

B. Participant Information Sheet: Mapping Interviews

Study Title: An assessment of flooding from dam releases and its impacts on diarrheal disease and microbiological contamination of water sources in selected dryland areas in Northern Ghana

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ERGO number: 54506

You are being invited to take part in the above research study. To help you decide whether you would like to take part or not, it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please read the information below carefully and ask questions if anything is not clear or you would like more information before you decide to take part in this research. You may like to discuss it with others but it is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you are happy to participate you will be asked to sign a consent form.

What is the research about?

We are asking you to participate in a research study that aims to assess the impact of flooding from water release at the Bagre Dam on microbiological contamination of vegetables and water sources, and how people adapt to flooding in affected communities along the white Volta River in Northern Ghana. We hope to estimate flood-related microbiological contamination of water and vegetables from the dam and how people in affected areas adapt to flooding. With this information, we aim to help protect people from the harmful effects of flooding and provide information on the impact of the Bagre Dam flooding for policy. The study is funded by the 'Building REsearch Capacity for sustainable water and food security in drylands of Sub-Saharan Africa' (BRECcIA) project, which is supported by UK Research and Innovation as part of the Global Challenges Research Fund. The study is a collaboration between the University of Ghana School of Public Health and School of Geography and Environmental Science, University of Southampton.

Why have I been asked to participate?

We have invited you to participate in our study because we understand that this area is frequently affected by flooding from the Bagre Dam. As a political representative, we believe that you will have particular insights into the areas that have been affected by flooding that could help us build up a picture of its impacts.

What will happen to me if I take part?

We will ask you to look at a satellite map of this area and then using your knowledge of past flood events, pick out areas on this map that have been flooded historically. Because we are particularly interested in water points and vegetable fields that have been affected by flooding, we will also ask you to pick out these areas on the map too. We have pens that you can use to mark up locations on the map. If there are other buildings or infra-structure like roads that are particularly badly affected by flooding, we will ask you to map these too. We think this should take around an hour of your time overall. Our project will run until September 2021, giving us time to capture the maps created onto computer, interpret the information, and feed back to district and national authorities such as NADMO, the National Disaster Management Organisation.

Are there any benefits in my taking part?

There are no direct benefits to you taking part, though we plan to feed back our findings to NADMO, Red Cross and other organisations so that they can inform efforts to prepare for and respond to flooding. Our evidence could thus help highlight the problem of Bagre Dam flooding more widely.

Are there any risks involved?

There is the risk of us inadvertently passing on COVID-19 during this pandemic. To reduce this risk, we will wash our hands before and after speaking to you, keep 2 metres away from you during the interview, and also wear a face mask throughout the interview. We have also sterilised the pens for the mapping exercise with disinfectant. Should we become sick in the 2 weeks following the

interview or test positive for COVID-19, then we will contact you to let you know about this. Please wear a face mask travelling to and from this interview. Depending on government advice about lockdown measures or should any of our team become ill, we may need to postpone the interview at short notice.

As the effects of flooding on property and lives can be severe, you may find it distressing to map out the affected areas. If you do find it distressing to recall these incidents, do please feel free to let us know and either take a break or stop the mapping exercise altogether.

What data will be collected?

We will keep a copy of a consent form, documenting that you have agreed to take part in our study. We will keep the consent forms in a locked office at the University of Ghana in Accra. We will computerise the locations of any flooding areas, water points, fields and other flood-affected features that you draw, so we can compare these with satellite images, and visit affected places to take water and vegetable leaf samples for microbiological testing later on. Your name will not be recorded on the map drawings or when we capture these onto computer, so the drawings will be anonymous.

Will my participation be confidential?

Your participation and the information we collect about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential.

Only members of the research team and responsible members of the University of Ghana and University of Southampton may be given access to data about you for monitoring purposes and/or to carry out an audit of the study to ensure that the research is complying with applicable regulations. Individuals from regulatory authorities (people who check that we are carrying out the study correctly) may require access to your data. All of these people have a duty to keep your information, as a research participant, strictly confidential. The study will comply with both the 2012 Ghana Data Protection Act (act 843) and UK data protection laws.

Do I have to take part?

No, it is entirely up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you decide you want to take part, you will need to sign a consent form to show you have agreed to take part.

What happens if I change my mind?

You have the right to change your mind and withdraw up to a month after the interview without giving a reason and without your participant rights being affected. Please contact a member of the team if you wish to do this – Dr. Dzodzomenyo's contact details are provided below.

What will happen to the results of the research?

Your personal details will remain strictly confidential. Research findings made available in any reports or publications will not include information that can directly identify you without your specific consent.

We plan to make the computerised maps that you draw in anonymous format (without your name) available to other researchers if you agree to this. This is so that any calculations that we make can be checked by other independent researchers, to make sure that we have drawn the right conclusions. It also means that other researchers beyond our team can potentially use it, for example to develop flood warning systems. We will put the anonymised data in a special facility for storing research data called the Environmental Information Data Centre.

Where can I get more information?

If you have any further questions about the study, you can contact the University of Ghana, School of Public Health as follows:

Dr. Mawuli Dzodzomenyo
School of Public Health.

University of Ghana, Legon.
Tel: 020-8376845

What happens if there is a problem?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should speak to the researchers who will do their best to answer your questions.

This research has been reviewed and approved by the Institutional Review Board of Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR-IRB) and by the Ethics Board of the Faculty of Environmental and Life Sciences at University of Southampton. If you remain unhappy or have a complaint about any aspect of this study, or if you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, you can contact the NMIMR-IRB Office between the hours of 8am – 5pm through the landline 0302916438 or email address: nirb@noguchi.mimcom.org. You may also contact the University of Southampton Research Integrity and Governance Manager (+44-23 8059 5058, rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk).

Data Protection Privacy Notice

The University of Southampton conducts research to the highest standards of research integrity. As a publicly-funded organisation, the University has to ensure that it is in the public interest when we use personally-identifiable information about people who have agreed to take part in research. This means that when you agree to take part in a research study, we will use information about you in the ways needed, and for the purposes specified, to conduct and complete the research project. Under data protection law, 'Personal data' means any information that relates to and is capable of identifying a living individual. The University's data protection policy governing the use of personal data by the University can be found on its website (<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/legalservices/what-we-do/data-protection-and-foi.page>).

This Participant Information Sheet tells you what data will be collected for this project and whether this includes any personal data. Please ask the research team if you have any questions or are unclear what data is being collected about you.

Our privacy notice for research participants provides more information on how the University of Southampton collects and uses your personal data when you take part in one of our research projects and can be found at <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/assets/sharepoint/intranet/Is/Public/Research%20and%20Integrity%20Privacy%20Notice/Privacy%20Notice%20for%20Research%20Participants.pdf>

Any personal data we collect in this study will be used only for the purposes of carrying out our research and will be handled according to the University's policies in line with data protection law. If any personal data is used from which you can be identified directly, it will not be disclosed to anyone else without your consent unless the University of Southampton is required by law to disclose it.

Data protection law requires us to have a valid legal reason ('lawful basis') to process and use your Personal data. The lawful basis for processing personal information in this research study is for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest. Personal data collected for research will not be used for any other purpose.

For the purposes of data protection law, the University of Southampton is the 'Data Controller' for this study, which means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. The University of Southampton will keep identifiable information about you for 10 years after the study has finished after which time any link between you and your information will be removed.

To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personal data necessary to achieve our research study objectives. Your data protection rights – such as to access, change, or transfer such information - may be limited, however, in order for the research output to be reliable and accurate. The University will not do anything with your personal data that you would not reasonably expect.

If you have any questions about how your personal data is used, or wish to exercise any of your rights, please consult the University's data protection webpage (<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/legalservices/what-we-do/data-protection-and-foi.page>) where you can make a request using our online form. If you need further assistance, please contact the University's Data Protection Officer (data.protection@soton.ac.uk).

Thank you.