Reviewer's report

Title: Can HIV testing campaigns expand access and protect individual rights? Provider and client perspectives on the ethics of campaigns ethics in Burkina Faso

Version: 2 Date: 12 June 2014

Reviewer: Edwinah Atusingwize

Reviewer's report:

Generally, all the comments are: Minor Essential Revisions. They are shown here below:

1. In the ABSTRACT
   1. A-In the background section.....'Counselling and testing' instead of testing and counselling. This is because counselling comes before testing in real practice
   'we investigate’ instead of ‘we investigates’
   B-In the METHODS:
   ‘In-depth individual interviews and focus group discussions’ instead of ‘In-depth individual and focus groups’
   C-In the RESULTS
   -'may not instead of ‘do not’
   -On the 5Cs, I think the order should be “Consent, counselling, confidentiality, correct test results, connection to prevention, care and treatment”. This is the order in most of the WHO documents, and while sometimes it may read or seem to mean the same, it could as well be different

   You seem to mean that ‘testing accessibility and attractiveness during campaigns’ and ‘the accessibility of testing and the attractiveness of campaigns’ are the same. These could be different and should not be used interchangeably. In the first instance, you are saying that both accessibility and attractiveness are characteristics of testing during campaigns. In the second one, accessibility is only for testing and attractiveness is only for campaigns, so please check out what you intended to mean, and this applies throughout the other parts of the text.

   D-In conclusion

   “HIV testing” instead of ‘HIV testing and counselling’ campaign. Is ‘HIV testing campaign’ the same as ‘HIV testing and counselling campaign’?
‘should consider accessibility and propose ways how’ instead of ‘anticipate how’
‘respond to new ethical issues’ instead of ‘new issues’. What issues do you mean? I think they are ethical issues

2. MAIN TEXT

A-Introduction

‘the 3Cs: Consent comes before confidentiality. Please check on the consistence of these 5Cs and 3cs in other standard documents, and if the order may affect their meaning

You say; ‘These requirements were…”. You seem to mean that the components and requirements are the same. Please check if this is what you mean.

The sentences starting with: In southern and Eastern Africa…..and ending with:...and the 3Cs became 5Cs, should be referenced. There should be references to this important information

The sentence that starts with: ‘An analysis of the indicators’ and ending with ‘VCT’ seems to be too long and may confuse some readers. When a sentences is too long, it may look ambiguous even when it is not

‘Scale up routine PITC’ is PITC different from the PICT that is previously mentioned in the sentences starting with: The PICT?

In the same line you say: ‘and other strategies, but how. These looks like an incomplete sentence. You may need to add something after ‘how’

‘Indicates high acceptance, greater trust…..and high acceptability of couple testing’ Is this acceptance the same as acceptability or they carry different meanings. Please check what you refer to.

‘High numbers of testers results in.’ Who are testers? And still this sentences that starts with: ‘The aim’ looks too long

In the sentences that starts with: ‘They organised several annual campaigns’, you may like to start it with:’ ‘Several annual campaigns' were organised directed at…’

‘Those who requested’ or ‘those who request’? Please check the English tenses

In the same line, there is also need for a reference for this information…including the sentences ending with: counselling on the same day

In the paragraph of: Between 2006 and 2010; ‘Voluntary tests were conducted’ instead of ‘Voluntary tests conducted’

The sentences that begins with: ‘One quarter of HIV’ please check its English and how it fits here
‘Only 1 adult in 4’ what is this 4? and 1 in 10 what?

Also, you may like to put this as: ‘98867 people taking an HIV test of which 1866 were diagnosed HIV-positive’

B-MATERIALS AND METHODS

You talk about: Users and non-users, and then about clients. Are users the same as clients? And non-users the same as non-clients? This applies to the rest of the text/manuscript.

‘two FGDs were held..’ instead of ‘two were held’. What was held?

‘two with people who were tested’ instead of ‘two with people tested’

You only give details for the Focus group discussions and Key informant interviews. Where are the details for the in-depth interviews with clients? You did not do this?

And how many people were in each focus group discussions? You may need to state this.

When you say ‘Moaga and French’ you may need to tell the reader what Moaga is. Is this a local language? You may need to say this

‘Cleaned and classified into word files or in Dedoose’. What exactly did you use? Word files or Dedoose’?

