Reviewer’s report

Title: Applying the Results Based Management framework to the CERCA multi-component project in adolescent sexual and reproductive health: a retrospective analysis

Version: 0 Date: 16 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Hellen Barsosio

Reviewer’s report:

Title of manuscript:

Applying the Results Based Management framework to the CERCA multi-component project in sexual and reproductive health care: a retrospective analysis

Reviewer's Comments:

16th August, 2017

General overview

* Enjoyable paper to read through. Very important piece of work. The background and discussions are well written and well argued. Just a few sentences need to be reframed, but well done.

* The abstract loses the audience a bit (see comments below).

* Methods and results needs to some revisions

Abstract

Background: Diving into CERCA at the outset loses the audience. It also fails to capture why the audience should care about it.

* Reading through the body of the text, I hope if I understood correctly that the thrust of your message leans towards three things: 1) SRH problems such as adolescent pregnancy are complex and multifactorial, 2) Multi-faceted interventions are needed to address these complex multifactorial SRH problems, 3) But we need to know if these interventions work by evaluating their impact. Various impact evaluation methods exist- but your paper proposes RBM framework as best the framework with which to evaluate the impact such complex interventions- in this case using CERCA as your case study.

* If the above is true, just as a suggestion, then the background within the abstract at the outset would benefit from a few lines highlighting:
A line framing the problems SRH such as adolescent pregnancy as complex & multifactorial, which by their nature require multifaceted interventions? That evaluating the impact of such interventions is important (why? - cost, scalability etc). We propose RBM as the best approach using CERCA as a case study. CERCA was. (introduce CERCA here)…..

Plain English summary

* See highlights and comments within the body of the text.

Background

* Beautifully written
* See highlights and comments within the body of the text.

Methods & Results

General comments:

* The method section is a bit thin on the list of documents and data sources. Do you have a table of all the documents and data sources reviewed (by country and category)? Which part of analysis used these documents?

* Within all the sub-sections of the results section, would it be possible to mention the data sources/documents from the outset? Eg number reviewed, what you found and report that in actual numbers?

* What is meant to be saved for the discussion section keeps coming up within the results section. The results sections needs to 'clear cut and cold' - e.g. these are the documents we reviewed, this is what we found, this is what we could not find/ascertain?

* Do you have quotes from meeting minutes that you could add for instance? Anything else to support statements made in your findings?

* See highlights and comments within the body of the text.

Discussion

* Well written. Need to rearrange a few paragraphs and reframe a few sentences
* See highlights and comments within the body of the text.

Level of interest

Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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