

## Information sheet for VHTs

**Study title:** Feasibility of village health teams (VHTs) in using a smart phone guided intervention to link older Ugandans with chronic conditions to care

**Names of Investigator:** Dr. Joseph Mugisha Okello, senior Scientist, MRC/UVRI, Uganda Research Unit.

### Names of Mentors:

1. Professor Janet Seeley, Head Social Sciences Programme MRC/ UVRI, P.O Box 49, Entebbe
2. Professor Hannah Kuper, Director of International Centre for Evidence in Disability, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel street London, WC1E, 7HT

My name is ..... and I work as an interviewer/senior scientist for the social sciences program at Medical Research Council Uganda Research Unit. You have been selected to participate in a research study to establish feasibility of village health teams (VHTs) in using a smart phone guided intervention to link older Ugandans with chronic conditions to care. This study is being conducted to prepare for another big and similar study in the future if the study team manages to get funds to carry out the bigger study.

### What is the purpose of this study?

The purpose of this study is to establish if members of the Village Health Teams can be trained to record information on a smart phone and use this information to link old people with chronic diseases to health facilities so that they can be treated. We also want to know the activities Village health teams are involved in and their previous experiences in working with old people. We also want to train Village Health Teams in identifying old people with chronic conditions like hypertension and diabetes. In addition, we shall give more training to health workers at health centre IV on how to treat old people with chronic conditions

### Why are you being asked to join this feasibility study?

You are being asked to join the study because you are a member of the Village Health Team in Bukulula Sub-County in Kalungu District. As a member of the VHT, and as someone who stays in the villages where old people live, we hope we can work with you



in trying to develop this new method of using a smart phone to link older people with chronic conditions to care.

### **Do you have to take part?**

Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary and you can withdraw at any time during the study without giving a reason for your withdrawing. Your withdrawing from this study will not affect you in any way.

### **What will happen when I agree to take part?**

If you agree to take part in this study, you will be requested to sign an informed consent form. You will also be asked to participate in an interview which will take about 45 minutes to 1 hour. This interview will be conducted at an office at Bukulula health centre IV in Kalungu district or at your home if this is convenient for you. In the interview, you will be asked open-ended questions and you will be requested to give your answers in detail. The interviewer may ask you to clarify some of your responses or to provide more light on some of your answers. The interview will consist of questions on your experiences as a VHT, what health roles you play in your villages, your experiences in dealing with older people with health problems, the process through which you were selected as a VHT and how your work as a VHT is coordinated. In addition, we shall ask you questions on your experiences in using smart phones and your willingness to use information on these phones to connect older people with chronic conditions to health facilities. The interviews will be audio recorded, if you give permission, to enable the interviewer to review in detail everything that was said in the interview without missing any point. If you prefer that a recorder is not used, only notes will be taken. You will receive 10,000/- shillings for the time you have given us.

In the second part of the study, we shall organise a 3 days non-residential training for you. In this training, we shall give you basic information on how to identify older persons with chronic diseases especially hypertension, diabetes mellitus and chronic breathing problems. We shall also train you on how to use simple movable medical instruments on how to measure blood pressure and fasting blood sugar. Meals and transport will be catered for during this training.

### **What are the possible risks and/or discomforts of taking part?**

There is minimal risk in your taking part in this study.

### **Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?**

All the information you give us will be kept confidential, only accessed by the interviewers, the data managers and the Investigators. Only study numbers but not names will be used to identify the study participants. All the information you give us will



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be stored in a computer and will be viewed by only authorized people. Your name will not be used in the final report for this study.

### **What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

In the short term, you are not going to get any benefits by participating in this study. In the long term, the results from this study will help us to develop an intervention that will eventually improve the health and wellbeing of older Ugandans with chronic conditions.

### **Who is organising and funding the research?**

The research is organised by Dr. Joseph Mugisha Okello of MRC/UVRI Uganda Research Unit on AIDS. The other co-Investigators are Professor Janet Seeley, Head of Social Sciences Program MRC/UVRI, Uganda Research Unit and Professor Hannah Kuper of London School of Hygiene and tropical Medicine. The research is funded by a career development grant from DELTAS Africa Initiative grant no DEL-15-011 to THRIVE-2

### **Who has reviewed the study?**

Ethical approval for this study has been obtained from the Institutional Review Board of the Uganda Virus Research Institute Research and Ethics committee and from the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology.

### **Contact for Further Information**

In case you have questions or any other thing, you want to ask regarding this study, you can contact Dr. Joseph Mugisha, MRC/UVRI, P.O.Box 49, Entebbe. Mobile telephone number 0772 444 784. If you have any questions about the study now, you may ask me. In case you have questions about the Ethics and the way the study is being conducted in the future, you can contact the chairperson of the UVRI Research and Ethics Committee, telephone number: 0414321962

**If you decide to take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a consent form. Thank you for your consideration in taking part in this research.**

**Consent form**

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**Chairperson UVRI Science and Ethical Committee**

Tel: 0414321962

*Please tick initial box to agree*

1.	I have read/been read the information sheet dated ..... (Version .....) for the study, and any questions I had, have been satisfactorily answered by .....	
2.	I understand what will be required of me if I agree to take part.	
3.	I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I can withdraw from the study at any time, without giving a reason.	
4.	I know that the interview will be audio recorded with my permission and have been informed that confidentiality will be maintained.	



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5.	<b>I agree to take part in the study</b>	
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**IMPORTANT: one signed original to be kept in file by the researcher, one signed copy to be given to respondent.**