Reviewer’s report

Title: Health System Preparedness for Integration of Mental Health Services in Rural Liberia

Version: 0 Date: 11 Jan 2017

Reviewer: Noor Muhammad

Reviewer's report:

It is commendable that the team / authors had carry out this important research in their effort to improve the delivery of Mental Health Services to the people of Liberia. Nevertheless, in order to improve the clarity of the manuscript, here are few comments:

1. Wondering what was the purpose of having the 2 'control' sites (Grand Kru and River Gee). I felt the comparison was merely in terms of the resources and services and there were no interviews being conducted to represent Grand Kru and River Gee people. I am wondering whether the themes or voices that were obtained from Sinoe people through the FGDs and KII would be the same as the people in Grand Kru or River Gee? Since all the participants for the FGDs and KII were from Sinoe, may I suggest to focus on Sinoe.

2. Please explain more on what was meant by grounded theory that was mentioned in line 17 under data analysis.

3. What is meant by an independent transcriber reviewed and cleaned the data. Please explain what is meant by cleaning and what sort of text being removed? Whether this process will affect the content and context of the data.

4. How did the authors determine the sample size for the FGDs (6) and KII s (22)? This was not clear especially when one used grounded theory as mentioned in the text.

5. There was no mentioned on the people who were involved in data analysis, the process of analysis in order to ensure the credibility and reliability of the findings was not described.

6. The participants for the KII were quite heterogeneous but why only a single person represented family member's voices? How do we ensure whatever being experienced by this person were also experienced by other family members of the people with mental health problem in Sinoe. Similarly, only a single pharmacist, clinician and midwife being interviewed and grouped under health facility. I am just wondering whether these variations may affect the credibility of the data especially when only a single person from an occupation being interviewed.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

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

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:

Acceptable

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