Reviewer’s report

Title: Parents' and teachers' views on sexual health education and screening for sexually transmitted infections among in-school adolescent girls in Kenya: A qualitative study

Version: 0 Date: 12 Apr 2017

Reviewer: Anna Newton-Levinson

Reviewer's report:

This paper presents a thoughtful and much needed study on STI testing for adolescent women in Mombasa, Kenya. Employing qualitative interviews and focus groups, the study examines the attitudes of parents and teachers on STI testing for adolescent women. The paper provides helpful information about the attitudes of two influential groups on adolescent sexual health and has important implications for future programs.

Overall, the paper is well-organized and clear.

I have a few comments and questions that could strengthen the paper further:

1. It would be helpful to provide some information about the differences between the focus group discussions and interviews. Was there a different orientation for each type of interview? Did questions differ by FGD/IDI?

2. Overall it could be helpful to know if there were any differences in attitudes between male and female parents. I wonder whether fathers or mothers might have different priorities or concerns with testing. Similarly were there differences between different types of teachers?

3. It would be helpful to provide some further explanation to the quotes about misconceptions about STIs and to contrast teachers and parents further. In listing misconceptions do you have information on which STIs came up most frequently or were most frequently misunderstood?

4. Was knowledge assessed in any type of systematic way (e.g. checklist of diseases, symptoms, etc.)? How did the research team determine how much knowledge an individual had about STIs?

5. Did teachers explain at all why they thought parental consent for screening was important?

6. Stigma is a major barrier in STI testing among adolescents globally. It seems that this theme came up in some of the results. Sharing STI results seems like it could have major implications for young women's experiences of stigma. Information related to how stigma
was and was not acknowledged or understood by parents and teachers could provide important information for future programs.

7. The larger purpose of the study was not discussed fully until the end (to pilot a school centered STI testing intervention) it would be helpful to state this up front in the background.

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