ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

According to my aunt Ineke, this research topic was destined to be because in Primary school I wrote my assignment about Siamese cats and went an extra mile to provide a detailed description of their mating process. I don’t know whether it was destiny but I do know that, at age eighteen, I was determined to study Demography. Once enrolled in Population Studies, I was particularly moved by the consequences of the HIV epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa. I reasoned that sexuality education was an important strategy in the response to AIDS, and this was when Inge, my supervisor, contacted Henk, who worked at World Population Foundation. In that moment, the story of my PhD research started. Inge and Henk, I am very grateful for all the opportunities you have given me. You make a great team!

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