Ukuvula Isango Data Management Plan

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Plan:

Our study data is housed at the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) in Cape Town, South Africa, and in the Department of Family Medicine at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. There are secure facilities with institutional firewalls that prevent unauthorized access. Files are shared via a Microsoft Teams account that is accessible only to senior investigators on the study. Storing and sharing our data in this way is imperative due to human subject and privacy grounds, as outlined below:

This is an ethnographic study, and nearly all our data is qualitative. Our raw qualitative data (interview transcripts, observational fieldnotes and so forth) cannot be made open access, and therefore not **Findable** and **Accessible** in their raw form. One reason is that the kinds of life histories that we are collecting entail discussion of people's relationships with close others (e.g., spouses, children, siblings, community leaders), and those others will not have consented to have their stories shared. For example, a woman may discuss her relationship with an abusive husband despite knowing that the husband would prefer she did not disclose that information (note that we do not probe for such topics, but rather that they sometimes arise in response to general questions about people's lives). Indeed, some interviews discuss topics (e.g., bride abduction, gender-based violence) which are widely condoned in the region where our study is carried out, but which are nevertheless illegal under both South African and international law. Furthermore, some data that is collected as part of this study may also be used by the graduate student researchers (key members of our research team who are doing most of the data collection) in their own theses, and their respective higher education institutions have policies limit our right to share their data. Finally, to gain ethical approval to carry out the study, which is ethnographic and therefore "close" to the lives of our participants, we were obligated to confirm that all data will remain confidential. The IDRC's open data principles cannot override the ethical requirements of our review boards and community partners.

Despite these limitations, we value the principles that underscore **FAIR Data**, and in our project, we aim to uphold them in the following ways:

- Provide links (on publications and on our study website) to any publicly available data that is used to inform our study (e.g., Provincial demographic and economic data that is used to inform our analysis of the life history interviews)
- We will publish Open Access. Dr. Kathleen Rice (Canadian Co-PI has funds tied to her Canada Research Chair that can be used for this purpose if additional publications are developed from study data after the duration of the grant is over.
- We will make it clear on our website and on all study publications that interested parties may request access to data by contacting the research team, and clear instructions will

be provided about how to do that (note that this request will be considered on a case-by-case basis, depending on the data that is requested). As such, we will ensure that our data conforms to community standards and that the terms and conditions for its access and reuse.

- All data will be stored in file formats that can easily be exchanged and used, thus ensuring commitments to **Interoperability.**
- We will ensure its **Reusability** by providing rich documentation of the context of our data creation.

We further confirm that study participants will be informed of our intentions to publish study data, but NOT of any intention to share the data set (as per the rationale outlined above). We confirm that our data does not have a "delete date."

We further emphasize that, being an ethnographic study, much of this research will be published and shared in forums (journals, conferences, workshops and so forth) that are familiar with the robust requirements for privacy and confidentiality that this sort of research requires, and we are confident that publishers, conference and workshop organizers will not require that our raw data is made open access. In all cases we will familiarize ourselves with the data policies of any forums in which we want to share our research before submitting our work.