

## **KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW CONSENT FORM**

Title: [An assessment of flooding from dam releases and its impacts on diarrheal disease and microbiological contamination of water sources in selected dryland areas in Northern Ghana]

Principal Investigator: [Dr. Mawuli Dzodzomenyo, Ghana School of Public Health, University of Ghana]

Address: [Biological, Environmental and Occupational Health School of Public Health, University of Ghana, P.O Box LG13, Legon-Accra, GHANA]

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 Volunteer agreement form.

### **General Information about Research**

We are asking you to participate in a research study that aims to assess the impact of flooding from water release at the Bagre Dam on microbiological contamination of water sources, and how people adapt to flooding in affected communities along the white Volta River in Northern Ghana. We hope to estimate flood-related microbiological contamination of water from the dam and how people in affected areas adapt to flooding. With this information, we aim to help protect people from the harmful effects of flooding and provide information on the impact of the Bagre Dam flooding for policy. The study is funded by the 'Building REsearch Capacity for sustainable water and food security in drylands of Sub-Saharan Africa' (BRECcIA) project, which is supported by UK Research and Innovation as part of the Global Challenges Research Fund. The study is a collaboration between the University of Ghana School of Public Health and School of Geography and Environmental Science, University of Southampton.

You have been asked to participate because you work for an institution in a district affected by flooding from the Bagre Dam that has a role in flood preparedness, response, and recovery.

### **Possible Risks and Discomforts**

Although we will not name you or your specific organisation in any reports, there is a risk that any comments you make could be attributed to your organisation, as one of several such organisations participating in the study that have a role in flood preparedness, response, or recovery. As flooding can severely affect people's lives, you may find the interview distressing when we discuss flooding. If you do find it distressing, please let us know so that we can take a break from the interview or even stop it if necessary.

The interview should take around 45 minutes. We will make a sound recording of the interview using this device, so that we have a record of your comments for later. If you do not wish to be recorded, we can still interview you, but the interview may take longer as we will need to take notes of what you say. Our project will run until September 2021, to allow time for the information we collect to be analysed and fed back to government

### **Possible Benefits**

There are no direct benefits to you taking part, though we plan to feed back our findings to NADMO, Red Cross and other organisations so that they can inform efforts to prepare for and respond to flooding. Our evidence could thus help highlight the problem of Bagre Dam flooding more widely.

### **Confidentiality**

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 in a locked office at the University of Ghana in Accra. The audio recording of the interview will be taken back to the University of Ghana and kept in a locked office. What is said will be typed onto computer, removing any people's names mentioned, then the audio recording will be destroyed.

Only members of the research team and responsible members of the University of Ghana and 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 both the 2012 Ghana Data Protection Act (act 843) and UK data protection laws

### **Additional Cost**

You will not incur any additional cost while participating in this research unless you time.

### **Voluntary Participation and Right to Leave the Research**

You have the right to change your mind and withdraw up to a month after the interview without giving a reason and without your participant rights being affected. Please contact a member of the team if you wish to withdraw – Dr. Dzodzomenyo's contact details are provided below

### **Contacts for Additional Information**

If you have any further questions about the study, you can contact the University of Ghana, School of Public Health as follows:

Dr. Mawuli Dzodzomenyo  
School of Public Health.  
University of Ghana, Legon.  
Tel: 020-8376845

### **Your rights as a Participant**

This research has been reviewed and approved by the Institutional Review Board of Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR-IRB). If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant you can contact the IRB Office between the hours of 8am-5pm through the landline 0302916438 or email addresses: [nirb@noguchi.ug.edu.gh](mailto:nirb@noguchi.ug.edu.gh)

Thank you.

## VOLUNTEER AGREEMENT

The above document describing the benefits, risks and procedures for the research title (***An assessment of flooding from dam releases and its impacts on diarrheal disease and microbiological contamination of water sources in selected dryland areas in Northern Ghana***) has been read and explained to me. I have been given an opportunity to have any questions about the research answered to my satisfaction. I agree to participate as a volunteer.

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Date

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Name and signature or thumbprint of volunteer

**If volunteers cannot read the form themselves, a witness must sign here:**

I was present while the benefits, risks and procedures were read to the volunteer. All questions were answered and the volunteer has agreed to take part in the research.

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Date

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Name and signature of witness

I certify that the nature and purpose, the potential benefits, and possible risks associated with participating in this research have been explained to the above individual.

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Date

Obtained Consent

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Name Signature of Person Who