

## **FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION 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 take part because we understand that the community where you live has been particularly affected by flooding. Community leaders suggested we contact you as a possible participant in our study so that we could hear about your experiences of flooding

### **Possible Risks and Discomforts**

Talking about the impact of flooding can be upsetting, particularly if you have been affected by flooding yourself. If people become upset during the discussions, we will take a break and if necessary, halt the discussions if it is too upsetting for everyone. Participating will also involve you travelling to a local meeting point (e.g. place of worship or school) and take up some 90 minutes of your time.

### **Possible Benefits**

As the discussions will take some time, we will provide drinks and a light meal to thank you for your time. Apart from this, there will not be a direct benefit from taking part, but our project should provide information on how flooding is affecting the community here, which could help local government and other authorities in planning flood response. It should also provide information and recommendations about microbiological contamination of water sources too, which could help you and others here in planning how and when you use water.

## **Confidentiality**

We cannot guarantee that your participation will be kept confidential, because there will be other people taking part in the study who will hear what they say. These people could repeat any comments that you make outside of the meeting, though when we open up the discussions, we will ask everyone not to repeat any comments made to others afterwards. We will protect information about you to the best of our ability. You will not be named in any reports

The minute-taker will not record people's names when taking notes. The audio recording of the rough English translation of discussions will be taken back to the University of Ghana and kept in a locked office. What is said will be typed onto computer, removing people's names, 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**

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 have agreed to take part.

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.

## **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