

## WhatsApp Group Consent Form



VaCNets Virtual Hub an initiative of Impact and Innovations Development Centre (I IDC) in its evidence building agenda on (PVAC) prevention of violence against children in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda; has identified What's up as a potential platform to facilitate sustained discussion and information sharing among Hub subscribers on documenting and sharing emerging knowledge from PVAC programs at country level.

WhatsApp is a means of communication that is frequently used by many people and an efficient way to communicate and keep connected as a group. In order to establish a Hub subscriber what's up group we shall need to use individual persons phone number(s) specifically those who have shown interest to join the group and consented in writing. This means that other people in the group can see your contact telephone number but I IDC will not share your phone mobile number with any third party.

However, it is not mandatory for Hub subscribers to join the what's up group platform and not being on what's up group does not affect a subscriber's identity and participation in other VaCNets Virtual Hub activities. Joining VaCNets Hub subscriber's what's up group is a voluntary decision to be made by individual subscribers.

I IDC within its institutional obligation as a data controller has the duty to protect personal data and other information accessed from partner institutions and other individuals (inclusive of subscribers to VaCNets virtual Hub) that associate and participate in its social development technical assistance work across East Africa. I IDC is committed to ensure that any personal information received is handled with utmost care and confidentially in accordance with Country Data Protection legislation.

Hence, VaCNets Virtual Hub what's up groups will be set up and managed in a way that ensures that PVAC practitioners and partners engage, share experiences and stay connected as peers in a safe and secure environment. VaCNets Virtual Hub office team will be part of the group chat to participate and follow conversations as well as offer help and support when required.

### **Rules for a safe and Inclusive space on VaCNets Hub WhatsApp Group**

To ensure Hub subscribers are all well connected and use the What's up platform correctly and safely, the following ground rules will be binding to all group members.

1. **Focus on group purpose** – What's up posts should maintain a focus of knowledge, resources, and evidence sharing on prevention of violence against children.
2. **Respect others as individuals** - giving the other person your attention, responding politely and not ridiculing what other people say. Remember – not everyone will have the same opinion and that is perfectly OK!
3. **Respect others culture, race and background** – Posts with content that is hateful, discriminatory, or offensive to others is not acceptable.

4. **Respect others privacy and confidentiality** – No member has a right to share contact numbers of participants in the group with someone external to the group without the express permission of individual members.
5. **No bullying, harassment or discrimination.** Jokes and language with tones of bullying, harassment (including sexual) and discrimination are not acceptable.
6. **Disclose affiliations:** Group members will clearly disclose their professional affiliations when discussing and sharing experiences to enable contextual understanding of issues.
7. **Avoid misuse of trademarks:** Extraction of IIDC logo/ brand on country what's up groups for use in any other way that could be confusing or misleading is not allowed.
8. **Maintain confidentiality:** Individual members contributions shall not be quoted and used in other spaces external the group nor individual posts cross posted to other social media platforms.
9. **Take turns** - let everyone have a turn to join the group conversation at will but no member should remain a spectator.
10. **Have Fun!!!** Share exciting news, share your dilemmas, share your thoughts and offer support to one another.
11. **Report violations:** It is the duty of individual members of the group to report any violations of their personal data protection or other inappropriate behaviour observed on the WhatsApp group to Hub Coordinator via E-mail [vacnetsvirtualhub@iidcug.org](mailto:vacnetsvirtualhub@iidcug.org) or [dataprotection@iidcug.org](mailto:dataprotection@iidcug.org)
12. **Zero Tolerance Policy** – IIDC may ask an individual to remove a post that is considered inappropriate but where an individual's posts consistently violate group rules, they shall be removed from the group.

### **Other Considerations**

13. **Download WhatsApp:** Individuals will have a what's up application on their communication gadget and this is downloadable from Apple App Store or Google Play for Android users.
14. **Make a Rule** – Individual group members have a right to propose additional rules by sending an email to addresses provided for reporting violations.
15. **To leave the group:** click on the name of the group – this will display the group icon and participants, scroll down to the bottom of the page and click "Exit Group" if you no longer wish to participate.
16. **Remember** – VaCNets Hub What's up group is **NOT** a replacement for emergency contacts hence will not be monitored 24/7. Therefore, if you have an emergency please call the emergency contacts in your respective location.

## **Participant Consent Form**

<b>What is Consent?</b>		
Consent is a legal definition that simply means that you are competent and capable to decide once you have received adequate (or enough) information and is made without influence. By completing this form and signing below, I consent to the terms stipulated above.		
Do you wish to join VaCNets Hub WhatsApp Group	YES	/ NO
If Yes, do you give permission/ consent for IIDC to include your mobile number as part of the WhatsApp group?	YES	/ NO
<b>Please confirm your mobile number here:</b> _____ <small>(NB it will also be visible to all members of the WhatsApp group)</small>		

I understand that I can leave the group at any point without giving any notice or reason for leaving		YES	/	NO
I have read and understood the rules for participating In the WhatsApp Group chat.		YES	/	NO
I understand that group conversations will be monitored by designated IIDC staff		YES	/	NO
Full Name:	Signature:			
Phone Number (include country code):	Date:			