

### Appendix 1a – Arm 1—HIVST Information & Consent



UNIVERSITY OF  
TORONTO

**FACTOR-INWENTASH**  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK

Research Project: *Tushirikiane-4-Uthabiti (Supporting Each Other for Resilience)*

**Investigators:**

Dr. Carmen Logie, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto

**Funding:** *Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Pandemic Response Operating Grant*

You are invited to participate in a research study being done by researchers from the University of Toronto (in Canada) in collaboration with the Ugandan Ministry of Health and community agencies in Uganda including InterAid Uganda, Young African Refugees for Integral Development (YARID), Organization for Gender Empowerment and Rights Advocacy (OGERA), and Tomorrow Vijana. You are being invited to participate because you are between ages 16-24 years, have a mobile phone, you either identify as a refugee or displaced person, or your parents identify as a refugee and speak Swahili, English, French, Kinyarwanda or Kirundi. You are also being invited as you already took part in other research projects as a Tushirikiane participant, including for HIV testing and COVID-19 prevention. We would like you to understand the study before agreeing to participate. You have the right to not participate or leave the study before it is finished. This is the informed consent process, where we describe the risks and benefits of the research, so you can decide if you would like to participate or not. Please ask the study staff to explain any words you don't understand before signing this consent form. Make sure all your questions have been answered to your satisfaction before signing this document.

**What is this study about?**

We are doing this 6-month study to understand how acceptable self-testing is for HIV, and to test technologies to support linking to care among refugee young people in Kampala. We will compare differences between HIV self-testing and standard of care testing: where participants go to clinics/hospitals to receive HIV counseling and testing. Self-testing for HIV is when people use an oral swab test (around your gums in your mouth) and tube solutions to understand your HIV status. Information from this study will provide important information for national policies about HIV self-testing for refugee young people and youth in general in Uganda.

**How will I participate?**

Your participation in this study will only last 6 months. You will be asked to complete three surveys across 6 months starting with one today, another in 3 months from today and final one in six months from today. A research assistant will help you complete the surveys at each timepoint. You will also be connected with a peer navigator, who is a young refugee living in Kampala's slum communities. These young people will support you during the study, can answer any of your questions, will follow up with you to make sure you remember any study activities. They will let you know the best times and ways to connect with them.

At three different time points, the peer navigator will provide you with a self-testing HIV kit that you will be asked to use. The first kit will be given to you today. You can do the self-testing for HIV today in a private room, or later at home. It is your choice. You can also choose not to complete the test and return the kit to the peer navigator today or at a later date. The second kit will be given to you three months from

today, and the third kit will be given to you six months from today. Each time you get a kit, the peer navigator will also give you condoms and lubricants, booklets with information on HIV, and a verbal and written step-by-step description of how to use the kit. This written description will include text and pictures. The peer navigator will also give you a referral card with your unique participant identification number, as well as clinic addresses and phone numbers, and also their phone number so you can send them an SMS if you need more information on how to use the kits, or if you need support to go for more tests at a clinic. The kits are available in French, Swahili, Kinyarwanda, Kirundi and English. After each time you receive a kit, the research assistant will ask you to complete a survey about experiences with the kit and sexual practices. The first survey will be completed today in a private room or a place of your choice. Three months from today, and 6 months from today, a research assistant will contact you to complete a survey.

**What kind of questions will be asked in the study?****We will ask questions about:**

- Your HIV testing history;
- HIV risks;
- HIV self-testing use, acceptability and distribution.

**Who can participate?**

Your participation is voluntary. Doing this study will in no way affect the services you receive from Interaid Uganda, Young African Refugees for Integral Development (YARID), Organization for Gender Empowerment and Rights Advocacy (OGERA), Tomorrow Vijana, government facilities or other organizations. You can leave the study at any time, and we will remove your data from our analysis. After the end of data collection, we won't be able to remove your data from the final analysis. You can skip questions you do not want to answer. There are no right or wrong answers to the questions.

**What are the risks in participating in the study?**

Risks that may happen when you participate in the study is that you could feel emotional distress as a result of learning about an HIV-positive status and false reading of the HIV test. The peer navigators will ensure that HIV self-test kits are kept confidential and will provide you with support during times of emotional distress. They will also refer you to resources that can give you more support you. The peer navigators will be available to provide you with a second opinion on the results when and if you are in doubt and can accompany you to the clinic if you would like that, for more tests. We need to let you know that if you are HIV-positive, or test HIV positive during the study, Uganda's HIV and AIDS Prevention and Control ACT of 2014 requires HIV positive persons to disclose their status to sex partners. If you become HIV positive during the study, we will allow you to complete the survey responses on your own and we will not be collecting your full name anywhere to reduce any legal risks.

