Reviewer’s report

Title: “If there are no female nurses to attend to me, I will just go and deliver at home”: a qualitative study in Garissa, Kenya

Version: 0 Date: 20 Apr 2019

Reviewer: Emilia Udofia

Reviewer’s report:

Reviewer's comments:

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Background</td>
<td>Paragraph 2, Line 28-29</td>
<td>Reference to 'dismal improvements' seems too strong a qualification as used here. While the periods between 2003 and 2008/9 may seem to have been nearly stable, the drop to 362 within a similar time frame cannot be overlooked. A suggested approach would be to state that any gains made by reductions from 2008/9 to 2014 need to be sustained.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Background</td>
<td>Paragraph 2, Line 26,</td>
<td>The denominator in these lines should be checked for consistency. The appropriate index is a ratio because the denominator is live births, and not women aged 15-49 years which would have made it a rate. In both lines, it is assumed that it is a rate.</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Paragraph 3, Line 32</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Background</td>
<td>Paragraph 3, Line 46</td>
<td>Delete 'are' between 'pregnancies' and 'abound'.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Results: Gender of service provider</td>
<td>Line 47-50</td>
<td>&quot;Besides Imams, several clan elders, men and women….&quot;: Can the proportion be more quantitatively assessed? E.g. clan elders (2/2), men (5/6) and women (6/8), rather than several? This would give a better impression of the level of consensus within and across groups. If possible and if the data was captured by coding, it should be used.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>As above</td>
<td>Line 52-53</td>
<td>&quot;If there are no female nurses to attend to me, I will just go home and deliver at home&quot; (FGD women (15-29 years), Iftin)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Was the statement made by women in the 15-29-year group or by one woman in this age group? If the statement was made by a single individual as suggested in the statement, then the description in parenthesis should read e.g. (FGD participant, [15-29 years], Iftin) or (Participant A, 15-29 year FGD, Iftin). This applies across other verbatim quotes.

6  7  As above  Lines 10-11  "…Culture and religion will lead women to avoid deliver in the hospitals where male attend to them."

Replace 'deliver' with 'delivery' and 'male with 'males'

7  7  As above  Lines 15-16  "For those who did front breach of religious teaching and culture norm as the concern, believed that women are just shy….."

May be re-phrased:

"Among those who posited that breach of religious teaching and culture norm was a major concern, some believed that women are just shy….."

Words that have been replaced have been highlighted.

8  7  Results: Availability of service providers  Lines 37-38  "…….Three during the day and one during the night due to source base."

Please clarify what is meant by "source base". Since this is about staff, might this refer to 'shortage of human resource'?  

9  7  As above  Line 41  Replace 'and these' in "……and these permeate communities" with 'which'

10 7  As above  Line 49  Delete 's' in "staffs"

11 8  As above  Line 10  Clarify if this is 6am or 6pm.

12 8  As above  Line 14  In the statement: "……I came back in the 6 in………", replace 'in the' with 'at' before '6'

13 8  Results: Autonomy and decision making regarding healthcare  Line 25  In the phrase: "…..service their wife get at health facility…"
seeking

Replace wife with 'wives'; insert 'the' between 'at' and 'health facility'.

14 8 As above Line 35 "….okay by… ", should be "okay with…."

15 8 As above Line 37 "…concerned by male doctors.." should read "….concerned about male doctors…."

16 8 Results: Awareness of the Lines 46-47 "……..It is an important first step in efforts geared towards health care seeking behavior change."

This might read better as:

'It is an important first step in efforts geared towards a change in health care seeking behavior.'

17 9 Results: Line 40 'Services providers' should be replaced with 'service providers'

18 9 As above Line 50-51 "…..and they became rude." This would better read: '……and they become rude.'

19 11 Results: Cost/distance Line 36 A reference is missing.

20 11 Discussion Paragraph 3, Line 43 Delete 'condition'

21 11 As above Paragraph 3, Line 45 "….this result into clients…." Might better read: '……this results in clients….'

22 11 As above Paragraph 3, Line 51 Replace 'delivery' with 'deliver'

23 11 As above Paragraph 4, Line 54 Delete 'a sickly or' so it reads: "….suitable for a woman with pre-existing complications.."
Other comments: Although this study employed mainly qualitative methods, reference is made to quantitative survey under 'Study site and participants' and 'Data analysis'. What were the results from the quantitative survey? Other than the pre-identified themes, were there any results that from the quantitative survey that complemented the qualitative methods? Secondly, the focus groups had age-based categories. In what ways did this influence the outcomes? Were there divergent views on any of the themes or were they similar between the age based groups and between the gender based groups?

General comments: Results are important for maternal and child health programs in the setting and other contextually similar settings. Needs some grammatical edits and minor revision prior to publication.

**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.

Yes

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

Yes

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.
Not relevant to this manuscript

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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