**INFORMED CONSENT FORM**

**Title of the proposed study:** *SASA! Together* Radio Booster

**Investigators :**

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Learning Manager, Raising Voices

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Wellspring Philanthropic Fund

**Background and rationale for the study:**

Raising Voices and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) are conducting research about a radio drama named *Together with Gloria!*. The radio drama is part of *SASA! Together*, an approach developed by an organisation called Raising Voices and used by an organisation called UGANET to engage communities in discussions about positive relationships.

**A description of sponsors of the research project and the organizational affiliation of the researchers:**

Raising Voices and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine are co-organising this study. It is funded by Wellspring Philanthropic Fund.

**Purpose:**

The overall aim of this exploratory study is to understand the advantages and disadvantages of implementing a radio drama as part of *SASA! Together*. We are inviting men and women living in Kisinga subcounty to take part in the study because we want to understand how you feel about the radio drama.

**The estimated duration the research participant will take to in the research project:**

Up to 1 hour in total.

**Procedures:**

You will be invited to take part in a survey conducted by a member of research staff. The researcher will ask you some questions and enter your responses into an electronic device. You will need to answer the questions the researcher asks to the best of your ability.

**Who will participate in the study:**

The intended participants of this study are men and women aged over 18 and living in Kisinga subcounty. We spoke to some community members in 2022 about the radio drama and now we are back to invite different people to the survey. 1630 people are expected to participate in the study in total, with 980 participating in this round of the survey. Each participant will take part in 1 hour-long survey only.

**Risks/Discomforts:**

We don’t foresee this study having any major risks for you, your family or community. It is possible that some of the questions the researcher asks might make you feel uncomfortable, or make you remember difficult things about your past, in which case please share this with the researcher and they will be able to support you.

**Benefits:**

The information we get from the study will help us improve *SASA! Together* community programming, which in turn contributes to ensuring safety, respect and wellbeing in relationships in your community.

**Confidentiality:**

All information collected about you will be kept private. We will not record any of your personal details such as your name or address. Your responses to questions will be anonymised so it will not be possible to identify you from them. The anonymous responses you give will be shared with study staff from Research World International, Raising Voices and LSHTM and may be made available to other researchers worldwide. At the end of the project, the study data will be archived at LSHTM Data Compass digital repository, which can be accessed by other researchers that have ethical approval to view your responses. Your personal information will not be included and there will be no way that you can be identified. The responses that you provide will be destroyed within 10 years of the study’s reports being published.

The study results will be published in journals and reports and will be shared at conferences so that other researchers, implementers and policymakers can learn from them. The findings will also be used to inform a set of guidelines on implementing successful radio dramas alongside community programming. Your personal information will not be included in the study report and there is no way that you can be identified from it. We may use your exact words in the reports, but only without your name attached to them.

**Alternatives:**

Participation in the study is not mandatory. You will be asked to participate in the study even if you did not have the opportunity to listen to the radio drama.

**Cost:**

The participant will not incur any costs from taking part in this study.

**Compensation for participation in the study:**

Your participation in this study is voluntary. Participants will be compensated with a bar of soap for their time if they choose to participate in the study.

**Reimbursement:**

The survey will be conducted in or near the participant’s home. As participants will not incur any costs from travelling to the study site, no reimbursements will be offered to participants.

**Questions about the study:**

If you have any questions about this study, please ask the member of staff who is showing or reading you this information sheet. If you have any further questions, you can contact the study team using the following details:

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Learning Manager, Raising Voices

Address: Plot 16 Tufnell Drive, Kamwokya, PO Box 6770, Kampala, Uganda

Tel: 0414 531 186

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**Questions about participants rights:**

If you have any questions about your rights as research participants, please ask the member of staff who is showing or reading you this information sheet. If you have a concern about any aspect of the study, you should speak to the study team, whose contact details are written above. If you remain unhappy and wish to make a formal complaint, you can contact the Mildmay Uganda Research and Ethics Committee (MUREC) chairperson, Susan Nakubulwa, on 0392174236.

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| *Physical Address:*  Mildmay Uganda Research and Ethics Committee (MUREC)  12 Km Entebbe Road  Naziba Hill  Lweza  Kampala  Uganda | *Post Address:*  Mildmay Uganda Research and Ethics Committee (MUREC)  P.O. Box 24985  Kampala  Uganda |

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine holds insurance policies which apply to this study. If you experience unlikely harm or injury as a result of taking part in this study, you might be able to claim compensation.

**Statement of voluntariness:**

It is up to you to decide to take part or not. If you do not want to take part, that is ok. Your decision will not affect your participation in other *SASA! Together* or UGANET activities in the future. You are also free to stop completing the survey at any time, or to skip any questions that make you feel uncomfortable, or that you don’t want to answer for any reason. You just need to tell the researcher that you don’t want to be in the study anymore. We may use the responses you give up until your withdrawal. If you withdraw from the study, you will still be able to take part in *SASA! Together* and UGANET activities.

**Dissemination of results:**

Research participants will have the opportunity to hear about the findings of the study during community meetings that will be held in Kisinga subcounty.

**Ethical approval:**

All research involving human participants is looked at by an independent group of people, called a Research Ethics Committee, to protect your interests. This study has been reviewed and approved by The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine Research Ethics Committee. The Mildmay Uganda Research and Ethics Committee (MUREC) has reviewed the study and have agreed that it is safe for us to ask people to take part. A national body called the Uganda National Council of Science and Technology (UNCST) has also reviewed and provided clearance for this study. We have also obtained permission from the Kasese district authorities (LCV Chairperson, CAO, RDC, DISO, GISO, CDCO and Probation and Social Welfare Officer).

**Consent:**

**STATEMENT OF CONSENT**

........................................................................... has described to me what is going to be done, the risks, the benefits involved and my rights regarding this study. I understand that my decision to participate in this study will not alter my usual medical care. In the use of this information, my identity will be concealed. I am aware that I may withdraw at any time. I understand that by signing this form, I do not waive any of my legal rights but merely indicate that I have been informed about the research study in which I am voluntarily agreeing to participate. A copy of this form will be provided to me.

Name ………………………Signature/thumb print of participant …………………Date ……

Name………………………Signature of witness (if applicable)……………Date…………….

Name ……………………….Signature of interviewer/Person obtaining informed consent ……………………Date ………………….

Household ID number……………………………………..