

CONSENT FORM FOR PARTICIPANTS (community members)

Title: Strengthening Evidence for Maternity Waiting Homes

Principal Investigator: Jody R.Lori, CNM, PhD, FACNM, University of Michigan

Co-Investigators: Dr. James Barclay, Africare-Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia

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General Information about Research

The University of Michigan in the United States and Africare-Liberia are leading a research study. We want to learn more about how maternity waiting homes (MWH) have developed in Liberia and how they are functioning. You are being asked to be in this study because you are a valued member of the community.

The reason for this study is to learn more about experiences and beliefs about maternity waiting homes and how they affect the health of mothers and babies.

Study Procedures

You can choose to be in this study or not. Your decision is voluntary and does not affect your role in the community in any way. If you decide to participate, we will ask your opinion about the MWHs in your community. There will be one interview with a member from our team that will last for approximately 45-60 minutes. The interview will be in a group discussion with other members from your community that want to share their ideas about MWHs. We will make a voice recording of the discussion but we will not use names on the recording. If you do not want to be recorded you may choose to not be in the study. We may also record your answers on the interview form, but we will not write your name on any forms. Snacks will be provided during the session.

Possible Risks and Discomforts

Participating in the interview is not likely to cause you any harm. Whatever you say will be private and confidential. We don't think anything we talk about will upset you, but if it does you can leave at any time with no problem to you. If this does happen, we will give you names of people at the Health Post you can talk to who can help you get over being upset. Being in the study is up to you. If you do not want to be in the study it will not affect your care or your role in the community in any way.

Possible Benefits

You will not get special treatment or rewards for being in the study, but we do hope that sharing your ideas might help us understand more about how health care is managed in your community. Sometimes people tell us they feel good about helping make things better for others.

Alternatives to Participation

You do not have to participate in the interview if you don't want to. If you do not want to be in the study, it will not affect your role in the community in any way. You may withdraw your participation at any time.

Confidentiality

We will keep what you say private as best we can. We will not talk about you being in the study and we will not share your answers outside the research team. We will keep all information on a computer that is password protected. No one will be able to see it except the research team. We will store and use your information for future research. We may share it with other researchers but we will not share any information that could identify you. If you do not want your data to be stored and shared you may choose to not be in the study. You will not be named in any reports or publications. Our records may be reviewed to make sure we are doing the research correctly (Institutional Review Board in Liberia and/or the University of Michigan Institutional Review Board in the United States).

Compensation

You will not be paid to be in the study. Snacks will be served during the discussion to thank you for your time.

Additional Cost

It will not cost you anything to be in the study, except for your time.

Voluntary Participation and Right to Leave the Research

You can choose to be in the study or not be in the study, it is up to you. If you choose not to be in the study, there will be no problem for you now or in the future. You can leave the study at any time or decline to answer any questions without any problem to you now or in the future. Being in the study or not being in the study does not affect your role in the community in any way.

Termination of Participation by the Researcher

We will not ask you to leave the study unless you are unable to answer the questions.

Contacts for Additional Information

If you have questions or concerns about the research, please contact the Co-Investigator in Liberia: Dr. James Barclay, Monrovia, Liberia, 0777096360, jbarclay@africare.org

Your Rights as a Participant

If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, or wish to obtain information, ask questions or discuss any concerns about this study with someone other

than the researcher(s), please contact the University of Michigan Health Sciences and Behavioral Sciences Institutional Review Board, 2800 Plymouth Rd, Building 520, Room 1169, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2800. For international calls from Liberia to the US, 00+1+734-936-0933 or email: irbhsbs@umich.edu. Please note the time in Michigan is 5 hours earlier than in Liberia.

This research has been reviewed and approved by the IRB at the University of Liberia and the University of Michigan.

VOLUNTEER AGREEMENT

The above document describes the benefits, risks and procedures for the project title **Strengthening Evidence for Maternity Waiting Homes**

Please tell the researcher if you agree to participate as a volunteer.