Reviewer’s report

Title: Factors affecting early identification of pregnant women by community health workers in Morogoro, Tanzania

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Reviewer: Chris Agala

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Review comments for Manuscript Number: PUBH-D-19-00146R1

Title: Factors affecting early identification of pregnant women by community health workers in Morogoro, Tanzania

The authors qualitatively explore the attitudes of recently delivered women (RDW) and the experiences of CHWs 93 identifying women early in their pregnancies in Morogoro, Tanzania. Timely antenatal care is important for both the mother and the infant's health outcomes.

Whereas the manuscript is well-written and presented some clarifications are necessary, especially concerning the sample selection criteria and limitations of the study. Specifically:

1. This statement of selection of participants is inadequate: CHWs were selected from a list provided by the district council health management team under the MoHCDGEC, while RDW were identified from CHW registers and were selected based on the number of visits received from a CHW, timing of visit (pre or post-delivery), and distance from nearest health facility. It is impossible to tell how representative this list is based on the methodology described in the text. How did the district council select those on the list? People who tend to go to health facilities more often may be more likely to appear on that list than those who do not. If that was true the list would not be representative of the average CHW or RDW in Morogoro.

2. How did the authors mitigate the limitations of the study?

There are also some editorial revisions which may be necessary, for example use of didn't and abbreviation to begin a sentence.

In conclusions section: "The RDWs perceived need and benefit of the services provided by the CHWs, as well as the amount of trust women have for RDWs," should RDWs not be replaced with CHWs?

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.

Unable to assess

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.

I am able to assess the statistics

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

Acceptable

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