

## **Reviewer's report**

**Title:** Task shifting HIV counseling and testing services in Zambia: The role of lay counselors

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 18 March 2009

**Reviewer:** Elly Katabira

### **Reviewer's report:**

#### Major Compulsory Revisions:

This is a very important piece of research in the field of Task shifting and Human Resources in Resource Limited Settings. It is all about lay counselors however, very little, apart from the fact that there are community volunteers, has been given about them. What were the criteria for selecting them? If there were there, were they the same in both rural and urban areas so that their performance could be compared? If their education levels were different, was there anything done during their training to address these gaps? On page 12 it is mentioned that almost all lay counselors interviewed wanted further training and qualifications which indicate that they had some other inherent qualities other than just being community volunteers.

#### Discretionary Revisions;

It would be nice if the authors had collected data on how the supervision of the lay counselors was done and how much time was taken away from the supervising facility staffs and how this differed at the beginning and the end of the research period.

**Level of interest:** An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

#### **Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests