

Consent Script 1  
Version 6: 12/30/15

**If you have any questions, please contact:**  
**Kristin Nash +1 415-755-5627 or**  
**GAIA +26 501 847918**

**UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN A RESEARCH STUDY**

***--Influential Adult Consent (Parents/Guardians, Initiation Counselors, Other)--***

Study Title: Information, education and communication (IEC) on sexual and reproductive health (SRH) for adolescent girls in rural southern Malawi: a Landscape Analysis

This is a research study to better understand sexual and reproductive health information, education and communication for girls in the Mulanje District.

The results of the study will help GAIA to develop a sexual and reproductive health program based on the needs and desires of your community. The goal of GAIA's program will be to reduce unwanted pregnancies among young girls and to improve the overall health in the community. Kristin Nash, a master's student from the University of Washington is leading the study and supporting GAIA in this effort.

You are being asked to take part in this study because: either you have a daughter or minor charge aged 10-18 years, or you provide sexual and reproductive health education to girls.

Research studies include only people who choose to take part. Please take your time to make your decision about participating, and discuss your decision with your family or friends if you wish. If you have any questions, you may ask the researcher.

**Why is this study being done?**

The purpose of this study is to understand how and what girls are taught about sexual and reproductive health. Also, we will ask adults what they think about the information girls receive on this topic. GAIA can hopefully use these study results to design a health program for girls.

**How many people will take part in this study?**

Up to 50 people will take part in this study. We will be talking to girls aged 10-18 and adults living or working in the Mulanje District.

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## **What will happen if I take part in this research study?**

If you agree, the following will take place:

You will participate in an interview for about 45 minutes. The interview will address:

- Current sources and content of sexual and reproductive health education for girls
- Your preference for sources and content
- Your attitudes toward providing girls with this information

The researcher will take notes and audio-tape the interview. Only the translator and researcher will listen to the recordings and we will not identify you in interview notes or the recording. To protect your privacy, please do not say your name or mention others during the interview.

### **Study location:**

The interview will be conducted in a private area, either your own home or a private place in the community.

### **How long will I be in the study?**

After finishing the consent process, the interview will take about 45 minutes.

### **Can I stop being in the study?**

Yes. You can decide to stop at any time. Just tell the researcher right away if you wish to stop being in the study. Also, the researcher may stop you from taking part in this study at any time if he or she believes it is in your best interest, or if the study is stopped for any reason.

### **What side effects or risks can I expect from being in the study?**

Some of the questions may make you uncomfortable or upset, but you are free to not answer any questions you do not wish to answer or to not participate at any time. For more information about risks and side effects, ask the researcher.

There is a very small risk that some information may be seen by someone outside the research study. But because we are not recording your name or where you live, the chance of the information being linked to you is extremely small, and we are doing everything we can to protect the data.

### **Are there benefits to taking part in the study?**

There will be no direct benefit to you from participating in this study. But, the information that you provide may help GAIA with its program to reduce unwanted pregnancy among girls and improve the general health in the community.

### **What other choices do I have if I do not take part in this study?**

You are free to choose not to participate in the study. If you decide not to take part in this study, there will be no penalty to you. You can still use any of the GAIA services the way you usually do.

### **Will information about me be kept private?**

Any information you provide and that can be identified with you will remain confidential, unless you provide permission or the law requires. No identifying information will be collected or used. Organizations that may look at the information collected through this study include:

- GAIA
- University of Washington

### **What are the costs of taking part in this study?**

You will not be charged for participating in this study.

### **Will I be paid for taking part in this study?**

You will receive a bar of body soap for taking part in this study.

### **What are my rights if I take part in this study?**

Taking part in this study is your choice. You may choose to take part or not. If you decide to take part in this study, you may leave the study at any time. No matter what decision you make, there will be no penalty to you. You will not lose any of your regular benefits, and you can still get your care from GAIA the way you usually do.

### **Who can answer my questions about the study?**

You can talk to the researcher about any questions, concerns, or complaints you have about this study, including if you feel you have experienced harm related to participation in the study. **Contact the researcher Kristin Nash at +1 415-755-5627 or any GAIA staff member (+26 501 847918). If you want to ask questions about the study or your rights as a research participant of someone other than the researcher or if you want to voice any problems or concerns you may have about the study, please call the University of Washington at 206-543-0919 or the Malawi National Health Sciences Research Committee at +26 560 1726422.**

CONSENT

REMEMBER, PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH IS VOLUNTARY.

You have the right to say no to participating in this study, or to leave at any point without penalty. If you wish to participate in this study, please respond “yes.”