INFORMATION Sheet FOR HEALTH WORKERS

**Study title: Evaluating the use of a novel, low-cost tool to identify stunting in adolescents in Lilongwe, Malawi.**

Introduction

Stunting occurs when a child’s height is shorter than expected for his/her age. Over 40% of children in Malawi are stunted. However, these children are often not identified in both the community or healthcare setting. In this project, we are evaluating the use of a new tool that we have developed to help identify stunted children and adolescents in the community. This is important for further research to develop an effective treatment for stunting. The wall chart can also be used in the community to raise awareness about the importance of stunting.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information!

what is this research for?

We are doing a research project on stunting in Malawi. We wish to measure the accuracy of a new tool that can be used to identify stunting. We would like to invite you to participate in this research project.

WHO Is carrying out the study

This study is being conducted by researchers from the Malawi Epidemiology and Intervention Research Unit (MEIRU) and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (University of London, UK).

Why am i being asked to take part?

We want to test the use of the chart in a local setting by health workers. We believe that having you involved in this study will give us an indication of the stunting chart performance when it is eventually put into use.

what will happen During the study?

PART 1

We will measure each child’s or adolescent’s height using two methods:

1. Stunting chart (wall chart)
2. Height measuring board.

We will ask you to measure each child or adolescent using the stunting chart, in order to identify each as normal, stunted or severely stunted. The lead researcher will obtain “traditional” height measurements from the same child or adolescent using the height measuring board. It should take you less than 5 minutes for each child or adolescent.

PART 2

We will ask you to fill in a short questionnaire to get your opinion on the two measurement methods and your experience using the wall chart. The questionnaire will also briefly explore your views on stunting. Any information shared with us will be strictly confidential.

what impact will the study have on me?

RISKS

 There are no risks in taking part.

BENEFITS

You will be part of a study that aims to improve the identification of stunting in Malawi. From your participation in this study, this study will benefit from greater knowledge and awareness of the problem of stunting in Malawi. You will also benefit from in-depth experience of research, especially in doing anthropometric measures.

WHO WILL hAVE ACCESS TO THE INFORMATION YOU COLLECT ABOUT ME?

Any information that is collected will only be seen by members of the research team. All information will be stored securely. This means that whenever we write or talk about any information collected, we never use your real name.

WHAT WILL THE RESULTS Be used for?

The findings from this study will be reported to a wide range of people, including other health workers in Malawi.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON’T WANT TO TAKE PART?

You should only participate if you want to; choosing whether or not to participate will not disadvantage you in any way. Before deciding whether to take part, it is important for you to understand what the project involves. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

WHO CaN I GO TO FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS?

If you have any questions or opinions about this study, please contact:

**Primary Investigator:**

**Pannapat Chanyarungrojn**

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c/o Dr Marko Kerac; email: marko.kerac@lshtm.ac.uk

* MEIRU (Malawi Epidemiology Intervention Research Unit) c/o CHSU (Community Health Sciences Unit) Malawi) Mthunthama Road, Area 3, Lilongwe, Malawi.
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**Ethics Committee:**

**COMREC (College of Medicine Research and Ethics Committee)**

* College of Medicine, University of Malawi 3rd Floor - John Chiphangwi Learning Resource Centre, Private Bag 360, Chichiri, Blantyre 3, Malawi; Contact number: 01871911

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| This study has been approved by the Ethics Committee [Project ID Number]: | COMREC P.06/16/1955 |