Reviewer’s report

Title: Profiling the best-performing community medicine distributors for mass drug administration: a comprehensive, data-driven analysis of treatment for schistosomiasis, lymphatic filariasis, and soil-transmitted helminths in Uganda

Version: 0 Date: 21 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Dziedzom Komi de Souza

Reviewer's report:

This paper addresses factors that are necessary in selecting community medicine distributors, in order to achieve maximum impact in Uganda. The paper is very well written and acceptable for publication. There are however some few comments that could help improve the quality and discussion of the findings.

COMMENTS:

Page 3, line 7: Correct hepatosplenomegaly

Page 3, line 10: Delete "For Example".

Page 3, line 15: Not sure what the authors mean by "clinically untrained". Please rephrase

Page 4, line 6: "Routine MDA proceeded undisturbed for one month …" The previous sentence suggests MDA took place over 2 weeks (1 week for praziquantel and 1 week for albendazole and ivermectin). So, is it one month or two weeks? If two weeks there will be the need to correct this is other parts of the manuscript.

Statistics: While I am unable to fully assess the statistics in this paper, would the results of the best performing CMDs have been any different if the data was compared between CMDs who met the WHO targets for schistosomiasis and STHs (≥75%), lymphatic filariasis (≥65%), and CMDs who did not meet the target?

It would also have been good to present (from the point of view of the CMDs) challenges that prevent them from achieving the targets, and how best performing CMDs resolved the challenges.
Page 7, line 17: How well was the "recipient's willingness to ingest medicines" assessed? This also links to discussions in lines 40-43. If praziquantel has most side effects, administering it first may impact the willingness of individuals to swallow subsequent drugs. Would administering albendazole and ivermectin first, followed by praziquantel improve the treatment rates?

Page 7, Lines 45 to 54. I think there are two issues here that need to be addressed.

1. It would have been good to assess the number of people of the opposite sex treated by CMDs.

2. Is it possible that female CMDs have many other responsibilities (e.g. attending to children and family), and thus have less time to treat as many people as male CMDs? The cultural context may be needed to address this.
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.

Unable to assess

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.

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