Reviewer's report

Title: Understanding sexual and reproductive health needs of adolescents: Evidence from a formative evaluation in Wakiso district, Uganda

Version: 1 Date: 13 July 2014

Reviewer: Kelly Kuo

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Major compulsory revisions:
The Introduction is too broad and should be significantly shortened; in addition, the focus of this section is unclear apart from fact that adolescent reproductive health is important and encompasses a broad variety of issues ranging from teenage pregnancy, contraception, unsafe abortion, sexual violence, inadequate education, and inadequate resources in Uganda, as well as in many other African countries. The lack of clinics that cater to adolescents is specifically mentioned, although it is unclear as to what constitutes “adolescent-friendly”.

In the Methods section: the purpose of the focus groups was to broadly solicit adolescents’ thoughts and attitudes re: reproductive health and available resources. No information is provided on # of participants involved or how subjects were recruited. Unclear as to reason for division between adolescents in school and those out of school, particularly since lack of reproductive health education for both groups is apparent, unless there are other differences not apparent to someone unfamiliar with Ugandan communities.

Results: Authors identify several main areas of focus. Per Introduction there already appears to be data re: limited sexual and reproductive health services for adolescents, with few “adolescent-friendly” facilities; the perceived need to improve existing clinics; and already identified areas of potential focus. The results from the focus groups appear to confirm and reiterate the above statements, although what is interesting is the anecdotes, with descriptions of the clinics and individuals’ reasoning for incomplete utilization or non-utilization of available resources. Although gender violence specifically identified, very little elaboration is provided. Again, although qualitative, some statistics would be nice.

Minor essential revisions:
1. the word "evidence" in the title should be non-capitalized
2. methods section of abstract- "moderator" should be non-capitalized
3. first sentence of Results section in abstract contains incorrect use of semicolon
4. methods section, 3rd paragraph - change "run" to "ran"
5. methods section, last paragraph - "interviews" should be non-capitalized
**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests