

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH IN COLLABORATION WITH  
KILIMANJARO CHRISTIAN MEDICAL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**

**TAZAMA PROJECT**

***A. Information Sheet***

***About Sero-survey***

- We would like to welcome you to take part in round 7 of the Sero-survey. We are grateful that so many people (including you) have come to take part in the survey.
  
- The aim of our research is to understand how far, and how fast, the HIV epidemic is spreading, and who is affected. The research will enable us to advise people and governments on how to prevent HIV infection and to care for people who have become infected. Within this Sero-survey we will also be collecting information on other relevant health problems, such as Tuberculosis, blood sugar, and hypertension.
  
- To do this research we will interview you and ask you questions about your work, your family and sexual partners, and what you already know about HIV. We will also ask you questions to determine the risks to Tuberculosis infection, hypertension, and high blood sugar. This interview will be private and you may stop the interview at any time if you feel uncomfortable. You may ask the interviewer questions if you do not understand what he/she says. The interview will take about 45 minutes.
  
- We would like to thank people of the Kisesa and Bukandwe wards for the help they have given us with the research.
  
- A doctor is present in this clinic and is available to discuss any of your personal health problems. He/she will take your blood pressure, and any participants with a risk of Tuberculosis, high blood pressure and blood glucose disease will be given advice about their health and further action to take. The doctor will also treat your children if they are sick, although they may be too young to take part in the survey research. Further, the doctor may ask our lab technician to carry out additional tests to see if you or your children have anaemia, malaria, worms, or schistosomiasis. Free drugs will be provided if you, or the children, are suffering from these or other common illnesses. If the doctor thinks you may have illnesses that we cannot treat at this clinic he/she can refer you to a specialist clinic or to the Kisesa Health Centre.
  
- Participation in the survey is voluntary but all aged 15-17 years will require parental/Guardian consent to participate, and we will ask you if you want to take part in the different procedures. You are still able to see the doctor if you decide not to answer our survey questions or have blood tests.
  
- People who have recently moved into this village are also welcome to take part in our survey and attend the clinic; however, we would like to know if they are residents in the Kisesa or Bukandwe ward, or are staying temporarily. Temporary visitors who will not be staying in the Kisesa or Bukandwe ward may consult the doctor, however, they will not be asked to register, answer questions, or complete the research blood test

### **Sero-survey stages**

- At this clinic, participants will go through five stages. The first stage involves registration. This will be followed by an interview which will be conducted in the huts you can see around here, and thirdly is the laboratory stage where you will give finger prick blood. The fourth stage includes participants who would like to see the doctor for health problems and finally, those who want to have Voluntary Counselling and Testing for HIV will be able to see the counsellor.

### ***HIV testing at the Sero-survey***

- There are two separate types of HIV tests being completed at this clinic today. You can choose whether to have both, only one, or none.
- The first type of test is for research purposes and is done anonymously, i.e. without use of the participant's names. The test will follow the registration and interview stages where we will ask you to give a small spot of blood on a special piece of paper. The tests will be completed at the laboratories in the National Institute for Medical Research, in Mwanza City, where the blood spot will be tested to see if it is infected with HIV. The paper does not have your name on it and we cannot tell you the result of the HIV test, or any other tests carried out on this blood spot. However, once we receive the results from this survey we will be able to tell if the problem of HIV is growing or not.
- The papers with the blood spots will be carefully stored at the NIMR lab. We may do some more tests on the blood spots to try and find out about additional diseases and conditions.

### ***Information on dried blood spot for future tests***

- Blood stored in dried blood spots (DBS) can be used for other tests which will help us understand the health needs of Tanzanian citizens. These tests include viral typing, genetic sequencing, tests for schistosomiasis and other diseases; and will be completed without requesting a new blood sample. These new tests will be done only when we think it will advance science and will benefit the general public in Tanzania by improving our understanding of these diseases.
- Your name will not appear on the DBS taken to NIMR Mwanza, and we will not be able to trace you from the DBS.
- For this reason I would now like to ask for your permission to use the DBS you provide for future research tests at the NIMR Mwanza laboratories. This request will be made to all participants of the Sero-survey round7.
- The second type of test is the VCT for HIV testing which is offered to those who want to know their HIV test results. This service is provided as per guidelines of the Ministry of Health & Social Welfare (MoHSW).
- You are welcome to have a VCT test at this survey even if you have had one before. For example, some people who previously tested negative may want to make sure they are still negative. Others who tested positive may want to talk to the counsellor about their health problems, even if they do not have another VCT test.

- This second test takes a little longer as the counsellor will give you a lot of information and advice before taking your blood. You will have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss any worries that you may have with the counsellor.
- The VCT interviews are completely private; and carried out in a separate hut within this compound. Like all VCT centres we follow the ministry of health guidelines and we do not record anything that you discuss with the counsellor. The counsellor will take a drop of blood from your finger, which will be put into a test device. The blood will be tested by the counsellor in this clinic, and the HIV status results will be returned to you after about half an hour.
- Only the counsellor, and yourself, will know the results of your VCT test.
- If someone finds out they are infected by HIV the counsellor can give them a referral for further tests to see if they are ready to start drug treatment to slow down the HIV disease. This treatment is available at the Kisesa health centre. The VCT counsellors can also put people in touch with a local organisation that provides special care at home for people with HIV and their families.
- Now that treatment to slow down HIV is available in Kisesa health centre, it is of great benefit for people to find out their HIV status. If they are infected they will be able to start treatment as soon as the HIV disease reaches a critical point. They will also learn how to take precautions to protect their partners.
- Most people who have VCT find out they are not infected, and this knowledge can help them to behave in ways that will protect them from becoming infected in the future.

We thank you for your participation in this Sero-survey. We hope your experience in the clinic will be pleasant and we look forward to seeing you in future Sero-surveys. If you have any more questions at any time during the survey you may ask our staff, or come back to the registration desk and talk to the supervisor.

If you want to talk to someone after the survey has finished in your village you can contact the TAZAMA staff who work at the Kisesa Health Centre, or you can contact the study Principal Investigator, Mr. Mark Urassa, at the offices of NIMR in Mwanza, phone 028 2500399/2503012.

**Thank you very much!**

***B. Signature Page***

**Statement of Consent:** I have read the above information, and have received answers to any questions I asked. I consent to take part in the study.

Your Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

**For illiterate study participants**

Your Thumb print \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of person witnessing consent \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person witnessing consent \_\_\_\_\_