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INFORMED CONSENT FORM: CONTENT ADVISORY TEAM

This document outlines the research study and expectations for potential participants. It should be written in layman terms and typed on MUST-IRC letterhead. The wording should be directed to the potential participant NOT to IRC. If a technical term must be used, define it the first time it is used. Also, any abbreviation should be spelled out the first time it is used.

NB: All the sections of this document must be completed without any editing or deletions

*Please **use a typing font** that is easily distinguishable from the questions of the form*

Study Title: *It should be the same as on all other documents related to the study*

AFFECTING THE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF HIV IN UGANDA THROUGH OLDER ADOLESCENTS

Principal Investigator(s):

Emmanuel Kyagaba, Principal Investigator, Mbarara University of science and Technology, and Internet solutions for Kids, Uganda

Michele Ybarra, Ph.D. Principal Investigator and President, Center for Innovative Public Health Research (CiPHR)

INTRODUCTION

HIV continues to be a significant public health challenge in Uganda.

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What you should know about this study:

- You are being asked to join a research study.
- This consent form explains the research study and your part in the study
- Please read it carefully and take as much time as you need
- You are a volunteer. You can choose not to take part and if you join, you may quit at any time. There will be no penalty if you decide to quit the study

Purpose of the research project: *Include a statement that the study involves research, estimated number of participants, an explanation of the purpose(s) of the research procedure and the expected duration of the subject's participation.*

Background/ Purpose

We are developing a sexual health and HIV prevention program for young adults in Uganda. The program will be sent to young people through sms messaging. This research study is sponsored by the National Institutes of Health in the United States, and is a collaboration between Internet Solutions for Kids – Uganda and the Center for Innovative Public Health Research, US NGO.

Why you are being asked to participate: *Explain why you have selected the individual to participate in the study.*
We are asking you to take part in our Content Advisory Team (CAT). There will be about 40 participants in the CAT. The CAT will last for about 1.5 weeks. We will ask you to review and give feedback on the program content. The content will talk about things like sex, preventing HIV and other STDs, using condoms, and choosing not to have sex.

Procedures: *Provide a description of the procedures to be followed and identification of any procedures that are experimental, clinical etc. If there is need for storage of biological (body) specimens, explain why, and include a statement requesting for consent to store the specimens and state the duration of storage.*

Here's how it will work:

1. The program has about 300 text messages in total. In the first week, we will ask you to review the messages. We will send you a link to an online survey or a Word document – whichever is better for you. There, you will read the messages and provide feedback on each one (so things like the message tone, whether they are interesting to you, etc.)

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2. The next week, we will ask you to take part in a 1.5 day focus group. It will be online. You will log in twice each day (once in the morning, and once in the afternoon in Day 1, and then in the morning of Day 2) and answer questions.

Risks and Discomforts: *Describe any reasonably foreseeable risks or discomforts-physical, psychological, social, legal or other associated with the procedure, and include information about their likelihood and seriousness. Discuss the procedures for protecting against or minimizing any potential risks to the subject. Discuss the risks in relation to the anticipated benefits to the subjects and to society.*

It is possible that your privacy will be broken. For example, if someone sees your computer or mobile phone screen, this person may see that you are taking part in a study about sexual health and HIV. It is very important that you use a device that is in a private place.

To protect your privacy in the online discussion, we will ask you to use a different name that is not your real name. We will ask you and other young people in the focus group to no share any of what we discuss with people outside of the group, but we cannot guarantee that this will happen.

It also is possible that the content you read or a question we ask might make you feel uncomfortable. If this happens, you can skip the program message or online discussion question, leave the discussion board and not answer the question, or stop being in the research project completely.

Benefits: *Describe any benefits to the subject or other benefits that may reasonably be expected from the research. If the subject is not likely to benefit personally from the experimental protocol note this in the statement of benefits.*

We don't know if you will benefit from being part of the study, but your answers are important:
Your participation will really help us design a better health program, which will benefit young adults like you in the future.

Incentives / rewards for participating: *It is assumed that there are no costs to subjects enrolled in research protocols. Any payments to be made to the subject (e.g., travel expenses, token of appreciation for time spent) must also be stated, including when the payment will be made.*

If you finish all the content review, you will receive 5,000 shillings in data on the mobile phone number you provided us. If you take part in the online discussion, you will receive an additional 5,000 shillings in data on the mobile phone number you provided us.

Protecting data confidentiality: *Provide a statement describing the extent, if any, to which confidentiality or records identifying the subjects will be maintained. If data is in form of tape recordings, photographs, movies or*

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videotapes, researcher should describe period of time they will be retained before destruction. Showing or playing of such data must be disclosed, including instructional purposes.

We will keep a copy of your answers after the CAT ends so that we can look at them later. Only researchers involved in this study will be able to see your answers. Your name and contact information will not be used in any reports or articles we publish. We will not tell anyone else outside of the research team what you say during the CAT.

Protecting subject privacy during data collection: *Describe how this will be ensured.*

We will ask for your permission to mention the study in voice messages that we may leave on your cell phone inbox. No additional contact information beyond your cellphone number will be required to enroll. You will only provide the additional information if you choose to and can do so safely.

Right to refuse / withdraw: *Include a statement that participation is voluntary, refusal to participate will involve no penalty or loss of benefits to which the subject is otherwise entitled.*

Taking part in the CAT is your choice. If you decide not to be in the CAT, nothing bad will happen.

What happens if you leave the study? *Include a statement that the subject may discontinue participation at any time without penalty or loss of benefits.*

If you change your mind after you have started the CAT and you decide you don't want to continue taking part, you are free to stop.

Who do I ask/call if I have questions or a problem? *Include contact for researcher or Faculty advisor and Chairman MUST-IRC*

Do you have any questions about the information that I just read to you, or about the research study?

Do you agree to participate in this study? [record answer]

<u>If yes (consent to participate):</u>
Great! I will email you a copy of this consent form. If you have questions about the research project, you may contact Isaac Aturinda, the Study Coordinator on telephone number: 0752123684. You may visit him at the study offices located at Internet Solutions for Kids-Uganda, Ugafode Building, Bananuka drive 2nd floor, Mbarara.

- If you have any concerns about your rights in this research, please contact MUST-IRB office; Dr. Francis Bajunirwe**,** Chairman MUST IRC, Mbarara University of Science and Technology**,** P.O Box 1410, Mbarara, Tel. 0485433795.

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An IRB is a group of people who review research studies to protect the rights and safety of research participants.

<u>If no (do not consent to participate):</u>
Thank you for your time. We respect your decision not to take part in the CAT. To help us design future CATs, can you please tell me why you decided not to take part?
[record answer]

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