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: 14 October 2014

Reviewer: fraukje mevissen

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Major Compulsory Revisions:
Although the introduction includes a good rational for the importance of studying factors influencing VCT by mentioning the prevalence of HIV and the low level of HIV testing rates in (rural) Mozambique, an overview of what is already known regarding antecedents of VCT is lacking. This is also not mentioned in the discussion. Because of that, it is not at all clear what this study adds to the available literature on the issue of VCT. As already quite some publications are available on (factors influencing) VCT, it should be more clear how this paper contributes to what is known.

In line with this, the selection of factors included in the analyses seems completely at random. It is not clear why the authors decided to include these predictors in the analyses, what they expected, why they were expected to be important.

For a thorough understanding of which factors influence awareness of VCT service and actual VCT uptake I would also include correlations. Also, if the authors claim that increasing awareness on VCT service is important for increasing VCT usage, I would at least expect that awareness is included in the analyses with VCT uptake as outcome variable.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'