**What will I get for participating in this study?**

The findings from this study may help broaden our understanding of the effectiveness and acceptability of HIV self-testing and delivery strategies aimed at increasing HIV testing and support for young people like yourself. If HIV self-testing is effective and acceptable as an alternative HIV testing strategy, this research may pave the way for national scale-up of HIV self-testing interventions among refugees and other young people.

**What will happen to my answers?**

All data will be de-identified meaning that your name, birthdate, address, and any other kind of identifying information will not be included with your data. You will be assigned a unique participant identification number that will appear on the kits and surveys you receive. It will not be possible to link answers to a specific person and researchers are the only people who will see your answers on the

surveys. The identification number will allow the researchers doing analysis of the data to understand if there have been any changes throughout the 6 months. Individual data will not be reported on. Only group level data will be reported on. You will be asked to give your phone number so that we can contact you at the 3 month and 6 month time points. A document will be created with your phone number and unique identification number, and this document will be stored on a password protected device (tablet/computer). Survey answers will be stored on a different password protected device than where this document will be stored. Once the study is done, we will destroy the document that includes your phone number and identification number. Data will be retained for a maximum of 5 years and after it will be destroyed.

**Will I be compensated for participating in this study?**

Yes, for your time and participation in completing each survey, you receive a mobile data top up (~\$8 CAD) each time you receive a kit and survey. If you start the survey and withdraw during the survey you will still receive \$8 CAD. If you don't do the survey at all, you won't receive any data top up.

**Where will the survey be administered take place?**

The surveys will be conducted in a private room at YARID.

**What if I have concerns?**

If you need to talk to someone about anything that bothers you during and/or after completing the survey you can contact the Research Coordinator (**Dr. Daniel Kibuuka- 0772-58-70-94**) or the counsellors at Interaid Uganda, YARID or OGERA during working hours: Monday to Friday from 8:00 AM – 5:30 PM. You can also contact the National Health Hotline: 1) toll free number 0- 800-200-600 (you will not be charged) and 2) non-toll-free number 0-312-500-600 (you will be charged) during working hours: Monday to Friday from 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

If you have concerns or questions about this study please contact the Mildmay Uganda Research Ethics Committee Chairperson: Ms. Harriet Chemusto- 0392-174-236. You can also contact Simon Mwima at Uganda's Ministry of Health, +256779222111 or by email at [simonmwima@yahoo.com](mailto:simonmwima@yahoo.com). If you have questions about your rights as a participant, you can contact the University of Toronto Research Oversight and Compliance Office - Human Research Ethics Program at [ethics.review@utoronto.ca](mailto:ethics.review@utoronto.ca) or 416-946-3273.

**Note:** The research study you are participating in may be reviewed for quality assurance to make sure that the required laws and guidelines are followed. If chosen, (a) representative(s) of the Mildmay Uganda Research Ethics Committee and the University of Toronto Health Research Ethics Board (REB) may access study-related data and/or consent materials as part of the review. All information accessed by the Mildmay Uganda Research Ethics Committee and University of Toronto HIV Research Ethics Board (REB) will be upheld to the same level of confidentiality that has been stated by the research team

**Copy of Informed Consent:** You will receive a copy of the consent form immediately after the consenting process.

**Note: Please take your time to re-read the consent form or ask questions before consenting to participate in the study.**

**A. Consent for the study**

I have had the opportunity to discuss this study and my questions have been answered to my satisfaction. I consent to take part in the study that involves a survey now, a survey in 3 months, and a survey in 6 months. I understand I may withdraw at any time without affecting any care or services I receive. I have received a signed copy of this consent form. I voluntarily consent to participate in this study.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sign an X

I confirm that I have explained the nature and purpose of the study to the participant named above. I have answered all questions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Research Assistant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### **B. Consent for HIV self-testing kit at baseline visit**

After learning about the HIV self-testing process from the peer navigator at the first visit, you will be informed that you have the choice to conduct your own HIV self-test. You can do this in a private room at the place where the surveys are being completed, or you can take it home with you. It is totally up to you to share the results with the research assistant and/or the peer navigator. If you would like to do the test here, you will have the option to receive counselling before and/or after you do the test. You can choose to get counseling from either the research assistant or peer navigator. The research assistant or peer navigator can also provide you with additional information on clinics or organizations that can provide you with more support. If the test is positive, you will also receive support for going for additional tests with the peer navigator if you like.

I have had the opportunity to discuss HIV-self testing and understand it is my choice to take the HIV self-test, and I can do it at a private room here at the survey will be conducted or take it home with me. I understand I don't need to tell the research assistant or peer navigator about the result. I also understand if I need counselling support before or after I do the test I can ask the research assistant and/or peer navigator. If my test is positive, I can also ask the peer navigator to support me to go for additional tests. If I test positive and want my results to be part of this study, it is my choice to bring the referral card to the study clinic. I voluntarily consent to receive the HIV self-testing kit at this baseline visit.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sign an X

I confirm that I have explained the nature and purpose of the study to the participant named above. I have answered all questions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Peer Navigator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### **C. Consent for HIV self-testing kit at follow up survey at 3-months and 6-months**

You will be offered 2 HIV self-testing kits at the end of each survey to take home with you, one is for you and you can share the other with a friend if you like. You have the choice to take the HIV self-test kits, and if you take them, it is your choice whether or not you use them. You can do the test at home or in a private room at YARID. We will also offer a locked disposal container that is open during business hours at these locations in case you want to throw your kit away before you go home. If you would like to receive counselling before and/or after doing the HIV self-testing, you can contact the peer navigator or research assistant. If the test is positive, you will also receive support for going for additional tests with the peer navigator if you like.

I have had the opportunity to discuss HIV-self testing and understand it is my choice to take the HIV self-test, and I can do it at a private room at YARID or take it home with me and do it later. I understand I don't need to tell the result to the research assistant and/or peer navigator. I also understand if I need counselling support before or after I do the test I can ask the research assistant and/or peer navigator. If my test is positive, I can also ask the peer navigator to support me to go for confirmatory testing. If I test positive and want my results to be part of this study, it is my choice to bring the referral card to the study clinic. I voluntarily consent to receive HIV self-testing kits at follow-up visits.

Date

Sign an X

I confirm that I have explained the nature and purpose of the study to the participant named above. I have answered all questions.

Name of Peer Navigator

Signature

Date

## Appendix 1b – Arm 2—HIVST and M-health Information & Consent



UNIVERSITY OF  
TORONTO

**FACTOR-INWENTASH**  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK

Research Project: *Tushirikiane-4-Uthabiti (Supporting Each Other for Resilience)*

### **Investigators:**

Dr. Carmen Logie, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto

**Funding:** *Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Pandemic Response Operating Grant*

You are invited to participate in a research study being done by researchers from the University of Toronto (in Canada) in collaboration with the Ugandan Ministry of Health and community agencies in Uganda including InterAid Uganda, Young African Refugees for Integral Development (YARID), Organization for Gender Empowerment and Rights Advocacy (OGERA), Tomorrow Vijana. You are being invited to participate because you are between ages 16-24 years, have a mobile phone, you either identify as a refugee or displaced person, or your parents identify as a refugee and speak Swahili, English, French, Kinyarwanda or Kirundi. You are also being invited as you already took part in other research projects as a Tushirikiane participant, including for HIV testing and COVID-19 prevention. We would like you to understand the study before agreeing to participate. You have the right to not participate or leave the study before it is finished. This is the informed consent process, where we describe the risks and benefits of the research, so you can decide if you would like to participate or not. Please ask the study staff to explain any words you don't understand before signing this consent form. Make sure all your questions have been answered to your satisfaction before signing this document.

### **What is this study about?**

We are doing this 6-month study to understand how acceptable self-testing is for HIV, and to test technologies to support linking to care among refugee young people in Kampala. We will compare differences between HIV self-testing and standard of care testing where participants go to clinics/hospitals to receive HIV counseling and testing clinics. Self-testing for HIV is the use of an oral swab test (around your gums in your mouth) and tube solutions to understand your HIV status.

### **How will I participate?**

Your participation in this study will only last 6 months. You will be asked to complete three surveys across 6 months starting with one today, another in 3 months from today and final one in six months from today. A research assistant will help you complete the surveys at each timepoint. You will be also connected with a peer navigator, who is a young person who is also a refugee living in Kampala's communities. They will be there to provide you with support during the study, can answer any of your questions, will follow up with you to make sure you remember any study activities, and are really there to support you in the study. They will let you know the best times and ways to connect with them.

At three different time points, the peer navigator will provide you with a self-testing HIV kit that you will be asked to use. The first kit will be given to you today. You can do the self-testing for HIV today in a private room, or later at home. It is your choice. You can also choose not to complete the test and return the kit to the peer navigator today or at a later date. The second kit will be given to you three months from today, and the third kit will be given to you six months from today. Each time you get a kit, the peer navigator will also give you condoms and lubricant, booklets with information on HIV, and a verbal and

written step-by-step description of how to use the kit. This written description will include text and pictures. The peer navigator will also give you a referral card with a unique participant identification number, clinic addresses and phone numbers, and also their phone number so you can send them an SMS if you need more information on how to use the kits, or if you need support to go for more tests at a clinic. The kits are available in French, Swahili, Kinyarwanda, Kirundi and English. Each time you receive a kit you will also be asked to complete a survey. You will be asked about your experience using the self-testing kit and experiencing receiving SMS support and participating in WhatsApp group. The first survey will be completed today. Three months from today, and 6 months from today, a research assistant will contact you to complete a survey.

The peer navigator will also invite you to participate in a mobile health intervention. It has 2 components. The first is a weekly text that asks you how you are. The peer navigator will discuss with you the best day and time to send the text. They will ask you to reply 'I am ok' if you are ok, or 'I need help' or 'please call me' if you need support with testing or any other issue around the study or around HIV prevention, care or support. The peer navigator will respond to you and then ask you to respond back within 2 days. If the peer navigator does not hear from you, they will send another text asking how you are. You will also be invited to participate in WhatsApp discussion groups moderated by a peer navigator and the Research Coordinator. The purpose of this discussion group is to talk about issues related to managing problems.

### **What kind of questions will be asked in the study?**

#### **We will ask questions about:**

- Your HIV testing history;
- HIV risks;
- HIV self-testing use, acceptability and distribution.

### **Who can participate?**

Your participation is voluntary. Doing this study will in no way affect the services you receive from InterAid Uganda, Young African Refugees for Integral Development (YARID), Organization for Gender Empowerment and Rights Advocacy (OGERA), Tomorrow Vijana, government facilities or other organizations. You can leave the study at any time, and we will remove your data from our analysis. After the end of data collection, we will not be in position to remove your data from the final analysis. You can skip questions you don't want to answer. There are no right or wrong answers to the questions.

### **What are the risks in participating in the study?**

There are unforeseen risks associated with your participation in the study including emotional distress as a result of learning about an HIV-positive status and false reading of the HIV test. The peer navigators will ensure that HIV self-test kits are kept confidential and will provide you with support during times of emotional distress. They will also refer you to resources that can give you more support. The peer navigators will be available to provide you with a second opinion on the results when and if you are in doubt and can accompany you to the clinic if you would like that, for confirmatory testing. We need to let you know that if you are HIV-positive, or test HIV positive during the study, Uganda's HIV and AIDS Prevention and Control ACT of 2014 requires HIV positive persons to disclose their status to sex partners. If you become HIV positive during the study, we will allow you to complete the survey responses on your own and we will not be collecting your full name anywhere to reduce any legal risks. Given that the WhatsApp groups have other participants, we cannot guarantee confidentiality of the information shared in the groups. We will advise group members not to share information from the groups, but to only share what you feel comfortable being shared in public.



**What will I get for participating in this study?**

The findings in this study may help broaden our understanding of the effectiveness and acceptability of HIV self-testing and delivery strategies aimed at increasing HIV testing and support for young people like yourself. If HIV self-testing is found to be effective and acceptable as an alternative HIV testing strategy, this research may pave the way for national scale-up of HIV self-testing interventions among refugees and other young people. We will also understand in mobile phone support results in better support with young refugees for HIV testing.

**What will happen to my answers?**

All data will be de-identified meaning that your name, birthdate, address, and any other kind of identifying information will not be included with your data. You will be assigned a unique participant identification number that will appear on the kits and surveys you receive. It will not be possible to link answers to a specific person and researchers are the only people who will see your answers on the surveys. The identification number will allow the researchers doing analysis of the data to understand if there have been any changes throughout the 6 months. Individual data will not be reported on. Only group level data will be reported on. You will be asked to give your phone number so that we can contact you at the 3 month and 6 month time points. A document will be created with your phone number and identification number, and this document will be stored on a password protected device (tablet/computer). Survey answers will be stored on a different password protected device than where this document will be stored. Once the study is done, we will destroy the document that includes your phone number and identification number. Data will be retained for a maximum of 5 years and after it will be destroyed.

