

Participants information sheet

Dear participant,

You are being invited to participate in a research project that aims at examining how Community-Based Social Healing intervention improves Ubuntu among program participants in post-genocide Rwanda. We believe that your contribution in responding to the questions will assist us in comprehending the outcomes of the Community-based social healing (CBSH) intervention which can help to make recommendations for policy makers to scale up the intervention to Rwandans who are in need.

At the time of this study, the project had received the necessary ethical approval from the University of Rwanda and complied with international ethical standards for research to be conducted in Rwanda.

Before joining this study, it is important for you to understand the content of the study to assist you in taking an informed decision on participation. Please note that all information provided during the interview will be kept confidential, Participation in this study is voluntary and you have the right to withdraw from the study in case you feel uncomfortable, and you will not be affected in any way because of your participation in this study. Feel free to ask any questions about this study and the consent form.

Information on the research

1. Voluntary participation

The following information can guide you in deciding to participate, we invite you to read it. It is entirely your choice to participate in this study and you have the right to withdraw from the study anytime for any reason with no repercussions. You can ask any questions before and after the interview. If you agree to participate, a copy of the signed consent form will be provided to you.

2. Purpose of the research

The purpose of this study is to examine the impact of the CBSH intervention on Ubuntu.

The procedure for participation

If you accept to participate in this research, we will ask you to take part of two interviews. The first questions are about your general information such as age, marital status, education level, profession, and your current residence. Then, we will take you through questions related to Ubuntu and mental health. The questionnaires we will be using are on tablets and we will be ticking your answer. The interview will last approximately 40 minutes. We will do an interview now and come back again after 4 months for another interview. This research is a randomized control trial, which means that there is 50% of taking part in the CBSH intervention group first and 50% chance that you participate later after the second interview.

3. Benefits of taking part in the research

In case you choose to participate, we cannot guarantee direct benefits of the research. However, your answers will contribute to advancing the understanding of the impact of the Community-Based Social Healing model on Ubuntu. The results of this study will inform the decision of health practitioners and policy makers to scale up this intervention to Rwandans and beyond. This can also inform decision makers in designing adequate services that respond to the real need felt by people.

4. Risks related to taking part of the research

We do not foresee any risks associated with participation in this research, but the questions ask about your personal life which might make you feel unease.

5. Privacy protection

Everything we are discussing will remain confidential. All participants' identities will be kept anonymous as we will use unique code numbers instead of names. No one will take a tablet or a notebook with the contents of the conversation except the research team. All the information will be stored on a password-protected laptop only accessible to the research team.

6. The number of participants

One thousand and eighty participants from Kirehe District will participate in the research.

7. Alternative to participating

Choosing not to participate in this study is the only alternative to participating.

8. Participation compensation

There is no compensation for the participants in this study.

9. Participation payment

There is no required payment to participate in this study. Participation costs nothing.

10. Ending participation in the study

If you decide to leave the study for any reason, it will not be held against you.

11. Who you can talk to, if you have any questions, concerns, or complaints about this project.

If you have any questions, concerns, or complaints; If you would like to withdraw from the study, or would like to speak with the project team, you can do so at any time by calling us at the University of Rwanda via Alice Nsengiyumva's mobile phone 0783885906.

If you have a question about your rights as a participant in this research, you can call the IRB CMHS chairperson at the University of Rwanda on 0788 490 522 or deputy chairperson on 0783 340 040.

Also, in any case in the conversation you want to stop, or if there are questions you don't want to answer, you can let me know, no problem. You can also take a break at any time you feel you need.