

Consent Script 2
Version 6: 12/30/15

If you have any questions, please contact:
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GAIA +26 501 847918

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

--Parent/Guardian Consent for Minor Child--

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

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

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

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 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.

Your child/charge is being asked to participate in this research study because we are interviewing adolescent girls, aged 10-18, living in the Mulanje District.

Your child's participation is voluntary. Please take your time to make your decision about allowing your child to participate, 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.

What will happen if my child takes part in this research study?

If you agree to have your child participate, the following will take place:

She will participate in an interview with the researcher/translator for about 45 minutes.

The interview will address:

- The current sources and content of sexual and reproductive health education that she has received
- Her preference for sources and content

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 the girls in interview notes or the recording. To protect her privacy, we will ask her NOT to say her 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 she be in the study?

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

Can she stop being in the study?

Yes. You/she can decide to stop at any time. She can tell the researcher right away if she wishes to stop being in the study. Also, the researcher may stop her from taking part in this study at any time if it is believed to be in her best interest, or if the study is stopped for any reason.

What side effects or risks can she expect from being in the study?

Some of the questions may make you/her uncomfortable or upset, but she is free to not answer any questions she does 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 names or where the girls live, the chance of the information being linked to a specific person 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 her from participating in this study. But, the information that she provides may help GAIA with its program to reduce unwanted pregnancy among girls and improve the general health in the community.

What other choices does she have if she does not take part in this study?

You are free to choose NOT to allow your child to participate in the study. If you decide to decline participation on behalf of your child, there will be no penalty to you or her. Your family can still get still use any of the GAIA services the way you usually do.

Will information about her be kept private?

Any information that is obtained in connection with this study and that can be identified with your child will remain confidential and will be disclosed only with your permission or as required by law. 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?

There is no charge for participation in this study.

Will she be paid for taking part in this study?

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

What are her rights if she takes part in this study?

Taking part in this study is your choice. You may choose either to allow her to take part or not to take part in the study. If you decide to allow her to take part in this study, she may leave the study at any time. No matter what decision you make, there will be no penalty to you of any kind. Neither you nor your child will lose any of your regular benefits, and you can still get 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 wish to ask questions about the study or your rights as a research participant to someone other than the researchers or if you wish 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/your child have the right to say no to being in this study, or to leave at any point without penalty. If you wish to participate in this study, please respond “yes.”

