Reviewer’s report

Title: A cross-sectional mixed-methods study of sexual and reproductive health knowledge, experiences and access to services among refugee adolescent girls in the Nakivale refugee settlement, Uganda

Version: 0 Date: 04 Feb 2019

Reviewer: Sonjelle Shilton

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for this good work. Compiling more information on the lived experience of displaced adolescents in relation to SRH is important.

There are a few minor changes I would recommend. The first being more description of the methodology of the qualitative analysis, it is stated that thematic analysis was used, was inductive or deductive coding used? Where the results interpreted within an existing/constructed framework? If so please describe. What were the themes used for the thematic analysis, my reading of this is that the themes were SRH knowledge, menstrual hygiene and commodities, sources of information of SRH information sexual experiences and forced intercourse and FGM, but it is not clear if those really where the themes or if the paper is structured inline with the structure of how the surveys where structured. Where the parents/care-givers present for the interviews? Did the research team feel that saturation was reached in the course of the IDIs? Any trends in perceptions that varied among subgroup that emerged from the IDIs?

In general would recommend that the results are presented through the lens of perception and self-reporting of the participants, example is: Line 303, would recommend to phrase "70% of girls report no using a condom" since this information is from participants self report it cannot be stated that 70% of girls did not use a condom (perhaps other girls also did not use a condom but did not feel comfortable disclosing this information”. Also for table 4 sexual experiences could consider to rephrase along the lines of "reported sexual experiences"

The quote in line 202 could be reconsidered, that to me reads as a girl who knows that HIV is acquired from sexual activity and she could be indirectly saying this, along the lines of if you go out a night, you could engage in sexual activity, and thus put oneself at risk for acquiring HIV. Would consider to select a different quote that more clearly shows a misconception about HIV acquisition.

The quote starting in line 208 says nothing about condom use, where are in the preceding line the content of the statement seems to be about girls knowing the most well-know method of prevention was condom use, would consider to select a quote that is more explicit about condom usage.

Section on Female genital mutilation. Line 354 states that FGM was prevalent in this population at 10%, what is the standard measure of prevalence of FGM, i.e. what is considered high or low
prevalence? Is the 10% found in this cohort high or low prevalence based on standard measures? It would be interesting to know of Somali and Congolese girls which percentage had experienced FMG (so 10% over entire sample, but wat % in Somali subset and which % in Congolese subset?) Was there any difference accounting for age and % who had undergone FGM?

**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

**Declaration of competing interests**
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments
which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal