Reviewer’s report

Title: Stakeholders' perceptions on factors influencing male involvement in prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV services in Blantyre, Malawi

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Reviewer: Anthony Mbonye

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General Comments:

Overall, the manuscript is well written. However the major flaw is that the methods are not well defined, the reason why only 4 FGDs and 11 KIs were conducted is not given. These samples seem to be based on self-selected women attending health facilities or those who live near health facilities. This introduces a potential of bias that affects the conclusions.

Methods

The research question was not stated clearly?

What was the hypothesis (s)?

It is stated that the FGDS and KIs were conveniently sampled, what was the criteria?

Given that only 4 FGDs and 11 KIs were considered in the sample, was saturation ever reached?

Discussion

Many times this section repeats the results and the interpretation not based on the findings. How does this study advance our knowledge on PMTCT? The factors mentioned are well cited in the previous studies in Malawi and elsewhere.

There is no discussion of the limitations of the methods used.

Conclusion:

Well written, the last sentence…….. barriers and facilitators may vary with different individuals. This is not backed by data.

Overall comment:

Given the above comments, the findings could be more targeted to a local audience and possibly used to design an intervention to promote PMTC in Malawi.