Reviewer's report

Title: An assessment of the health managers and providers response to output-based aid (OBA) voucher program in Kenya: A qualitative study

Version: 2 Date: 12 October 2014

Reviewer: Lina Jaruseviciene

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Major compulsory revisions

1. Is the question posed by authors is well defined

The authors indicate that the study addresses the experiences of service providers and health managers within a reproductive health voucher program in Kenya. However, the research question is not articulated and no objectives are identified in the method section.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?

Collection of data using interviews may well be appropriate given the assumed aim of the study, but in the absence of a broader methodological description it is difficult to determine what other approaches might have been used. Insufficient information is provided about the recruitment of participants as well about the conduct of in-depth interviews. There is a doubt what kind of interviews were applied in this study – in-depth or rather semi-structured. The interview guide is lacking, there are no information whether interview guide was amended during the study process. Information about the professional background of facilitators, their gender and relationships (if any) with study participants could be included. Description of analysis process would benefit from reference to theoretical sensitizing constructs and commentary regarding inductive and deductive analysis.

3. Are the data sound?

I have no reason to doubt the soundness of data.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?

The findings are constructed in satisfactory manner. However rather than provide the think description they are rather “thin”. The full list of themes is not presented. Taking into account the large amount of data collected a table organizing the results could be an advantage.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data.
In the main, yes. I wonder if the authors might reframe their findings to what they learned that is new and what they might see as the constraints in using vouchers approach. The article would gain a lot if the authors would try to share what they have learned that may be of general interest to an international audience.

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?

Limitations of the study should be expanded upon.

**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.