

Annex 3. Individual Participant Information Sheet



Information for Participants

Study title: Testing alternative approaches to sanitation and hygiene interventions: the Wash for Everyone Approach in Chiradzulu, Malawi

Study contact:

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You are being invited to take part in a research study lead by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine-UK and WASHTED Centre -MUBAS, Malawi.

Before you decide, we want to explain to you the purposes of this research and what it will involve. Please ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. You may take some time to decide whether you wish to take part.

The following is to explain details of the study:

1. What is the purpose of the study?

The Chiradzulu WASH For Everyone (W4E) Project is being delivered by World Vision International and Water for People. This project is designed to address water, sanitation, and hygiene service challenges in the district. The Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine are working together to better understand how we measure key household behaviours to help us understand this intervention. The research project we are completing is to test two different ways of measuring behaviour in the household and comparing the two so that we can identify the best and easiest method.

2. Why have I been chosen?

You have been asked to participate because you live in one of the programme communities.

3. Do I have to take part?

It is up to you to decide to join the study. We will describe the study and go through this information sheet. If you agree to take part, we will then ask you to sign a consent form. You are free to stop participating at any time, without giving a reason.

4. What will happen to me if I take part (check as appropriate)?

_____ Direct observation: If you agree, someone will position themselves in your home for about 3 hours. The goal is to observe how you and members of your household interact with the material in your household. We will not record any names or personal identifying information in the observation. This person will position themselves in an unobtrusive spot. If you would, for any reason, like privacy – you can ask for a 15-minute break. You can also ask the observer to leave your home at any time without any penalty to you.

_____ Sticker Diaries: The day after the observation, we will return to your home. We will ask you questions about the things you did the day before during the observation period. We expect that this activity will take approximately 1 hour.

_____ Survey: After you have discussed your activities from the day before, we will ask you a short series of questions about the composition of your households and your dwelling. We expect this survey to take approximately 15 minutes.

5. How long does the study go for?

This study will be on-going through most of 2023. We will be in your community for several days. Your involvement, however, will be limited to a few hours.

6. Is there any cost for participating in the study?

There are no financial costs for participating in this study.

7. What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

There are limited risks of harm associated with being involved in this study. To mitigate these risks, names and identifying information will not appear anywhere in written documents or in transcripts. All data will be saved via a password-protected server (WASHTED and LSHTM).

8. What are the possible benefits of taking part?

If you decide to participate in this study, you may help us better understand if the W4E Project is achieving its intended outcomes.

9. Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?

Your name and identifiable information will be kept strictly confidential. Only people that are directly involved in this research will have access to that information. All information will be kept in a secure location. At the end of the project, information provided by everyone who participated in this project

may be made available to other researchers or placed in a public repository. We will never share your name or other information about you. We will only share with your permission.

10. What will happen if I don't want to carry on with the study?

You can decide to stop participating in the study at any time, even after we have started interviewing you or have started observations at the facility. If you withdraw from the study, you can decide whether you want us to destroy the information we have already collected and the information you provided us, or whether you allow us to use these data.

11. Who will review the study?

The study will be reviewed and subject to approval by the ethics committee of LSHTM as well as by the National Committee on Research in the Social Sciences and Humanities (NCRSH).

12. What if something goes wrong?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should ask to speak to the researchers who will do their best to answer your questions [personal telephone number removed]. If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally, you can do this by contacting Patricia Henley at rgio@lshtm.ac.uk or +44 (0) 20 7927 2626>

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

13. What will happen to the results of the research study?

All the data from the interviews and observations will be analysed by researchers working with the WASHTED Centre and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

You will be given a copy of the information sheet and a signed consent form to keep.

Thank you for considering taking the time to read this sheet.