## Participant Information Sheet

Evaluating the Psychological and Social Impact by Promoting Positive Masculinity Through the ‘Living Peace’ Program in Democratic Republic of Congo, DRC.

**Overview**

This information sheet provide brief and clear information on the essential elements of the this study, what the research is about, the condition or treatment under study, the voluntary nature of involvement, what will happen during and after the research has taken place, the responsibilities of participants, the potential risks, inconveniences or restrictions balanced against any possible benefits and the alternatives. It help participants to decide whether the study is of interest to them and whether they wish to read and discuss it further.

# Invitation

I would like to invite you to take part in this research study. We want to conduct a study to understand different types of relationships between men, their wives / partners, their children and communities. Before you decide, you need to understand why the study is being done and what it would involve for you. Please take time to read the following information carefully. Ask questions if anything you read is not clear or would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not to take part.

**Why and how have you been invited to take part?**

You have been invited to take part in this study, with the help of local, religious and clan’s administration, as someone with the experience related to the relationships within the households and communities in general.

# What is the purpose of the study?

The main purpose of the survey is to evaluate Living peace interventions in your respective communities. You have been selected to contribute to its realization. We inform you that this study has been authorized by the DRC Ethics Committee.

**Do I have to take part?**

It is up to you to decide. We will describe the study and go through the information sheet, which we will give to you. We will then ask you to sign a consent form to show you agreed to take part. You are free to withdraw at any time, without giving a reason.

**Study enrolment**

Our visits to you will extend over 2 years: The first will be done today; the second will be made in 5 months; and the last in a year. The goal is to always understand daily the type of problems faced by men and women in your community. In this study, we will also assess the impact of living peace interventions in reducing these conflicts in the community.

Before you decide to answer our questions, we would like to provide you with all the information related to the subject. Also, before you put your signature you have the right to ask any question and you will have an answer. Other information to know is that during this survey, half of the randomly selected men will be part of the "Living Peace" groups. They will gather to discuss the questions in this questionnaire. Other half men will continue to participate in our study. The interview will last about an hour.

**Confidentiality**

The information you provide us will be of great importance to better understand the relationships of these men and women. And, these interviews will be confidential because they only interest this research. Under no circumstances can they be disclosed under any condition and even to your partner. As we have explained to you, they will only be used in research and will be anonymous and secret.

**Benefits**

We cannot promise the study will help you, but the information we get from the study willhelp us to understand the problems that women and men face in the end of proposing the strengthening of living peace intervention capacities and healing these communities. This research will also help us to increase respect between men and women and reduce violence in your respective communities. Therefore, your opinions will be of great importance to us.

**Risks**

The risks to you as a participant in this research are minimal. During the investigation, you can share with us some information considered to be personal. Some questions can embarrass you, and you do not have to answer any questions you do not want to answer.

It may also happen that some of our questions destabilize you emotionally and psychologically. You can take a break to resume later.

**Right to refuse or withdraw from this research**

As noted above, your participation is voluntary and does not incur any costs on your part. You do not have to answer a question you do not want to answer. Please inform me if you wish to interrupt the interview. You can take a break or interrupt the interview to continue later. We can stop and continue later. You can also, if you wish, withdraw from the study at any time without any consequences.

**How will information you provided be recorded, stored and protected?**

All information you provide will be collected using a tablet, and will be kept straight in the study server which is protected and only research team has the access. As mentioned in the confidentiality paragraph, your information will be protected in a way no one could identify you. All reports, publication, presentations will not mention any of your identification.

**Compensation**

There is no remuneration for participation in the study. Simply, the research team thought of giving each participant a sum of 2000 Congolese francs for the time spent with the researcher.

In case you have questions or problems related to this study. Please communicate it to these two people:

Mr. Damien Bungulu Masudi at the number + 243 816382525 or Mrs. Charlotte Riziki

at the number +243 0973603478.

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

After two years period, the results of the study will be published in international journals, reports and in different conferences in both DRC and abroad. The results will help to refine the Living Peace intervention in DRC and recommendations will be provided for the same practice to done in other countries with similar conditions accordingly.

**Who is organising or sponsoring the research?**

This study is being conducted by College of Medicine and Health Sciences from University of Rwanda (UR-CMHS), Center for Mental Health Sciences (CMH) an institution with-in UR, and the Institut Superieur du Lac (ISL) a recognised degree-granting institution located in Goma and it gives University-level training in mental health, clinical psychology and counselling. The study is being sponsored by Enhancing Learning and Research for Humanitarian (Elrha) under Research for health in Humanitarian crisis (R2HC) program. Elrha is a global charity that finds solution to complex humanitarian problem through research and innovation.

**Further contact details of the study team**

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**Participant Consent**
I read this information sheet and the research issues were explained to me. I was given the opportunity to ask questions to which I got answers.

I was also informed of people to contact if needed. I agree to participate in the study described above.