Reviewer’s report

Title: Use of peers and community lay persons improves six-week postnatal clinic (PNC) follow-up and Early Infant HIV Diagnosis (EID) in urban and rural health units in Uganda: A two-year implementation study

Version: 2 Date: 30 May 2015

Reviewer: Madeleen Wegelin

Reviewer’s report:

Major:
1. the numbers in the tekst and the tables do not always correspond or are not sufficiently explained f.e. line 18 says 401/517 live births in table 2 the number given is 511, on line 163 PNC given is 401/558 but there were 535 with a confirmed live delivery. Line 165 mentions 55% attendance in Mpigi, while in table 2 the figure of 62.9% is given.
2. Line 83-87: it is not clear if the peers also have to fulfill the criteria that apply to the VHT and community lay persons. The sentence on line 86 peers were HIV infected should be: peers were selected who were HIV infected. Had these peers disclosed their infection?

Minor:
3. Line 255-257. Discuss more in depth why the percentage of HIV testing among the general public is higher than among the study participants in Mpigi. It is explained by low clinic return (which also has a reason) and PNC return representing different individuals - this I do not understand.
4. Line 283-286 There is a difference in reach between peers and community lay persons. There should be a discussion on why peers are more successful to reach mothers. This has to do with stigma, especially high in Mpigi and I would like to see more attention on that. It is unclear if the peers and community lay persons are also trained in acknowledging and addressing stigma - if not, this can be a valuable addition to the training.
5. The use of ; in interpuntion is strange f.e. line 66 between including and Mulago. This is done in the whole article.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.