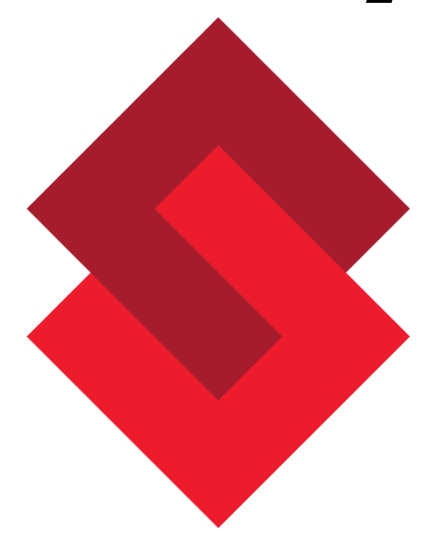




Abstract # TUPED1242

A user costs analysis for HIV testing among rural communities in Malawi



UNITAID-PSI
HIV SELF-TESTING AFRICA

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Introduction

- HIV prevalence remains high in Malawi at 10.6%
- Men have higher testing gap than women
- Key barriers to testing include direct and indirect costs and lack of convenience

Aim:

To analyse the extent to which costs and their drivers influence access and demand for HIV testing among rural Malawian communities.

Methods: Design Schema

Baseline Household Survey

- Adults aged 16 years or more
- Living in 22 pre-selected enumeration villages

N=5,559

Random 25% sample asked to consent to:

- Extended Questionnaire (n=746)
- User Costs of HIV Testing Discrete Choice Experiment

Included in current study if HIV tested in last 12 months

Completed Costing Questions and recently tested (N=746)

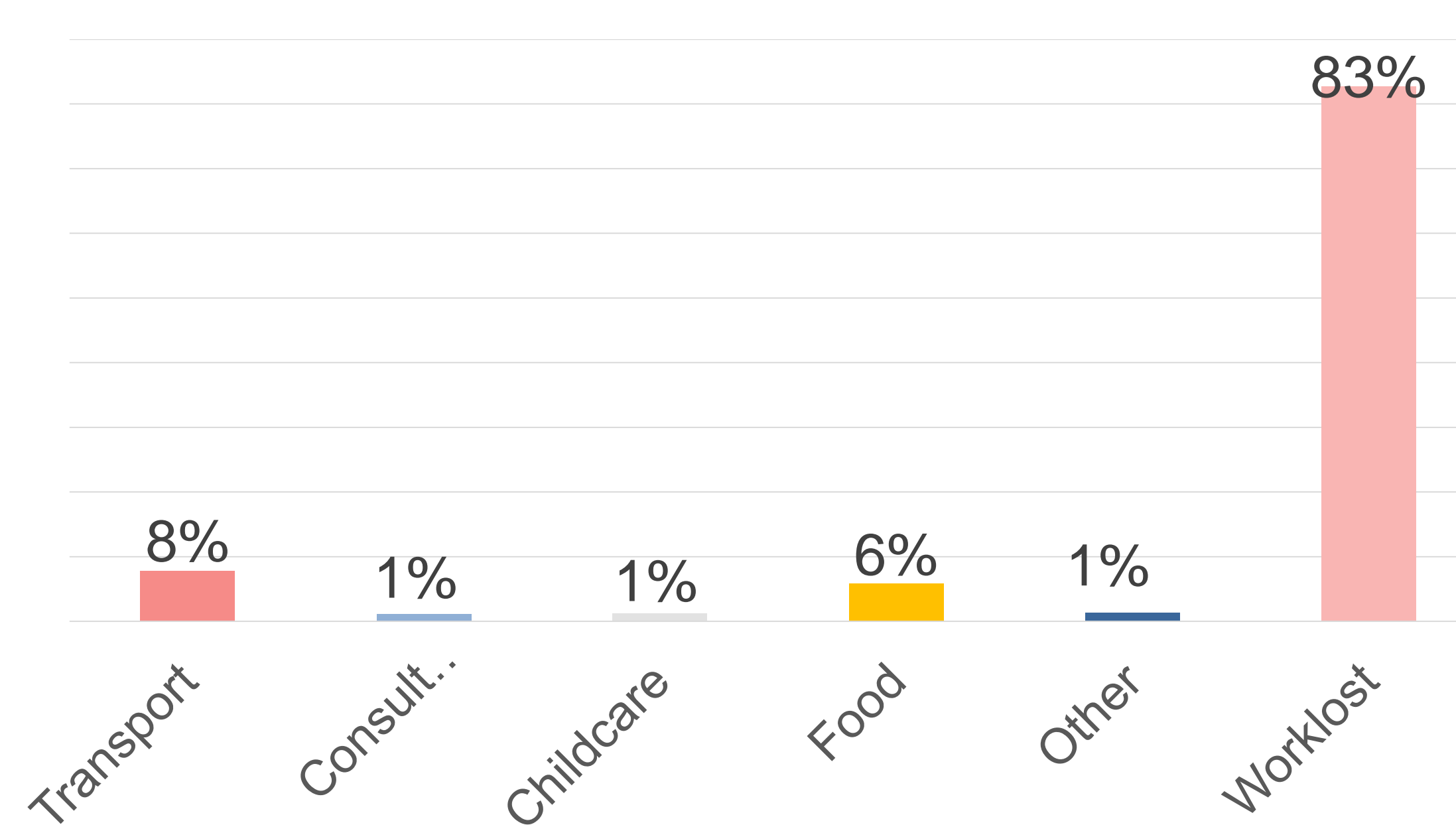
Results

Reported user costs by gender

Category	Men (US\$)	Women (US\$)
Transport	0.26	0.15
Consultation	0.03	0.03
Child Care	0.07	0.01
Meal	0.18	0.13
Other	0.05	0.02
Work Lost	2.95	1.48
Total	3.53	1.82

- Median cost for many categories was zero
 - Testing usually accessed opportunistically or via provider-initiated services while attending care
- Mean cost of accessing HIV testing was \$2.68
 - \$3.53 for men & \$1.82 for women
- Reported user costs ~3 times their average daily earnings
- Both **user and service characteristics** were important drivers of these costs

% of Total Costs incurred by cost-category



Multivariate (Tobit) Model of Cost Drivers

Variables	Tobit Model
Female	-0.341***
Community HTC	-0.528***
eduys	0.0224**
Parity	0.0269*
Time Taken (Hours)	0.0390***
Wealth	0.0381***
Age	0.000926
VCT Centre	0.0258
Other Location	-0.24
Reason for Hosp Visit	0.101
Constant	0.666***
Observations	745

***p<0.01, **p<0.05, *p<0.1

$TC_i = f(\text{gender}_i, \text{age}_i, \text{education}_i, \text{children}_i, \text{test location}_i, \text{duration}_i, \text{visit reason}_i, \text{wealth}_i)$

CONCLUSION

- Opportunity costs of conventional HIV testing are high compared to daily consumption in rural Malawi
- Men report higher user costs relative to women
 - May in part explain their lower coverage of HIV testing and ARV treatment at national level
 - Opportunity & transportation costs can render “free” services unaffordable (Kemp 2007)
- Reducing indirect economic barriers to testing --- including HIV self testing --- should be a key component of testing strategies targeting men

Key References

UNAIDS (2014)
Maheswaran, H. Petrou, S. *et al.* (2016)
Kemp,J.R. *et al.* (2007)



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