**Participant Information Sheet for Disposable Diaper (Nappy) Use Questionnaire**

**Study Title**: **Exploring disposable diaper (nappy) use, consumption and disposal in urban communities in Accra, Ghana and Kisumu, Kenya.**

**Researchers**: Prof. Jim Wright, Prof. Allan Hill and Mair Thomas (University of Southampton, UK); Mawuli Dzodzomenyo (University of Ghana); Lorna Okotto (Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology (JOOUST), Kenya); and Joseph Okotto-Okotto (Victoria Institute for Research on Environment and Development (VIRED) International, Kenya)

**ERGO number:** 77654

You are being invited to take part in the above research study. To help you decide whether you would like to take part or not, it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please read the information below carefully and ask questions if anything is not clear or you would like more information before you decide to take part in this research. You may like to discuss it with others but it is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you are happy to participate you will be asked to sign a consent form.

**What is the research about?**

We are from Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology (JOOUST)/University of Ghana School of Public Health [delete as appropriate] and are working with colleagues from the NGO VIRED International in Rabuor and also University of Southampton in the UK on a research project. Our study aims to examine the number and type of nappies used by women with recently born children in Accra. It will also estimate the costs of the different nappies used and document patterns of disposal of the used nappies. The study is part of the ‘Expanding safe water and waste management service access to off-grid urban populations in Africa’ (Water and Waste) project, which is supported by UK Research and Innovation as part of the Global Challenges Research Fund. The overall study aims to expand water access (e.g. through sale of sachets) whilst minimising uncollected waste. It is a collaboration between the University of Ghana School of Public Health, University of Southampton, and two Kenyan institutions, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology, and VIRED International.

**Why have I been asked to participate?**

You have been asked to take part because you have a child that is aged three or under and is likely to be wearing nappies. As their parent/carer/guardian, you will therefore have some experience in buying, using and disposing of nappies.

**What will happen to me if I take part?**

If you agree to take part and meet the criteria to be a participant (i.e. your child is aged three or under), a research team member will ask you to participate in a short questionnaire. This should take no longer than 15 minutes and we will be asking about your experiences of using nappies. We will then ask you to provide some basic information about yourself, such as age, gender, employment. Questions will then focus on the types of material you use to collect the urine/faeces of your child and how you dispose of diapers if you use them. Your responses will be collected using software on a tablet or cell phone. Our research project will run until March 2023 to allow time for interpreting the information that we collect and passing on our findings to stakeholders.

**Are there any benefits in my taking part?**

There will not be a direct benefit from taking part, but your participation could help government, NGOs, and international organisations understand how nappies are being used and disposed of, and the impact they are having on waste in urban areas of Greater Accra and Kisumu [delete as appropriate]. Findings may lead to improvements in disposal methods used for diapers or to develop alternative methods of collecting children’s waste that have a lesser effect on the surrounding environment.

**Are there any risks involved?**

There is the risk of the surveyor inadvertently passing on COVID-19. To reduce this risk, they will wash their hands before and after speaking to you, keep 2 metres away from you during the survey process, and also wear a face mask throughout the process. Should they become sick in the 2 weeks following the questionnaire or test positive for COVID-19, then the research team will contact the health clinic you are attending and inform them to let you know about this. Please wear a face mask during the process and make sure you stay 2 metres away from the surveyor too. We can provide you with a face mask if you do not have one.

Beyond COVID-19 there are no real risks to being involved in this research and you are not obliged to discuss anything you feel uncomfortable about. You can skip any of the questions we ask you if you wish. All the information you provide us with will be treated as confidential, and we will try to avoid people from listening in as far as is possible.

**What data will be collected?**

We will ask you to sign a consent form to document that you have agreed to participate.  In asking you about your background, we will ask you about your age, employment and education level. This information will be used during our study to assess differences in nappy use between different groups of people, for example, unemployed versus employed. We will also ask you for your child’s month of birth and gender, so that we can find out the age when children are toilet-trained. You will then be asked about nappy use and methods of waste disposal. You will also be asked about the purpose of your visit to the healthcare facility today, so we can take account of children who are sick possibly using more nappies (e.g. because of diarrhoea). The surveyor will not use your real name when collecting information, rather you will be assigned an ID code. The software that we use on the mobile phone or tablet has encryption, which means that the information is kept securely on the phone or tablet and as it is transmitted to our database.

**Will my participation be confidential?**

Your participation and the information we collect about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential. We will keep the consent forms and people’s names and phone numbers securely in a locked office at University of Ghana.  We will record the answers to your questions using software on a mobile phone or tablet and the answers will then be passed securely to a database, accessible only to the research team.

Only members of the research team and responsible members of the University of Southampton may be given access to data about you for monitoring purposes and/or to carry out an audit of the study to ensure that the research is complying with applicable regulations. Individuals from regulatory authorities (people who check that we are carrying out the study correctly) may require access to your data. All of these people have a duty to keep your information, as a research participant, strictly confidential. The study will comply with the UK data protection laws.

