Reviewer’s report

Title: The effect of a community health worker intervention on public satisfaction: evidence from an unregistered outcome in a cluster-randomized controlled trial in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Version: 1 Date: 29 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Onyema Ajuebor

Reviewer’s report:

Dear authors,

Thank you for your review and clarifications. They have substantially improved the paper though more clarity is needed to bring the conclusion home to the reader.

Note that in the abstract and some sections of the paper, you still refer occasionally to ‘public sector’ health system. Please check.

Having made it clear that the target group was pregnant women or recently delivered women, and bearing in mind the kind of health services they would require, it could be implicitly interpreted before the onset of the study that the intervention group would express better satisfaction with the CHWs and the public system than the control group. If possible, it will be great to provide extra clarity between the control and the intervention by providing details (in terms of the kind of services that each group received) of the patient journey in figure 1. It is also not immediately clear whether you are trying to assess the impact that CHWs trained additionally on ANC and PMTCT have on public satisfaction compared to those untrained? In clarifying these throughout the paper, the aim and the derivation of the conclusion of the study can then be much clearer to the reader.

Finally, I would suggest adding to the study conclusion that the application of the study findings by policy-makers and implementers should be done in the light of contextual health systems and populations needs and priorities. See: WHO guideline on health policy and system support to optimize community health worker programmes. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2018.

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