Reviewer’s report

Title: Community Mobilization and Maternal Care of Women Living With HIV in poor settings: The case of Mfuwe, Zambia

Version: 1 Date: 23 Jun 2017

Reviewer: Basile Keugoung

Reviewer's report:

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Abstract

I suggest to write:

Line 14: … by using Mfuwe, a Zambian rural health district.

Methods

Setting and target population

There is a poor description of the setting and the strategies you used to select 37 participants.

I guess a district such as Mfuwe represents a specific context but is also complex. Population of the districts, number of health areas? Where did your participants come from? The capital city of the district? Where they living in the same village? Did they work for the two project? If so for how long?

Did they represent the Mfuwe women living with HIV?

Ethical approval

I proposed this to shorten the paragraph:

We obtained ethical clearance from the National Health Research Authority of Zambia. Before Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), we ensured that informed consent was sort from the participants, and participants were clearly informed of their right to discontinue their participation in the interview at any point.
Data collection methods

- Delete sentence 46: repetition
- Rephrase the paragraph, too much repetition

Three FGD were conducted. The first FGD focused on peer support and had a total of 13 HIV positive women. The second FGD on utilization of indigenous resources had 13 participants and the last one on community involvement had 11 participants.

Guide for interviews

- Line 8: I propose: All FGDs lasted between 90 to 100 minutes.

Analysis

- Line 27: After transcribing and translating

Did the FGDs transcribe in local language then translated into English? Or Did they been listened in local language, translated in English and transcribed? You should explain

- Sentence 32 to 38: the framework …. 9, p.5. should be transferred to the section 'Theoretical framework'.

Results

Use of indigenous resources

The only indigenous resources mentioned in the results are TBAs.

I presume that in Mfume there are also, traditional healers. Do traditional healers not involve in health care in that district? What role for community health workers (or community health relays)? in other countries the HIV/program recruits local lay persons for sensitization, drugs refill and patients follow up or tracing of defaulters. Were these resources been mentioned during FGDs?
Discussion

I suggest to create Sub-section in the Discussion.

This will help the authors to clearly organize their ideas as there are lot of repetitions. Some results are repeated in this section. For example, the following paragraph (page 12 Line 16 to 24) is mostly related to the Results Section and not to the Discussion:

Further, locals worked with professional health workers to establish "waiting shelters" close to health facilities as a way of mitigating shortages of beds in health centers. These shelters were jointly run by local volunteers and professionals to ensure continuous provision of care to HIV positive women before and after childbirth by providing them with an array of support services ranging from psychological, nutritional and logistical support. The villagers intimated that the foregoing two initiatives had significant local-buy-in and were considered highly useful by the locals.

There are many others paragraphs that should be rather in the results section so that the discussion become focused.

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

Yes

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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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