Reviewer's report

**Title:** Scaling up HIV counselling and testing for pregnant women to the community level: experiences from a community-based study in Northern Vietnam

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 21 December 2009

**Reviewer:** Karin Minnie

**Reviewer's report:**

Major compulsory revisions

1. Logic - Problem not clear from background (also abstract)as previous policy only stated in first sentence of fourth paragraph of discussion. This must be explained earlier in the abstract and background. The first sentence, fourth paragraph of Background also states that expansion of service provision is recent, but its not clear from what is was expanded.

2. Logic - Abstract - last sentence of Results: Increased pre-test and post-test counselling not necessarily an indication of the QUALITY of HIV counselling and testing.

3. Language - First sentence, second paragraph of Background: ..... where prevelence of 5-37% has been reported.

4. Logic - Nineth sentence, second paragraph of Background: However, there is a lack of studies examining health facilities (HF)at different evels of the health care system as an important predictor for the early uptake of HCT among pregnant women. What about the health facilities is an predictor for early uptake and need to be investigated?

5. Third sentence of Data analysis: change martial to marital.

6. Last sentence under Uptake of testing during pregnancy under Results: change no of children to number of children.

7. Fifth sentence, third paragraph under Discussion: 'One of' the advantages of a community-based design is ....

8. Third sentence, fourth paragraph under Discussion: .... have documented that 85% of pregnant 'women' were tested late ...

Discretionary Revisions

9. Language - .... all levels of health facility / at different levels of health facility. Change to .... all levels of health facilities / at different levels of health facilities. Change right through document.

10. Third sentences - However, that strategy will only be effective .... Change to However, this strategy will only be effective ....
11. Fourth sentence - include abbreviation (PMTCT) after first use of term 'Prevention of Mother to Child transmission'

12. First sentence, second paragraph under Discussion: The study population comprised 'of' women from ..... 

**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.