Reviewer's report

Title: HIV Testing Awareness and Service Uptake Among Female Heads of Household in Rural Mozambique: Results from a Province-wide Survey

Version: 2 Date: 16 September 2014

Reviewer: Hermann Bussmann

Reviewer's report:

The authors report on a cross-sectional study that investigated the awareness and uptake of HIV VCT in a rural region of Mozambique. The study results are important as VCT is the key component in the HIV treatment and prevention cascade, and there are still enormous gaps in understanding how to optimize VCT uptake especially in rural regions in Africa. The study used 18 variables of interest from a 550 item interview survey which was conducted among female heads of households in a large representative district of Mozambique using a recommended national sampling frame.

The MS is clearly written, the data are well presented using descriptive and multivariate analysis and the discussion is comprehensively done and broad references are made to existing publications.

Minor essential revision:
line 75 and 86: add the age groups to the HIV prevalence number

Discretionary revision:
line 103/104: translation of Portuguese terms
line 123: could you give more information why female heads of households were chosen, e.g. representativeness for all females, typical size of families and role of female heads of household in decision making.
line 147: clarify what is meant by ‘central server’ as opposed to ‘server at Maputo’
line 209: how much time was roughly spent on completion of 550 item survey questionnaire?

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