Reviewer’s report

Title: Prevalence and pattern of HIV-related malnutrition among women in sub-Saharan Africa: a meta-analysis of demographic health surveys

Version: 3 Date: 9 May 2008

Reviewer: Haroon Saloojee

Reviewer’s report:

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Grammar requires attention throughout text.
2. Tense requirements not consistently met, and require correction.
3. Background is somewhat long-winded and would benefit from copy-editing.
4. The Reference section is still fraught with errors- all the mistakes in the previous draft have not been corrected. Make this section Vancouver-compliant.
5. “For this study, prevalence of HIV-related malnutrition among women was defined as proportion of HIV seropositive women with body mass index (BMI) less than 18.5”. – provide a reference
6. “Place of residence was defined as rural or urban”- based on what definition(s)?
7. Table 2 – annual growth rate – insert % in first row.
8. “These surveys have important limitation in term of sample size of HIV-positive women, thus inferences have been limited by a lack of precision” Don’t understand this.
9. “Even more evident is the pattern of decreasing proportion of low body weight among HIV positive women with increasing wealth index” and “Due to lack of appropriate data on dietary intake and food or calorie consumption, low body weight among HIV positive women was used as proxy for malnutrition.” – low body weight is not synonymous with BMI (weight/height squared) and cannot be used interchangeably.

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: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests