

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

The community engagement plan below describes an array of activities that include involvement of community leaders or stakeholders in the research process, dissemination of information, consultation with different institutions and individuals, collaboration in decision making, and seeking guidance from the community leaders regarding the study. The main aim of this community engagement plan is to involve participants and their advocates as partners in this research rather than mere subjects or eventual users of the intervention.

This community engagement plan will be executed as follows.

- ❖ Prior to the conduct of the research, the researcher approached the community leaders (local chairpersons, DHOs, and health care workers from the study area) concerning the feasibility of the study.
- ❖ Prior to data collection, the researcher will obtain a written formal letter that will be presented to the respective study sites (DHO's office in Nakaseke and Luwero), LC chairpersons will also be presented with a copy of the approved letter from the DHO's office. The research participants will be consented prior to data collection. The involvement of the DHO's is paramount since the research focus on primary health care services.
- ❖ During the study process, selected VHT's will be trained and oriented on the intervention process during the study.
- ❖ During data collection, preliminary findings will be shared with the DHO's and local chairpersons of the study areas where data will be collected.
- ❖ After final defense of the PhD thesis, the final findings will be shared with the respective districts (DHO's, district hospital in-charges,)
- ❖ A meeting to disseminate the study findings to the community representatives and other community key stakeholders will be organized
- ❖ Lastly, the community will be sensitized on the research findings and their role as community in owning and participating physical and mental health activities to enhance sustainability of the interventions implemented during the study.