Reviewer’s report

Title: Generating demand and community support for sexual and reproductive health services for young people: A review of the Literature and Programs

Version: 1 Date: 15 June 2010

Reviewer: Usha Vatsia

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Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Two factors make search of the HIV/AIDS literature vital to this study: 1) HIV/AIDS is largely a sexually transmitted disease (about 85% globally); and 2) the phenomenally high level of funding directed to fighting the epidemic compared to SRH has resulted in disconnected parallel programming on substantively related technical areas.

2. Search terms related to “child”, used by UNICEF and the Convention of the Rights of the Child to refer to ages up to 18 years of age; “orphans and vulnerable children or OVC”, “marginalized children”, “disabled children”, and “children lacking adequate parental or adult care”, all of whose SRH needs have recently become more apparent.

3. A brief introduction to age-related terminology and need for age-segmented approaches to SRH would be more useful than a footnote (#1, page 3). Add “child” to the definitions.

4. For readers to understand the findings and discussion that follow, the background section should be tightened up to ensure the points are linked and related to a clear statement of purpose for the study, which needs to be added.

5. Explain the utility of and basis for categorizing intervention types and define what “cross cutting methods”, etc. are (p. 5) in conducting this review.

6. Share the conceptual framework used for this study, i.e., how does demand creation improve youth SRH health outcomes? How does utilization relate to demand creation? Does demand always need to be created by change agents? How does youth or community agency for accessing these services figure into this framework?

7. Add review of the November 2005 report on the international consultation on community involvement in youth RH and HIV.
   http://www.fhi.org/NR/rdonlyres/eicxaxt3re7nov33non3ifp2nywjrm6lcsfndny47md3zt3wd6tg6xv

8. Add search of the Interagency Youth Working Group (IYWG) website database http://info.k4health.org/youthwg/ and evidence from technical meetings it has hosted. The IYWG was formed in 2006 after the last global youth reproductive health and HIV/AIDS project ended, and has multiple partners
including WHO/CAH that provide global leadership on reproductive health and HIV/AIDS for young people.

9. Add search of the Better Care Network (BCN) http://www.crin.org/bcn/. Guided by the UNCRC and the Stockholm Declaration, the Better Care Network facilitates active information exchange and collaboration on these issues and advocates for technically sound policy and programmatic action on global, regional, and national levels.

10. Illuminate which of the programs reviewed significantly improved youth SRH outcomes and what role demand creation played in achieving these outcomes. This was not made clear by the end of the paper. Present findings of the strongest evidence first and moderate strength later.


12. The SRH needs of adolescents/youth in the context of marriage are quite different from those who are unmarried. What does the literature say about demand creation for married vs unmarried adolescents/youth /young people and its impact on their health outcomes?

13. Analyze and report age-ranges of the young people for each of the findings reported.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Clarify “this paper” in paragraph 3, page 1 – does “this paper” refer to your paper or some other study? The wording is confusing.

2. p. 8, para 2: “overtime” is this a typo? Clarify sentence “In Togo youth were found more likely to use the youth center than others in the area …”. Who are the others? If they are adults, say “adults” and if available, provide age-ranges.

3. p. 13 para 3 unclear.

4. 15 para 4 Is the last sentence missing a word, i.e., SRH or health. “…research into the potential impact of youth centres and their activities on the uptake of other services available in the community would be useful.” If not, clarify why more research is being suggested.

5. p. 15 Unclear, para 5 seems to have incomplete sentence – “IEC outreach from services themselves shows potential (for increasing demand for services), as do the more comprehensive social marketing and social franchising approaches.” Does that complete the sentence?
6. p. 14, para 3 What is the basis for this statement “…few youth SRH programs measure their impact on service use?” Is that based on this review?

7. p. 14 Last sentence at the end of page – is out of place – shouldn’t this go at the end of paper?

8. p. 16 para 4 clarify last sentence – “the impact of different intervention components on service use to be measured as well as that of them all together”

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**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.