Reviewer's report

Title: Listening to health workers: lessons from Eastern Uganda for strengthening the programme for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV

Version: 2 Date: 5 October 2011

Reviewer: Harriet Nuwagaba-Biribonwoha

Reviewer's report:

Discretionary revisions
1. Background: para 1: sentence 3 and 4 (about health facilities) could be removed
2. Study area: Need an introduction sentence as to why you describe 3/10 health facilities- something like 3 of these health facilities had unique qualities... or whatever applies. Again would condense to 1-2 paragraphs, some of the material is in the table and repeated here e.g. year started services for TASO
3. Length: >10 pages of results and >5 pages of the discussion is still too much material for readers, consider condensing

Minor essential revisions
4. Results: Sentence 2- In Uganda... sounds like a discussion point. Just present what was found with the 24HCW in the study – how many doubled as counselors?
5. Table 1: add columns for funding support and any data indicating patient volume e.g. number of new ANC attendees per month or year
6. Table 2: typos in variable (3) , add a variable for clinic – Maybe, TASO, Mbale Hospital, and ‘other health centres’. Or you could add this variable to table 1 (number of HCW).

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests