Title: Effectiveness of Community-Based HIV/AIDS Service Delivery Models Used to Reach Female Sex Workers along Malaba-Kampala Highway, Uganda, 2017

Authors:

Gerald Pande (gpande@musph.ac.ug)
Lillian Bulage (lbulage@musp.ac.ug)
Steven Kabwama (skabwama@muspg.ac.ug)
Fred Nsubuga (fnsubuga@musph.ac.ug)
Peter Kyambadde (kyambex@gmail.com)
Shaban Mugerwa (shabanmugerwa@gmail.com)
Joshua Musinguzi (jmusinguzi@yahoo.co.uk)
Alex Ario (riolexus@musph.ac.ug)

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Author’s response to reviews:

24th September 2019

Dear Mohammad Karamouzian:

We thank you and the reviewers for reviewing our paper and giving us valuable comments to help us improve our paper. We have revised our paper according to the comments and suggestions. Below are point-by-point responses to the comments raised.

I have submitted the revised version of the paper on behalf of my co-authors.

We thank you for considering our paper for publication.

Sincerely,

Pande Gerald, BEH, MPH

Cover letter detailing a point-by-point response to reviewer’s comments

Katrina Frances Ortblad, ScD, MPH (Reviewer 1): The authors did a great job of addressing all reviewer comments. There were several attached versions of the paper, so it was
somewhat confusing what version was "final". While the authors addressed many of the issues raised in the previous review, the scope and focus of this paper is still very large and certain areas of this paper (including the abstract and introduction) could be significantly cut back to improve clarity and focus.

Response: Thank you for the observation. The scope of this paper has been narrowed assessing the preference and uptake of community based HIV testing service delivery model and the abstract and introduction have been rewritten (line15 to 136)

Additionally, this study is not measuring "effectivness" of community-based HIV/AIDS service delivery models (which it claims in the title, research question, and discussion), because there is no comparison group. Rather, this paper is measuring preferences and uptake of different community-based HIV testing service delivery models among FSWs - this really needs to be clarified.

Response: Thanks for this observation, we have revised the title to “Preference and Uptake of Different Community-Based HIV Testing Service Delivery Models Among Female Sex Workers Along Malaba-Kampala Highway, Uganda, 2017”. Research questions have been revised (line 132 to 136) and the discussion (line 413 to 471)

There are also a number of typos throughout the manuscript, and inconsistency of abbreviated terms that should be updated (e.g., female sex workers vs FSWs).

Response: Thank you for the observation. We edited the entire manuscript to remove any typos and inconsistent abbreviations Mostafa Shokoohi

(Reviewer 2): There is one more comment based on the authors' responses: I am not sure why the authors changed the 90-90-90 targets to the 95-95-95 targets in the Introduction section, while they cited the UNAUDS 90-90-90 targets report. This should be clarified

Response: Thanks for the observation we have changed the UNAIDS targets to 90-90-90 as presented previously in the introduction (line 86) challenges faced