Reviewer’s report

Title: Training health care workers to promote HIV Services for Patients with Tuberculosis in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Version: 1 Date: 11 June 2008

Reviewer: Karin Bergstrom

Reviewer’s report:

Major compulsory revisions:
1. Revise the background section. The background section describes how effective training should be based on a task analysis where subsequently the learning objectives are derived from these tasks. There is no evidence that the training that was developed, and that is reported on, was task based. The text talks about knowledge and the content of the training is traditionally topic/knowledge based. The section on content of the training modules lists power point presentations as the main training methodology used which is more consistent with traditional knowledge based learning than skills based. Some practice was included for counselling although the experience section indicates that this practice was not sufficient. Therefore the background needs to be revised to exclude the task based training discussion as this is not relevant for what is reported on. Pre-testing and post tests were knowledge based further highlighting the knowledge rather than skills/task based training. The last sentence before the conclusion also demonstrates that no formal assessment of skills was undertaken which further renders the discussion of effective training in the background contradictory to the text.

2. Modify the discussion on linking HIV acceptance rates directly to post training scores (second paragraph in the section Evaluation of the newly developed training. A change in outcome such as more HIV tests are rarely linked to one single event or intervention, such as a training course. There are many other factors influencing behaviour - of both care provider and client and the discussion should acknowledge this. It is a common, but weak, conclusion to link behaviour change to a specific training course. It is advisable to focus the discussion on the immediate role of a training course, namely to increase knowledge or develop skills dependign on the type of course, and to have a separate discussion on factors that influence the use of the competence, and other factors that influence behaviour change in a client population.

3. Review terminology. Collaborative TB/HIV activities seems to be used somewhat interchangeably with HIV counseling and testing. From the available information the training seems to be heavily focussed on the counseling. This needs to be clear throughout the text.

4. Strengthen the conclusion. The conclusion is weak. Modifying the text based on the three points above should facilitate a stronger conclusion.
**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.