This sentences starting with: ‘Providers, aged 33 to 45’ seem to be reporting on results and yet this is a material and method section. In the same line, you say that these data compliments….and this looks like discussion of results in a wrong place

C-RESULTS SECTION

Why campaigns are attractive

In the first paragraph: ‘both providers and campaign-users’. Are users the same as clients or testers that are previously referred to? This applies to the whole text

These positive perceptions are shared by ‘those tested’: You may need to put ‘those that were tested’ and this may apply through the other related text

In the paragraph that begins with: Users’ testimonies, there is: ‘convince a new tester by’. Do you mean ‘new user’?

In the paragraph starting with several providers (In the sentence beginning with): A client tested during a campaign: You may want to start it with: Another client emphasised….

‘Some users also mention that ‘requesting for and HIV..’Instead of requesting an
HIV. This too applies through the whole text

Please check what you mean by: Clients, new users, new testers, some users, campaign users

Quality of care and individual autonomy

On providers and Clients perspectives on testing conditions during campaigns

-In the sentence beginning with: ‘Providers had to improvise ways to procure extra devices’. Are ‘devices’ the same as the ‘test kits’ or they mean the same here

‘ after the official closing time, to meet the high demand’ You may not need a comma after ‘closing time’

And in the very sentence, you say that on one site, clients complained that after getting counselling, they were asked to return the next day for testing. You may like to say: ‘they were asked to return for testing the next day of the campaign.

However, no client mentioned having been turned away during the campaign.

in the paragraph; Providers used different strategies: You may like to say that:

‘providers also explained that’ instead of ‘They also explained that’. ‘….and encouraged people to come back later’. When exactly? Do you mean after the campaign or later during the campaign?

And you may not need this sentence starting with: ‘And indeed, during the 2008’. I don’t understand what it is means here following that result.

And in the following paragraph starting: There were some situations’, the sentence that starts with: ‘Normally’ seems to be a discussion point at an earlier point, and if it should be retained here, then you may need a reference for such information.

Also in the sentence that starts with: Such interruptions suggest that perhaps they’. You may like to put’ people’ instead of ‘they’

Then the sentence that begins with: Each of these, you may like to say that: Each of these steps presents a point at which…'

Counselling and Consent

In the first paragraph, the sentence that starts with: ‘This may happen’ I think it may not be necessary, because after all you are mentioning that it is s situation not specific to campaigns.

In the paragraph starting with: ‘providers also describe how they optimise..’ you mention that ‘ since many have not been exposed to HIV risk’ . Either you have a risk or you are at a risk, but you are not exposed to a risk

In the next paragraph: You may need to clarify on the first sentence beginning
with: Despite the high demand. It seems not very clear.

And in the sentence that begins with: ‘Other providers make extra’, you may need to revise the sentences and shorten them instead of using commas which make them long and may be unclear. This applies to the rest of the text. Short sentences are always better and clear.

Confidentiality

In the first paragraph, the next sentences start:’ They also’: Who do you mean?

You may wasn’t to say that: ‘Providers also’

In the paragraph beginning: ‘Clients generally appreciate’ you may want to start the next sentence with: ‘However, still clients express’

In the sentence that begins with: ‘Some (Mostly non-users), you may need to drop the ‘some’ at the beginning and or make it: some clients (mostly-non-users)’

ACCESSIBILITY VS INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS

In the first paragraph: In the sentence that begins with ‘Providers interpret’, you may want to say that ‘those who may not use health services’ instead of ‘those who do not use’

In the paragraph beginning: ‘Many clients also seem to consider’, PLHIV (this should have been put in full earlier). Generally, abbreviations should be put in full the first time they are mentioned/used.

In the same paragraph, sentences starting with: ‘This perception is consistent’ and then ‘The belief that everybody needs..’seem to be a discussion point. And yet, this is a result section

In the next paragraph beginning with: ‘Campaigns are thought to protect’, the sentence beginning with: ‘this evolution corresponds to’ seems to be a discussion point too. Remember this is a results section

Discussion

In the first paragraph, the sentence starting with: ‘Providers, clients tested during’, you say that ... ‘and even clients who have not been tested..’. One may ask; not tested from where, campaigns or outside campaigns? Please clarify.

And in the very sentence, ‘because’ is used two times and makes the meaning a little bit unclear.

Again you may like to make some sentences shorter.

In the sentence that begins with: ‘This positive perception off campaigns: You say.. ‘Malawi, or Gabon. Do you mean; Malwai and Gaban? Using ‘or’ and ‘and’ make the sentences different

Generally, the discussion is good. However, the results need to be extra backed
up by more work/references of work done elsewhere, either in agreement or opposition.

Conclusion

In the first paragraph, you say: all ‘interviewees’. How about: ‘clients and providers’?

..best wishes to the team…

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests