Reviewer’s report

Title: Equity in HIV testing: evidence from a cross-sectional study in ten Southern African countries

Version: 4 Date: 12 August 2010

Reviewer: Stefan Baral

Reviewer’s report:

I want to congratulate the authors on a much improved manuscript. Given the importance of the conclusions and the magnitude of the work, it was vital to include a biostatistician to ensure validity.

While I am not a biostatistician, I still believe non-responder bias to be significant here. Given the large number of non-responders, different internal associations may have been observed if the non-responders were fundamentally different people in some way other than choosing not to respond to this study. If the biostatistician has cleared the validity of the statement "since our major conclusions are based not on absolute frequencies among the responders, but rather on internal associations within the responding group, the effect of any non-responder bias is likely to be small", I will defer to this.

Thanks for having me involved in this review.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests