



Uganda Virus Research Institute



Information sheet and consent form is for key informant interviews involving teachers, local government authorities and officials in the Line Ministries of Health and Education plus key implementing partners

Project code: MENISCUS, version 1.1 (April 2015)

Summary (What you should know about this exploratory study):

- The MENISCUS Study is exploring the best ways to promote knowledge on puberty, HIV/AIDS and the use of HIV/AIDS control interventions, including safe male circumcision among boys and menstrual hygiene among girls attending secondary schools in Uganda.
- We give you this consent form so that you may read about the purpose, possible advantages and risks of this exploratory and preparatory study.
- Please review this form carefully. Ask any questions before you make a decision.

Part I: Information about this study

Introduction

The MENISCUS Study is led by the Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI) in Entebbe and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in United Kingdom, in collaboration with a non-governmental organization called Grassroot Soccer (www.GrassrootSoccer.org), and the Ministry of Education and Sports of Uganda. We are carrying out this research to guide our secondary schools and health facilities to identify practical ways of helping both boys and girls to become and stay healthier, including improved management of puberty and menstruation (periods).

We have received permission to conduct this research from your school administration, Entebbe Municipality, the Ministry of Education and Sports, and the Ethics Committees of both the UVRI and LSHTM.

Please feel free to ask us questions now or later using our contact information which is indicated below. We will take time to explain to you.

Purpose

The purpose of the MENISCUS Study is to help us to design a health promotion intervention that will provide puberty education for both girls and boys attending secondary schools in Uganda, menstrual hygiene promotion for girls, and voluntary safe

male circumcision promotion for boys. We then hope to get funding to evaluate the effectiveness of these interventions through the secondary schools.

Particularly, we seek your opinion, experiences, strengths, gaps, challenges and opportunities of the policies, guidelines and programs/initiatives related to:

- Sexuality, HIV and life-skills education in schools and HIV prevention strategy,
- Menstrual hygiene management, school sanitation and school health policy and,
- Proposed interventions of this MENISCUS study

The facilitator/guide of the interviews (who is also part of the research team) will read out the purpose slowly to the interviewee to clarify the emphasis of the scheduled discussion.

Risks and Discomforts

At some point in this research, we shall discuss with you sensitive information (e.g. reproductive and sexual health, your opinion on medical male circumcision, screening for STIs, HIV counseling and testing and contraception among in-school adolescents). You may feel uncomfortable talking about some of these topics. You may not have to give us any reason for not responding to some questions, or for refusing to take part in these themes.

Benefits

Your participation is likely to help us, the schools, health facilities, parents/guardians and the authorities in the sectors of education and health find out more evidence about the health needs of adolescents and the key factors for enhancing the impact of proposed interventions. We hope that the acquired evidence will help the relevant parties mentioned above to meet those adolescent needs better in the future.

Sharing of research findings

During and at the end of this research, we will be sharing what we have learnt with the adolescents, teachers, health workers, authorities in the sectors of education and health and with the national and international community through meetings and conferences. We will do this by meeting first with the participants and then with the larger community. No information specifically identifiable to you will be shared with anybody outside the research team. Verbal and/or written reports will also be shared with the participants of this study which they can share with other stakeholders. We shall also publish the results internationally in science journals and in electronic websites in order that other interested people may learn from our experiences and evidence shared.

Who to Contact

If you have any questions you may ask them now or later, even after the study has started. You may contact any of the following:

- a) **Prof. Pontiano Kaleebu**, Director of MRC/UVRI Research Unit on AIDS, Plot 51-59 Nakiwogo, P.O Box 49 Entebbe, Uganda.
Tel: +256 417 704 000 or +256 414 321 461 (Office hours)
E-mail: pontiano.kaleebu@mrcuganda.org

b) **Dr. George Miiro**, Medical Officer and Project Coordinator, UVRI, Plot 51-59 Nakiwogo, P.O Box 49 Entebbe, Uganda.
Tel: +256 414 322 016 or +256 414 321 672 (Office hours)
E-mail: gmiiro@uvri.go.ug or gmiiro@yahoo.co.uk

If you have any questions, complaints or concerns about your rights as a relevant party in this research, please contact:

The Chairman, Science and Ethics Committee (Independent Authority),
UVRI, Plot 51-59 Nakiwogo, P.O Box 49, Entebbe, Uganda
Tel: +256 414 321 962