**Will I be compensated for participating in this study?**

Yes, for your time and participation in completing each survey, you receive a mobile data top up (~\$8 CAD) at each time you receive a kit and survey. If you start the survey and withdraw during the survey you will still receive \$8 CAD. If you don't do the survey at all, you won't receive any data top up.

**Where will the survey be administered?**

The study and completion of the surveys will be completed in a private room at YARID.

**What if I have concerns?**

If you need to talk to someone about anything that bothers you during and/or after completing the survey you can contact the Research Coordinator (**Dr. Daniel Kibuuka- 0772-58-70-94**) or the counsellors at InterAid Uganda, YARID or OGERA during working hours: Monday to Friday from 8:00 AM – 5:30 PM. You can also contact the National Health Hotline: 1) toll free number 0- 800-200-600 (you will not be charged) and 2) non-toll-free number 0-312-500-600 (you will be charged) during working hours: Monday to Friday from 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

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**Copy of Informed Consent:** You will receive a copy of the consent form immediately after the consenting process.

**Note: Please take your time to re-read the consent form or ask questions before consenting to participate in the study.**

**A. Consent for the study**

I have had the opportunity to discuss this study and my questions have been answered to my satisfaction. I consent to take part in the study that involves a survey now, a survey in 3 months, and a survey in 6 months, with the understanding I may withdraw at any time without affecting any care or services I receive. I have received a signed copy of this consent form. I voluntarily consent to participate in this study.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sign an X

I confirm that I have explained the nature and purpose of the study to the participant named above. I have answered all questions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Research Assistant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**B. Consent for HIV self-testing kit at baseline visit**

After learning about the HIV self-testing process from the peer navigator at the first visit, you will be informed that you have the choice to conduct your own HIV self-test. You can do this in a private room at the place the where the surveys will be completed, or you can take it home with you. It is totally up to you to share the results with the research assistant and/or the peer navigator. If you would like to do the test here, you will have the option to receive counselling before and/or after you do the test. You can choose to get counseling from either the research assistant or peer navigator. The research assistant or peer navigator can also provide you with a reference to a clinic that can provide you with more support. If the test is positive, you will also receive support for going for additional testing with the peer navigator if you like.

I have had the opportunity to discuss HIV-self testing and understand it is my choice to take the HIV self-test, and I can do it at a private room here at the survey or take it home with me. I understand I don't need to tell the research assistant or peer navigator about the result. I also understand if I need counselling support before or after I do the test I can ask the research assistant and/or peer navigator. If my test is positive, I can also ask the peer navigator to support me to go for confirmatory testing. If I test positive and want my results to be part of this study, it is my choice to bring the referral card to the study clinic. I voluntarily consent to receive the HIV self-testing kit at this baseline visit.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sign an X

I confirm that I have explained the nature and purpose of the study to the participant named above. I have answered all questions.

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Name of Peer Navigator

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Signature

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Date**C. Consent for HIV self-testing kit at follow up surveys at 3-months and 6-months**

You will be offered 2 HIV self-testing kits at the end of each survey to take home with you, one is for you and you can share the other with a friend if you like. You have the choice to take the HIV self-test kits, and if you take them, it is your choice whether or not you do them. You can do the test at home or in a private room at YARID. We will also offer a locked disposal container that is open during business hours at both of these locations in case you want to throw your kit away before you go home. If you would like to receive counselling before and/or after doing the HIV self-testing, you can contact the peer navigator. If the test is positive, you will also receive support for going for confirmatory testing with the peer navigator if you like.

I have had the opportunity to discuss HIV-self testing and understand it is my choice to take the HIV self-test, and I can do it at a private room at YARID or take it home with me and do it later. I understand I don't need to tell the result to the research assistant and/or peer navigator. I also understand if I need counselling support before or after I do the test I can ask the research assistant and/or peer navigator. If my test is positive, I can also ask the peer navigator to support me to go for confirmatory testing. If I test positive and want my results to be part of this study it is my choice to bring the referral card to the study clinic. I voluntarily consent to receive HIV self-testing kits at follow-up visits.

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Date

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Sign an X

I confirm that I have explained the nature and purpose of the study to the participant named above. I have answered all questions.