**Do I have to take part?**

No, it is entirely up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you decide you want to take part, you will need to sign a consent form to show you agree.

**What happens if I change my mind?**

You have the right to change your mind and withdraw at any time up to or during the meeting without giving a reason and without your participant rights being affected. Because we will not be recording people’s names, you cannot withdraw after the meeting because we will not know who said what.

**What will happen to the results of the research?**

The names of those taking part will not be kept and we will keep the consent forms in a locked office at JOOUST/University of Ghana [delete as appropriate]. We also plan to feed back our study findings to key organisations notably the metropolitan and national authorities, such as the Kisumu county government. Your personal details will remain strictly confidential. Research findings made available in any reports or publications will not include information that can directly identify you.

We plan to make anonymised answers to the questions we ask (with names and all personal details removed) available to other researchers if you agree to this. This is so that any interpretations of the data that we make can be checked by other independent researchers, to make sure that we have drawn the right conclusions and the science is conducted properly.  If you agree to this, we will put the anonymised data in a special facility for storing research data and making it available to researchers around the world called the UK Data Archive (or a similar service, should the UK Data Archive decline our data offer).

**Where can I get more information?**

If you have any further questions about the study, you can contact the study team as follows:

[delete as appropriate]

Mr. Joseph Okotto-Okotto,

VIRED International,

Rabuor Environment and Development Center,

Rabuor. Tel: 0713 925 989, 0733 779 631

Email: [jokotto@hotmail.com](mailto:jokotto@hotmail.com)

Dr. Mawuli Dzodzomenyo

School of Public Health.

University of Ghana, Legon.

Tel: 020-8376845

Email: [mdzodzomenyo@ug.edu.gh](mailto:mdzodzomenyo@ug.edu.gh)

**What happens if there is a problem?**

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should speak to the researchers who will do their best to answer your questions.

This research has been reviewed and approved by the Institutional Review Board of Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology / the Institutional Review Board of Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR-IRB) [delete as appropriate] and by the Ethics Board of the Faculty of Environmental and Life Sciences at University of Southampton. If you remain unhappy or have a complaint about any aspect of this study, or if you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, you can contact the [delete contact details as appropriate] ethics chair at Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology (JOOUST) as follows:

Prof. Francis Angawa,

Chair, Ethics Review Committee, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology,

PO BOX 210-40601 Bondo, Kenya

Tel: +254 57 2501804

Email: erc@jooust.ac.ke

Or you can contact the NMIMR-IRB Office between the hours of 8am – 5pm through the landline 0302916438 or email address: [nirb@noguchi.mimcom.org](mailto:nirb@noguchi.mimcom.org).  You may also contact the University of Southampton Research Integrity and Governance Manager (+44-23 8059 5058, [rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk](mailto:rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk)).

**Data Protection Privacy Notice**

The University of Southampton conducts research to the highest standards of research integrity. As a publicly-funded organisation, the University has to ensure that it is in the public interest when we use personally-identifiable information about people who have agreed to take part in research. This means that when you agree to take part in a research study, we will use information about you in the ways needed, and for the purposes specified, to conduct and complete the research project. Under data protection law, ‘Personal data’ means any information that relates to and is capable of identifying a living individual. The University’s data protection policy governing the use of personal data by the University can be found on its website (<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/legalservices/what-we-do/data-protection-and-foi.page>).

This Participant Information Sheet tells you what data will be collected for this project and whether this includes any personal data. Please ask the research team if you have any questions or are unclear what data is being collected about you.

Our privacy notice for research participants provides more information on how the University of Southampton collects and uses your personal data when you take part in one of our research projects. If you wish, we can provide you with a copy now or you can download a copy at <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/assets/sharepoint/intranet/ls/Public/Research%20and%20Integrity%20Privacy%20Notice/Privacy%20Notice%20for%20Research%20Participants.pdf>

Any personal data we collect in this study will be used only for the purposes of carrying out our research and will be handled according to the University’s policies in line with data protection law. If any personal data is used from which you can be identified directly, it will not be disclosed to anyone else without your consent unless the University of Southampton is required by law to disclose it.

Data protection law requires us to have a valid legal reason (‘lawful basis’) to process and use your Personal data. The lawful basis for processing personal information in this research study is for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest. Personal data collected for research will not be used for any other purpose.

For the purposes of data protection law, the University of Southampton is the ‘Data Controller’ for this study, which means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. The University of Southampton will keep identifiable information about you for 10 years after the study has finished after which time any link between you and your information will be removed.

To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personal data necessary to achieve our research study objectives. Your data protection rights – such as to access, change, or transfer such information - may be limited, however, in order for the research output to be reliable and accurate. The University will not do anything with your personal data that you would not reasonably expect.

If you have any questions about how your personal data is used, or wish to exercise any of your rights, please consult the University’s data protection webpage (https://www.southampton.ac.uk/legalservices/what-we-do/data-protection-and-foi.page) where you can make a request using our online form. If you need further assistance, please contact the University’s Data Protection Officer ([data.protection@soton.ac.uk](mailto:data.protection@soton.ac.uk)).

**Thank you.**