Reviewer’s report

Title: Cross-sectional survey of knowledge of obstetric danger signs among women in rural Madagascar.

Version: 1 Date: 03 Feb 2017

Reviewer: Lisa Thompson

Reviewer's report:

Discussion:

In the study in Tsegedie district, Ethiopia, among 485 women, 49.1% mentioned vaginal bleeding as a danger sign during pregnancy followed by 41.6% of women who mentioned swelling of leg or face.

--Sign, not sing.

Even, if a Cochrane review published in 2007 failed to establish the effectiveness of ANC education for childbirth, the results of the cited studies and our findings demonstrate the challenge of providing high quality information during ANC.

--remove comma between even and if.

However, it failed to improve women's knowledge of danger signs during the other periods. Probably due to the recent conducted campaign the PANDA could not show an effect during pregnancy.

--Probably phrase is an incomplete sentence

As previously noted by Pembe and colleagues, often individual counseling times are short, and influenced by the complex interaction between patient and health care
provider, as well as socio-cultural aspects.

--change to-- As previously noted by Pembe and colleagues, individual counseling times are often short and influenced by the complex interaction between patient and health care provider, as well as other socio-cultural aspects.

Therefore, the challenges in respect to quality ANC should be considered in current and future programs. This plays also an important role for the PANDA mHealth application.

--change to-- The challenges to providing quality ANC should be considered in current and future programs, including the important role that an mHealth application may have on these services.

However, it failed to improve women's knowledge of danger signs during the other periods. Probably due to the recent conducted campaign the PANDA could not show an effect during pregnancy.

--Probably phrase is an incomplete sentence

Lastly, danger signs for the postpartum period were not strengthened sufficiently.

--Assume you mean that knowledge around danger signs, since we don't want to strengthen the danger signs, just the recognition of them should they happen.

Another important point of consideration in respect to education is the question if family planning counseling should be included in the ANC visits in Ambanja, Madagascar.

--change to-- Another important point of consideration is, given the high attendance at the ANC visits, whether family planning counseling should be included in the ANC visits in Ambanja, Madagascar.
Furthermore, we believe, that the women
--remove second comma between believe and that

As the opportunity to time pregnancies has been linked to a reduction in maternal
and child mortality, the inclusion of family planning into ANC has been
recommended. (20, 21)
--change to Timing pregnancies has been linked to a reduction in maternal and child mortality;
therefore, the inclusion of family planning into ANC has been recommended. (20, 21)

Even if in a recent review, the mixed results
--remove comma

Kenya and South Africa, have
--remove comma

Conclusion
Line 37 The the
Line 39 was, not were

Lines 1-3: mHealth experts should consider to improve the educational section of the the
PANDA mHealth intervention and to test it on a larger scale.
--change to improving instead of "to improve"
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

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I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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