Reviewer's report

Title: Supporting Option B+ Scale Up and Strengthening the Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission Cascade in Central Malawi: Results from a Serial Cross-Sectional Study

Version: 1 Date: 6 June 2015

Reviewer: dr warnow elon isaac

Reviewer's report:

major compulsory revisions
1. selection criteria: how were the 136 health facilities selected? was there a sampling frame?
2. If there were other facilities that the STF project did not intervene within the districts, could they not have served as controls if they were also implementing option B+ in addition to the national programme level performance.
3. A rapid situation analysis should have been done to inform/guide the STF programme interventions.

Minor essential corrections
1. Were incentives/remunerations given to the women psychosocial support groups?
2. why were only 25 data managers trained in relation to 136 health facilities.
3. what are the specific interventions for strengthening transport? This is a major challenge in sub-Saharan Africa.
4. would the percentage of HIV +ve infants enrolled/linked into care and treatment of HIV be of concern?

Discretionary
1. Demographic details of Malawian districts not stated.
2. Criteria for high volume hospitals not stated clearly.
3. line 419 to read.........'some' health sector needs.
4. line 429/430- not referenced.

Could recommendations and lessons learnt have been made in order to inform programme sustainability?

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'.