Reviewer's report

Title: Programa Geracao Biz, Mozambique: How did this adolescent health initiative grow from a pilot to a national programme, and what did it achieve?

Version: 1  Date: 5 October 2014

Reviewer: Alka Barua

Reviewer's report:

1. Major Compulsory Revisions

The stated objectives of the paper are to examine factors that helped or hindered scale up of PGB and achievements of the programme.

The WHO Expandnet Framework offers a structured way of looking at the interventions - their relevance, implementation and compatibility and therefore local acceptability; the resource team – with its roles and responsibilities; the user organisations with their capabilities, credibility, reputation and commitment; and the environment at the national and local level which forms the backdrop against which the innovations are implemented. The paper followed the framework to describe the scaling up of PGB. However, the factors that helped and hindered, which were one of the primary objectives to be studied and can provide valuable inputs for others do not get highlighted in the process.

A description of how inter-sectoral integration, since that is the critical innovative measure undertaken, which factors helped implementation and which did not and which of these were context and locale specific and which were generic would help the audience not only relate to the paper but also use the learning in their own set up.

The paper talks largely about changes in reproductive health awareness, behaviour and health which are indirect and not explicitly related to the project. Under the circumstances, the scaling up of implementation strategies without explicit evidence of achievement does not appear justifiable. The strengths mentioned are mostly in terms of relevance and credibility of the design of the innovation. Some details of activities implemented, exact process of institutionalisation and any evidence (or lack of it) that justifies scaling up would strengthen the paper.

The conclusion could be re-phrased. From the paper it is appears that post-ICPD adolescent reproductive health was in the policy agenda of the country. The setting up of the Inter-sectoral Committee, the development of National Plan for Development of Adolescents and Youth suggest that. PGB evolved out of these policy initiatives. Therefore PGB's crucial role seems to be of putting together an innovative programme design in place for realisation of the existing policy.

2. Minor Essential Revisions:
There are typos and grammatical errors in a few places. For example
The innovation: 1st paragraph, 4th line – public sector health facilities. Health is written twice
The innovation: 1st paragraph, 12th line – sentence ends abruptly.
PGB impact on behaviours and outcomes: 3rd paragraph, 5th line: grammatically incorrect

3. Discretionary Revisions:
The sentences could be shorter and crisp. Long winded sentences make it a little difficult to read.

**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