 11, para 1, line 4: “Add “a” to the sentence “...For instance, health providers at a recently....”

Page 11: The first quotation speaks to other problems and not those mentioned in the preceding paragraph.

Page 13, first quotation: Make the following change to the first sentence: “I believe it (GBV voucher) is not used because it is distributed in the facility.”

Page 13, last two paragraphs: There is some repetition here of findings mentioned earlier.

Page 14, first quotation: Make the following change to the first sentence: “...even I as facility manager don’t know for example if they (GBV survivors) did come to my place what am I supposed to do?.”

Page 14, second quotation: I think you meant “survivors” and not “providers” in the following sentence: “...so we should inform them (survivors) that when they seek medical assistance...”

Page 15, Discussion, para 1, line 5 – 6: I think you are misrepresenting your data
here. I don’t believe that it was ever mentioned that there were “reservations for free GBVR services”. What do you exactly mean by this statement and whose views were these? Furthermore, it was not the community members themselves that expressed a misperception regarding the free services, but this was the views that providers and distributors had of the community.

Page 15, para 2, line 3: Change “in” to “with the” in the sentence: “….engagement with the GBVR voucher program.”

Page 15, para 2, line 7: Add “a” to the sentence: “using a top down approach.”

Page 16, para 2, line 10: Did you mean “collecting the P3 forms” or “completing the P3 forms”?

Page 16, para 2, line 14: Add “the” to the sentence: “Further the treatment the survivors get at the first point of contact are critical but overlooked, and survivors are often humiliated.”

Page 16, para 3 – page 17, para 1: Make the following changes to the sentences: “As already noted, community referral and the lack of transport system is a key challenge in the utilization of GBVR services. A poor transport network and a lack of money to pay for transport costs have been associated with delays in reaching a health facility and a low utilization of the GBVR services voucher. It also has implications for the 72-hour ‘window of opportunity’ for forensic examination and medical management of survivors. The distribution point of the GBVR services voucher at the facility also appears to pose a challenge especially for rural residents given that all facilities accredited to offer GBVR services are hospitals mainly located in urban areas. In addition the survivors do not have an adequate choice of facilities from where to seek the services due to the sparse distribution of the accredited providers.”

Page 17, para 2, line 3: Add “and a” to the sentence: “to provide GBVR services, and a lack of supplies and equipment.”

Page 18, para 1 – 2: Make the following changes to the sentences: “…..For example, the majority of women and community opinion leaders maintained that in the community a previous bad experience with a health provider influences the choice of whether a person will seek facility treatment or not. This is consistent with findings from other studies that show that the poor treatment of clients affects health care service utilization.

There is a need to address the confusion among providers regarding the process required in terms of timing to seek medical management of rape and sexual violence.”

Page 19, Conclusions, line 8: Make the following changes to the sentence: “…..handling of survivors by health providers and the police. These findings suggest that there is a need to build the…..”.

Page 19, Limitations, line 2: Add “the” to the sentence “….knowledge of GBV and the voucher GBVR services.”

Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
Yes.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?  
Some suggestions are made to improve this section but these are minor.

Are the data sound?  
Yes.

Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?  
Yes.

Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?  
Yes.

Are limitations of the work clearly stated?  
The limitations of the work are not discussed at all.

Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?  
Yes.

Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?  
Yes.

Is the writing acceptable?  
Minor corrections are suggested. The article reads much better than the previous version.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**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.