Reviewer’s report

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"

Version: 3 Date: 12 Nov 2017

Reviewer: Susan Rifkin

Reviewer's report:

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I think most of my concerns are covered in the revision. However, I think some are poorly addressed due to the unclarity of the language. I am going to make some editorial corrections which I don't usually do in my comments. However for the conclusion of this paper, which suggests using both community mobilization and community empowerment strategies I think it essentially to clarify these strategies for the reader. Here are the sections that I think need to be revised and my suggestions for the clarification.

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It is found most of the time in situations when a health goal fixed by external actors like health professionals need the involvement of the community to get achieved. From what was stated above, Community participation appears as an umbrella term encompassing community empowerment and community mobilization.

Suggested Revision.

There has been an increasing recognition particularly in the health field that in order for interventions to be sustainable it is necessary to have community support. For this reason the interest in community participation has been increasing. The term "community participation" has been used as an umbrella term that includes community empowerment and community mobilization.
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Besides Community mobilization, community empowerment using PLA, can also be organized for community voice promotion. In fact, PLA are collaborative approaches to research that involves all relevant partners on an equal level of consideration [47]. They involve building trustful and respectful, honest and transparent facilitation through dialogue and discussions.

Suggested Revision

In addition to community mobilization, community empowerment is another approach that can contribute to the promotion of community voice. PLA (Participatory Learning and Action) focuses on building a partnership between all groups involved in a program to improve health by including intended beneficiaries in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the intervention [47]. Successful PLA depends on building trust and respect among all partners through a facilitated dialogue and discussions.

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

Yes

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Yes

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Not relevant to this manuscript

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

Needs some language corrections before being published
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