INFORMATION Sheet FOR consenting parents

**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 your child to participate in this research project.

Why IS MY CHILD being asked to take part?

Any child who is not acutely ill or disabled is being asked to take part in this study. We are hoping to recruit at least 300 children for this study

what will happen to MY CHILD?

PART 1

We will measure your child’s height using two methods:

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

This will take around 10 minutes, as there might be some waiting time before and between measurements. The height measurements collected are strictly confidential and will not disadvantage your child in any way.

PART 2

We will ask your child to fill in a short questionnaire to obtain his/her opinion on the two measurement methods. The questionnaire will also briefly explore your child’s view and knowledge on stunting. Any information shared with us will be strictly confidential.

what impact will the study have on MY CHILD?

RISKS

There are no risks in taking part. There will be no implications or direct actions that can be taken based on your child’s height. After completion of height measurement and questionnaire, we will provide a leaflet containing general health advice and information for your child.

BENEFITS

Your child will be part of a study that aims to improve the identification of stunting in Malawi. From participating in this study, your child will benefit from greater knowledge and awareness of the problem of stunting in Malawi.

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 child’s real name. The only information that we may have to pass on is if your child tell us about risk of serious harm (eg. serious physical harm). Even in this rare event, we will only tell someone else after having talked to your child about it first.

WHAT WILL THE RESULTS BE USED FOR

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

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

Your child should only participate if he/she wants to; choosing whether or not to participate will not disadvantage your child in any way. Before deciding whether to take part, it is important for you and your child 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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**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 |