Reviewer's report

Title: Community Health Workers for ART in sub-Saharan Africa: Learning from past experiences? Capitalising on new opportunities?

Version: 1 Date: 27 January 2009

Reviewer: Yoswa M Dambisya

Reviewer's report:

-1. Major Compulsory Revisions
None

- 2. Minor Essential Revisions

a. Introduction: Page 2 - first paragraph, last sentence may not be accurate: The UNGASS Report (2008) shows that Rwanda had by end of 2007 achieved 71% ART coverage. The authors should check on this and revise the text as appropriate

b. Page 2 – third paragraph, first sentence reads better without “no doubt that there is”, authors should consider deleting that phrase.

c. Page 2 – 4th paragraph, 1st sentence: change “in how far” to “how far” in the two places where it appears.

d. Page 6 – It is true that TASO has worked for many years with lay providers (especially counselors), but the “field officers” are a relatively new cadre. To avoid any confusion, could the approximate date of commencement of this cadre be used instead of “many years”?

e. Page 7: the opportunities 9 and 10 (at end of paragraph 2) are a bit confusing: does the subsequent text refer to both or one of them, if so, which is which? Can the formt used for opportunities 1 to 8 be used here too?

f. Page 7, last paragraph, second sentence: change “could identify” to “identified”; do likewise on page 9, first paragraph, first sentence.

g. The cadres described on pages 7 to 10 from the various countries, e.g. field officers, have been described by others before. Citation to earlier studies/reports would make the section more edifying for those who may want to explore some of the issues to greater depth. Please include references

h. Page 11, under (4): 3rd sentence – should read “……, and there is close…..” instead of “……, and the a close…..”; and same section, in penultimate sentence it is not clear to which 2001 survey the authors refer.

i. The referencing style should be edited for consistency: some references are cited by first author only, while others have the names of all authors stated; and for accuracy, e.g. Ref 34 which refers to a paper by Kober and Van Damme.
- Discretionary Revisions
NONE

**Level of interest:** An article of importance 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:**
declare that I have no competing interests