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Name of Research Assistant

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Signature

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Date**D. Consent for weekly Text messages**

I have had the opportunity to talk about the weekly texts and what day and time is best for me. I understand that I can text back "I am ok", or I can text a question or ask the peer navigator to follow up with me if I am not ok, if I have any study questions, or if I need support around HIV testing, prevention, or care. I voluntarily consent to take part in the weekly texting.

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Date

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Sign an X

I confirm that I have explained the nature and purpose of the study to the participant named above. I have answered all questions.

---

Name of Research Assistant

---

Signature

---

Date

**E. Consent for WhatsApp group participation**

I have had the opportunity to talk about the biweekly WhatsApp groups and what day and time is best for me. I understand that I can participate, I can share what I want to share and ask any questions. I also know that there are other people in the group and that my confidentiality cannot be guaranteed as the other people might share what is discussed outside of the group. I voluntarily consent to take part in the WhatsApp groups.

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Sign an X

I confirm that I have explained the nature and purpose of the study to the participant named above. I have answered all questions.

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Research Assistant

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

**Appendix 1c – Arm 3— HIV self-testing and Livelihoods Programming with Creating Futures**

UNIVERSITY OF  
TORONTO

**FACTOR-INWENTASH**  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK

Research Project: *Tushirikiane-4-Uthabiti (Supporting Each Other for Resilience)*

**Investigators:**

Dr. Carmen Logie, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto

**Funding:** *Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Pandemic Response Operating Grant*

You are invited to participate in a research study being done by researchers from the University of Toronto (in Canada) in collaboration with the Ugandan Ministry of Health and community agencies in Uganda including InterAid Uganda, Young African Refugees for Integral Development (YARID), Organization for Gender Empowerment and Rights Advocacy (OGERA), and Tomorrow Vijana. You are being invited to participate because you are between ages 16-24 years, have a mobile phone, you either identify as a refugee or displaced person, or your parents identify as a refugee and speak Swahili, English, French, Kinyarwanda or Kirundi. You are also being invited as you already took part in other research projects as a Tushirikiane participant, including for HIV testing and COVID-19 prevention. We would like you to understand the study before agreeing to participate. You have the right to not participate or leave the study before it is finished. This is the informed consent process, where we describe the risks and benefits of the research, so you can decide if you would like to participate or not. Please ask the study staff to explain any words you don't understand before signing this consent form. Make sure all your questions have been answered to your satisfaction before signing this document.

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**How will I participate?**

Your participation in this study will only last 6 months. You will be asked to complete three surveys across 6 months starting with one today, another in 3 months from today and final one in six months from today. A research assistant will help you complete the surveys at each timepoint. You will also be connected with a peer navigator, who is a young refugee living in Kampala's slum communities. These young people will support you during the study, can answer any of your questions, will follow up with you to make sure you remember any study activities. They will let you know the best times and ways to connect with them.

At three different time points, the peer navigator will provide you with a self-testing HIV kit that you will be asked to use. The first kit will be given to you today. You can do the self-testing for HIV today in a private room, or later at home. It is your choice. You can also choose not to complete the test and return the kit to the peer navigator today or at a later date. The second kit will be given to you three months from today, and the third kit will be given to you six months from today. Each time you get a kit, the peer navigator will also give you condoms and lubricants, booklets with information on HIV, and a verbal and written step-by-step description of how to use the kit. This written description will include text and pictures. The peer navigator will also give you a referral card with your unique participant identification number, as well as clinic addresses and phone numbers, and also their phone number so you can send them an SMS if you need more information on how to use the kits, or if you need support to go for more tests at a clinic. The kits are available in French, Swahili, Luganda and English. After each time you receive a kit, the research assistant will ask you to complete a survey about experiences with the kit and sexual practices. The first survey will be completed today in a private room or a place of your choice. Three months from today, and 6 months from today, a research assistant will contact you to complete a survey.

The peer navigator will also invite you to participate in a mobile health intervention. It has 2 components. The first is a weekly text that asks you how you are. The peer navigator will discuss with you the best day and time to send the text. They will ask you to reply ‘I am ok’ if you are ok, or ‘I need help’ or ‘please call me’ if you need support with testing or any other issue around the study or around HIV prevention, care or support. The peer navigator will respond to you and then ask you to respond back within 2 days. If the peer navigator does not hear from you, they will send another text asking how you are. You will also be invited to participate in WhatsApp discussion groups moderated by a peer navigator and the Research Coordinator. The purpose of this discussion group is to talk about issues related to managing problems.

