Reviewer’s report

Title: Effectiveness of community outreach HIV prevention programs in Vietnam: A mixed methods evaluation

Version: 0 Date: 29 Apr 2019

Reviewer: Sphiwe Madiba

Reviewer’s report:

The article is well written and I commend the authors for having undertaken to do the evaluation, more often, interventions are never evaluated to assess the impact and program staff continue rendering services that might not be changing the behaviour or improving the services that the intervention set to achieve. My only concern with the study is that data were collected 10 years ago, but this has been acknowledged as a limitation.

I only have two points I would suggest the authors address;

On page 8 line 162, they mention that "peer outreach workers employed by the agencies made initial introductions to their regular clients, who in turn shared study information with their peers". The statement is confusing, who are the peers referred to?

On page 8 line 176-177, they stated that "in the four survey provinces, we randomly identified participants in the comparison group for IDI participation" Did they want to say intervention group?

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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