Author’s response to reviews

Title: "Ways and channels for voice regarding perceptions of maternal health care services within the communities of the Makamba and Kayanza provinces in the Republic of Burundi: An exploratory study"

Authors:

Prosper Niyongabo (niyopro@yahoo.fr)
Renate Douwes (renate.douwes@hotmail.com)
Frederic Irambona (irambonafrdric@yahoo.fr)
Jimmy Mategeko (jimmy.mategeko@co.care.org)
Georges Nsengiyumva (georges.nsengiyumva@gmail.com)
Marjolein Dieleman (m.dieleman@kit.nl)
Tjard De Cock Buning (tjard.de.cockbuning@vu.nl)

Version: 1 Date: 22 Jul 2016

Author’s response to reviews:

NIYONGABO Prosper
Staff of The National Institute for Public Health
Of BURUNDI
PhD student at VU University of Amsterdam

To the Board of reviewers of the journal

“BMC Health Services Research ”

Subject: Resubmission of an article for review
Dear Sirs reviewers,

Good morning. My name is Prosper NIYONGABO, the first author of the article. I am a PhD student at Vrije universiteit of Amsterdam where I am carrying out a research on using social accountability mechanisms to enhance the performance of maternal health services in Burundi. Burundi is a post conflict country struggling to rebuild its health system that was destroyed by 13 years of civil war. Maternal health services were among the most hit health services by the war and maternal health is poorly established in Burundi as a direct consequence of that situation. Efforts were made by the government to strengthen those services. Despite these efforts, the utilization of maternal health services remains low. There is hence a need to improve utilization of those services as a way of improving maternal health. One option to do so is to strengthen community’s voice particularly women’s voice by the use of social accountability mechanisms.

In this line, Vrije University and the Royal Tropical Institute of Amsterdam together with the National Institute for Public health of Burundi are carrying out a four year research on using social accountability mechanisms to improve the performance of maternal health services. The key assumption is that social accountability by giving voice to community will make maternal health services more responsive to community needs and hence more utilized by women.

This research will use Interactive Learning and Action as methodology and realistic evaluation to discuss results of the research.

A situational analysis was carried out in two provinces of Burundi: Kayanza and Makamba. A scientific article presenting aspects regarding community’s voice as part of the situational analysis was submitted to BMC health services research. Queries were raised by reviewers and a new version addressing them made. We are resubmitting the new version again to BMC health services research for comments and eventually publication.

Respectfully

NIYONGABO  Prosper