You will also be invited to participate in Creating Futures, an economic livelihood program created for youth in South Africa and also tested with youth in Kenya. This will involve coming to YARID for 8 sessions, each approximately 2 hours, with a group of other young refugees. These sessions will cover topics such as your goals, income generating activities, social resources, saving and coping with shocks.

**What kind of questions will be asked in the study?****We will ask questions about:**

- Your HIV testing history;
- HIV risks;
- HIV self-testing use, acceptability and distribution;

**Who can participate?**

Your participation is voluntary. Doing this study will in no way affect the services you receive from Interaid Uganda, Young African Refugees for Integral Development (YARID), Organization for Gender Empowerment and Rights Advocacy (OGERA), Tomorrow Vijana, government facilities or other organizations. You can leave the study at any time, and we will remove your data from our analysis. After the end of data collection, we won't be able to remove your data from the final analysis. You can skip questions you do not want to answer. There are no right or wrong answers to the questions.

**What are the risks in participating in the study?**

Risks that may happen when you participate in the study is that you could feel emotional distress as a result of learning about an HIV-positive status and false reading of the HIV test. The peer navigators will ensure that HIV self-test kits are kept confidential and will provide you with support during times of

emotional distress. They will also refer you to resources that can give you more support you. The peer navigators will be available to provide you with a second opinion on the results when and if you are in doubt and can accompany you to the clinic if you would like that, for more tests. We need to let you know that if you are HIV-positive, or test HIV positive during the study, Uganda's HIV and AIDS Prevention and Control ACT of 2014 requires HIV positive persons to disclose their status to sex partners. If you become HIV positive during the study, we will allow you to complete the survey responses on your own and we will not be collecting your full name anywhere to reduce any legal risks.

**What will I get for participating in this study?**

The findings from this study may help broaden our understanding of the effectiveness and acceptability of HIV self-testing and delivery strategies aimed at increasing HIV testing and support for young people like yourself. If HIV self-testing is effective and acceptable as an alternative HIV testing strategy, this research may pave the way for national scale-up of HIV self-testing interventions among refugees and other young people. These findings will also give us information about the possibilities of Creating Futures for economic empowerment among young refugees like yourself living in Kampala.

**What will happen to my answers?**

All data will be de-identified meaning that your name, birthdate, address, and any other kind of identifying information will not be included with your data. You will be assigned a unique participant identification number that will appear on the kits and surveys you receive. It will not be possible to link answers to a specific person and researchers are the only people who will see your answers on the surveys. The identification number will allow the researchers doing analysis of the data to understand if there have been any changes throughout the 6 months. Individual data will not be reported on. Only group level data will be reported on. You will be asked to give your phone number so that we can contact you at the 3 month and 6 month time points. A document will be created with your phone number and unique identification number, and this document will be stored on a password protected device (tablet/computer). Survey answers will be stored on a different password protected device than where this document will be stored. Once the study is done, we will destroy the document that includes your phone number and identification number. Data will be retained for a maximum of 5 years and after it will be destroyed.

**Will I be compensated for participating in this study?**

Yes, for your time and participation in completing each survey, you receive a mobile data top up (~\$8 CAD) each time you receive a kit and survey. If you start the survey and withdraw during the survey you will still receive \$8 CAD. If you don't do the survey at all, you won't receive any data top up. You will also receive \$5 CAD honorarium for each of the 10 sessions you attend on Creating Futures.

**Where will the survey be administered take place?**

The surveys will be conducted in a private room at YARID. The Creating Futures sessions will also be taking place at YARID.

**What if I have concerns?**

If you need to talk to someone about anything that bothers you during and/or after completing the survey you can contact the Research Coordinator (**Dr. Daniel Kibuuka- 0772-58-70-94**) or the counsellors at Interaid Uganda, YARID or OGERA during working hours: Monday to Friday from 8:00 AM – 5:30 PM. You can also contact the National Health Hotline: 1) toll free number 0- 800-200-600 (you will not be charged) and 2) non-toll-free number 0-312-500-600 (you will be charged) during working hours: Monday to Friday from 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

If you have concerns or questions about this study please contact the Mildmay Uganda Research Ethics Committee Chairperson: Ms. Harriet Chemusto- 0392-174-236. You can also contact Simon Mwima at Uganda's Ministry of Health, +256779222111 or by email at [simonmwima@yahoo.com](mailto:simonmwima@yahoo.com). If you have



questions about your rights as a participant, you can contact the University of Toronto Research Oversight and Compliance Office - Human Research Ethics Program at [ethics.review@utoronto.ca](mailto:ethics.review@utoronto.ca) or 416-946-3273.

