

# **Informant Guide for the Effect of Public Health Emergencies on the Research Regulatory Systems: A Qualitative Study of COVID-19 in Uganda- Key Informant Interviews (Regulators)**

## **Introduction**

The Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST) in collaboration with the National Drug Authority, the Uganda National Health Research Organisation, Jimmy University and University of Oslo is implementing a project entitled: “Strengthening Clinical Trial Regulatory and Ethical review Oversight in East Africa (ACCESS2 AFRICA)”, funded by the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP).

One of the objectives of ACCESS2 AFRICA is to strengthen linkages between regulatory authorities and ethics review committees. In this regard, the UNCST would like to conduct a study that seeks to explore the effect of public health emergencies on the research regulatory system in Uganda, over the last three (03) years so that it can strengthen the research regulatory system preparedness and governance.

### **A. Experience of the Regulators:**

1. In your opinion, how did the national guidelines for conduct of research during COVID–19 help you in supporting REC activities during the pandemic?
2. As regulator, what regulatory activities were conducted during the pandemic? What are some of the regulatory challenges experienced?
3. How were the REC activities conducted within the Institution during the pandemic?
4. How did the UNCST support the REC to use the National Research Registration Information Management System (NRIMS)?
5. Share your experience on the use of the NRIMS system during the pandemic.
6. What do you think should be done by the National Regulatory Agencies to improve the research online application?
7. Do you think COVID-19 had an effect on the research regulatory system in Uganda? Please give more detail.
8. What opportunities do you think COVID-19 pandemic brought on board? What strategies could be used to strengthen and sustain the opportunities?
9. Are there any other important issues that you would like to share that would help to enhance the research regulation in Uganda? What would you like to see change in the REC operations after the pandemic?

**We have now come to the end of the interview. Thank you very much for taking time to respond to these questions and your participation in this exercise.**