

## CYBERSENGA PHASE ONE QUALITATIVE INTERVIEWS: SCHOOL PRINCIPAL CONSENT FORM

### **Background/ Purpose**

We are from Mbarara University of Science and Technology, University of California, San Francisco, Internet Solutions for Kids (a US-based nonprofit company), and Harvard Medical School, USA. We are conducting interviews with children and teenagers at your school to better understand the information, motivation, and behavior skills young people in Mbarara have to act in ways that can prevent HIV. By taking part in these interviews, your students shall give us a perspective on youth behavior and communication. Participation is completely voluntary. Students and their parents can choose to participate or not. Both consent from parents/guardians and assent from students shall be obtained. In case of boarding students, school principals shall serve as guardians to provide consent for students' participation.

### **Procedures**

We are asking for your permission to obtain a list of your current students. We shall use this list to randomly identify students to invite them to participate in the study.

We are asking for your permission to talk with your student body about the project and to meet with randomly identified students individually to discuss the study with them.

### **Risks and Discomforts**

The risks of participating in this study are minimal. It is possible that students may feel obligated to participate in the study. We shall make sure they understand that their decision to take part or not will not affect their school standing or any future medical care they might/should require.

### **Benefits**

This research is intended to help us create a website that helps prevent HIV infection in youth. There are no direct benefits to study participants.

### **Alternatives**

The alternative to allowing us to recruit and talk to students from your school is to not allow us to do so. The decision to not participate will not affect your standing or any other aspect of school functions.

### **Compensation**

The school will not be compensated.

**Confidentiality**

The privacy of students who participate in the study will be protected. There shall be a number rather than their name on copies of their interviews. All of the interviews and research documents will be kept in a locked office of research study personnel at the Uganda Research Initiative in Mbarara, at Internet Solutions for Kids and at Harvard Medical School in the United States. Computer files will be protected with a password.

None of the information your students give us will be shared with anyone outside the research project. Their names will not be used in any written reports or published articles that result from this project.

Though unlikely, there is always a chance of breach of confidentiality when taking part in a research study. We shall make every effort to protect you and your school from this risk. Every effort will be made to ensure that descriptions of individuals in reports or articles are done in ways that mask the identities of these individuals.

**Rights of Refusal and Withdrawal**

You have the right to refuse to allow your students to be recruited for this study. If you change your mind about participating at any time, including during the recruitment period, you have the right to withdraw.

**Questions and Contact Numbers**

If you have questions or concerns about this research, you may contact Dennis Nabembezi, the Study Coordinator on telephone number: 0772 568 359 or you may visit him at the study offices located at Uganda Research Initiative in Mbarara, Plot 11-13, Lower Circular Road.

If you have questions about your students' rights as research subjects, you may call Emmanuel Kyagaba, Chairman of the Institutional Ethical Review Committee of Mbarara University of Science and Technology on telephone number: 485 21387.

**Signatures**

I have fully explained to the Principal the nature and purpose of the procedures described above and the risks involved in the school's participation in the study. I have asked if he or she has any questions and I have answered them to the best of my ability.

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 Signature of Research Assistant

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 Date

I have read/been read the information presented above and understand the purpose of the study. I have had the opportunity to ask questions, and questions that I have asked have been answered to my satisfaction. I understand that my schools' and students' participation is voluntary.

I agree to provide a list of my current students in the school as asked and to allow the CyberSenga study staff to talk to my students about this study and subsequently take part in this study if the students and their parents/guardians choose to.

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Signature of Principal/Headmaster

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Date