**Note:** The research study you are participating in may be reviewed for quality assurance to make sure that the required laws and guidelines are followed. If chosen, (a) representative(s) of the Mildmay Uganda Research Ethics Committee and the University of Toronto HIV Research Ethics Board (REB) may access study-related data and/or consent materials as part of the review. All information accessed by the Mildmay Uganda Research Ethics Committee and University of Toronto HIV Research Ethics Board (REB) will be upheld to the same level of confidentiality that has been stated by the research team

**Copy of Informed Consent:** You will receive a copy of the consent form immediately after the consenting process.

**Note: Please take your time to re-read the consent form or ask questions before consenting to participate in the study.**

#### **D. Consent for the study**

I have had the opportunity to discuss this study and my questions have been answered to my satisfaction. I consent to take part in the study that involves a survey now, a survey in 3 months, and a survey in 6 months. I understand I may withdraw at any time without affecting any care or services I receive. I have received a signed copy of this consent form. I voluntarily consent to participate in this study.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sign an X

I confirm that I have explained the nature and purpose of the study to the participant named above. I have answered all questions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Research Assistant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

#### **E. Consent for HIV self-testing kit at baseline visit**

After learning about the HIV self-testing process from the peer navigator at the first visit, you will be informed that you have the choice to conduct your own HIV self-test. You can do this in a private room at the place where the surveys are being completed, or you can take it home with you. It is totally up to you to share the results with the research assistant and/or the peer navigator. If you would like to do the test here, you will have the option to receive counselling before and/or after you do the test. You can choose to get counseling from either the research assistant or peer navigator. The research assistant or peer navigator can also provide you with additional information on clinics or organizations that can provide you with more support. If the test is positive, you will also receive support for going for additional tests with the peer navigator if you like.

I have had the opportunity to discuss HIV-self testing and understand it is my choice to take the HIV self-test, and I can do it at a private room here at the survey will be conducted or take it home with me. I understand I don't need to tell the research assistant or peer navigator about the result. I also understand if I need counselling support before or after I do the test I can ask the research assistant and/or peer navigator. If my test is positive, I can also ask the peer navigator to support me to go for additional tests.

If I test positive and want my results to be part of this study, it is my choice to bring the referral card to the study clinic. I voluntarily consent to receive the HIV self-testing kit at this baseline visit.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sign an X

I confirm that I have explained the nature and purpose of the study to the participant named above. I have answered all questions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Peer Navigator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

#### **F. Consent for HIV self-testing kit at follow up survey at 3-months and 6-months**

You will be offered 2 HIV self-testing kits at the end of each survey to take home with you, one is for you and you can share the other with a friend if you like. You have the choice to take the HIV self-test kits, and if you take them, it is your choice whether or not you use them. You can do the test at home or in a private room at YARID or OGERA or InterAid. We will also offer a locked disposal container that is open during business hours at these locations in case you want to throw your kit away before you go home. If you would like to receive counselling before and/or after doing the HIV self-testing, you can contact the peer navigator or research assistant. If the test is positive, you will also receive support for going for additional tests with the peer navigator if you like.

I have had the opportunity to discuss HIV-self testing and understand it is my choice to take the HIV self-test, and I can do it at a private room at YARID or OGERA or InterAid or take it home with me and do it later. I understand I don't need to tell the result to the research assistant and/or peer navigator. I also understand if I need counselling support before or after I do the test I can ask the research assistant and/or peer navigator. If my test is positive, I can also ask the peer navigator to support me to go for confirmatory testing. If I test positive and want my results to be part of this study, it is my choice to bring the referral card to the study clinic. I voluntarily consent to receive HIV self-testing kits at follow-up visits.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sign an X

I confirm that I have explained the nature and purpose of the study to the participant named above. I have answered all questions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Peer Navigator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

#### **G. Consent for Creating Futures Program**

You will be invited to attend 8 sessions for the Creating Futures program held at YARID at a time and day that will be organized between you and the peer navigator. Each group will have about 15 other refugee youth like you. The session will last about 2 hours.

I understand that it is my choice to participate in the Creating Futures session at YARID. I voluntarily consent to attending the sessions and understand there will be a peer navigator as well as YARID research coordinator there to answer any questions that I may have.

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Sign an X

I confirm that I have explained the nature and purpose of the study to the participant named above. I have answered all questions.

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Peer Navigator

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date