Reviewer’s report

Title: Stakeholders’ experiences with the Evidence Aid website to support ‘real-time’ use of research evidence to inform decision-making in crisis zones: A user testing study

Version: 0 Date: 22 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Khanuengnij Yueayai

Reviewer's report:

General comments and minor changes

1. The first thing, the conclusion doesn't match the objectives in abstract. According to the objective of the abstract it states, "The objective of this study is to explore decision-makers' views of Evidence Aid, contributing further to our understanding of the use of research evidence in decision-making in crisis zones." So, the conclusion should answer the objective but as shown in the abstract it states, "This is the first study to specifically focus on an evidence website for crisis zones, elaborated on the information needs of decision-makers, and put forward specific suggestions about how to improve evidence websites.", which may not relate to the objective.

2. About methods, could you please explain about study population and normal situation of searching research evidence among your study population?

• Study population, according to you was comprised of five groups. Please provide total population size before making a two-stage sampling such as how many participants were listed in the first stage of recruitment in each group (senior decision-makers, field managers, healthcare providers, advisors and analysts and researchers) and how many of them were selected in the second stage following your criteria. A clearer picture of the selection process will better qualify your statement, "we interviewed a large number and diverse range of people for a study of this type".

i. It might be clearer if you specify gender percentages of the study population. If not readers may question why females are more represented (20/31) in this study. Do females prefer the Evidence Aid? Do females prefer to join the study? Males prefer the other evidence base? Are males less interested to join the study? Even after study show there was no difference in responses across gender.

• It's unclear in searching research evidence among your study population, if most of participants never used the Evidence Aid before (22/31). Readers may have a question about how many people of your target population (before you selected) know of Evidence Aid? What did they commonly use prior to search their reference?

i. Please provide details of that source and the means to adapt to improved Evidence Aid.
In appendix1., you also pose the question, "Did you use any other evidence websites before" (no.9) and, "if YES, could you please state which ones?" (no.10). Those answers are vital because if they have a common source, a recommendation should be made to explore the strength of that source and its adaptability to improve Evidence Aid.

3. Some reference papers are quite old, reference no. 17, 27, 28)

**Level of interest**

Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English**

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Needs some language corrections before being published

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