Reviewer's report

Title: Do the socioeconomic impacts of antiretroviral therapy vary by gender? A longitudinal study of Kenyan agricultural worker employment outcomes

Version: 3 Date: 11 March 2009

Reviewer: Alan Whiteside

Reviewer's report:

I really enjoyed this paper. It is almost ready for publication in my opinion. I would suggest the following minor points be given attention.

1. It could be read through and edited by a professional editor, at the moment the writing is clumsy and does not flow. For example on page 12 '... from month 6 on ART no significant differences were observed after month 5 on ART...' .This is one of the most glaring examples and I believe a good edit by someone with fresh eyes would make the whole paper flow better. Obviously this is not essential but will make the difference between a great paper and an outstanding paper.

2. Perhaps say a little more about the HIV/AIDS treatment programme introduced (page 6). Is this subsidising what the plantation was offering? At the moment it is too much 'with one leap he was free'.

3. Page 15 the conclusion repeats too much of what was said earlier.

4. Page 15 the conclusion 'who may well have HIV-positive children or spouses to care for', change that to might or revisit the argument, there is a great deal of data on discordant couples now which causes me to question the 'may'

Page 16 the most striking point in the paper 'some 50% would likely have died by the end of the period of observation'. This is so important say it more and say it earlier.

Page 17 the very last sentence is said very boldly and i don't think there is evidence for it.

Generally excellent and thought provoking

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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