Reviewer’s report

Title: Determinants of facility readiness for integration of family planning with HIV testing and counseling services: evidence from the Tanzania Service Provision Assessment Survey, 2014-2015.

Version: 0 Date: 21 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Ritah Tweheyo

Reviewer’s report:

This is an interesting topic and piece of research, however, poor grammatical errors and reporting reduce comprehension of what the authors are trying to put across. First and foremost, the entire manuscript would benefit from good proofreading and professional language editing. The following are amendments you may want to consider to improve the quality of the paper.

1. Proofread and remove typographical errors throughout

2. All listed references are incorrectly referenced, with for example the string [internet] appearing and not able to differentiate between reports and journal articles. Kindly use a reference management software to help tidy them up or a guide.

3. What are the limitations of this study?

Background:

General comments:

The authors weave between SSA and Tanzania and it is difficult to follow which section refers to what (Tanzania or SSA?) Systematically arranged background starting with a global or SSA picture before narrowing it to Tanzania would provide better format.

It would be helpful to include a brief summary on the levels of health facilities, ownership and type of services provided to better contextualise the Tanzania health system. For example, what is the difference between a clinic, health centre and a dispensary?

Page 4

Lines 12-16, reports UNAIDS 2012 estimates, however from the report, the estimates were 35.3m adults and children living with HIV in SSA. Please cross-check that correct /more recent estimates are given. Also, it would be important to include the date/year of this data estimates.

Lines 26-30, you state that FP is one of the comprehensive strategies for PMTCT. Although this is true in situations of unintended pregnancies, it is not when HIV+ couples desire to have children.
Lines 31-39, what is the SSA average in terms of FP use and fertility rate? This would give us a good comparison to see where on the spectrum Tanzania lies.

Lines 54-58, you state that ...unintended pregnancies remain alarmingly high...where? Tanzania? SSA? Globally? Any supporting data?

Page 5

Lines 11-20, ...had separate funding streams... who was providing this funding and when is this previously? Year?

Lines 51-56 Integration of FP and HTC in Tanzania, who introduced it? This is because you then state that the government responded by revising.... Which implies that it was not the government that introduced this FP-HTC integration? Please provide clarity in the writing. Also Capitalise abbreviations of each first letter e.g FRIFHS.

Page 6

First paragraph continuation from Page 5. What is the importance of single mention of HIV in FP policies and vice versa?

Despite this effort....what effort?

line 11/20 Most of the writing here is unclear as concepts are not clearly described or discussed.. e.g ..line 16/17.

There are a lot of grammatical errors on this page.

Methods

Data: Who commissioned the Tanzania SPA survey? Which body conducted this data, funding? How often is this SPA survey conducted?When exactly was the data collected?

Sampling: How was the sample size reached? What selection was used? Was it random? or was is purposive for example based on reach?

How did you gain access to this data/dataset? I notice you do talk about this briefly at the end, but it is important that it is included in your methods.

The methods section is underdeveloped as it does not give any information on how data was managed. Would be important to answer some questions like: How was the data managed? When you got access to the dataset, what did you do with it? any data cleaning? weighting? I do not seem to find that detail. Was the dataset complete? How was missing data handled?

Measurement of variables
This is a long winded description of the variables which would benefit from being summarised into a table for ease of comprehension and reference. e.g.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Measurement</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Independent variables, Page 10

How frequent are the routine management meetings? monthly? weekly? quarterly?

Lines 14-24. How were facilities scored if the staff was trained in HTC but not FP or vice versa?

What is the disaggregation by health professional cadre? This is especially important in ability to offer FP services like LARCs which would need to be provided by a senior health professional (Medical Doctor, Gynaecologist). Does this training refer to additional on-job training or does it also take into consideration their cadres?

Results:

You report on 1,188 but you earlier stated that ...a sample of 1,200 health facilities participated. Where are the 12 missing and why have they been dropped?

Paragraph 1 of results, would be good to refer to Table 1 in the first sentence as it makes it easier to follow.

Paragraph 2 (lines 53) Among all health facilities in Tanzania. Do you want to say that the 1,188 reported here is the total number of all health facilities in Tanzania?

You mention "Among all..." in all the subsequent paragraphs, but this number is not all the health facilities in Tanzania, as you have first and foremost already dropped 12 from the sample. Please write in reference to the study sample or included studies.

Page 12: Determinants of FRIFHS

It would be good to have a table showing the regressions and p-values before modelling to help reader make quick reference (crude Odds ratios and their p-values), preferably in standard table of reporting.

Table 2 legend says n and % do not add up to 1,188 and 100. Why wasn't weighting or data cleaning conducted to take care of this? There are several ways to handle this to ensure correct reference (100%).

Discussion:

Page 13, Line 33/34 you say....probably the first. Is it the first study or not? Say what it is exactly.
Reference to study in Uganda, but do not give the % readiness found in the Uganda study to give an immediate comparison.

You keep mentioning "public health facilities owned by the government". Aren't all public health facilities owned by government- which makes them public?

Also you state (lines 26/27) quality care of services...Did you measure quality in this study? How is integration equivalent to quality? what is the measure of quality?

The argument in lines 31-35. Could integration be a factor of government policy, such that public facilities are mandated to provide this and not private facilities? Also what does the level of investment in private health facility business play in the number and quality of services they are able to provide? Does the government offer subsidies? If not, could the fact that these services are free in government facilities reduce demand in the private sector and therefore not a worthwhile investment?

Lines 6/7, again you mention quality of services, how did you measure quality? Could regular meetings instead be another form of monitoring that staff are doing their job?

You refer to other studies, but do not say what these studies found and readers are not able to make an immediate comparison with this current study. E.g Kenya study (ref 54), Uganda study (ref 58), etc.

Can you discuss the cadre of health professionals and effect on being able to deliver FP or other services without need for additional training for example?

Typing and grammatical errors throughout the document that need to be addressed.

Abbreviated words should be in Capital letter words. e.g World Health Organisation and not World health organisation. Please correct all these in your document and on this list.

You state that informed consent was requested.....was this for this secondary data analysis or for the original study? This needs to be clear and preferably reported under methods.

Did you generate datasets or you used already available dataset?

References:
All references need to be revised into a proper format and not generic referencing.

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

**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.

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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