

## Deworming Innovation Fund in Western Kenya Concept note for AMREF Austria

### **1.0 Introduction**

#### **a. Organizational capability**

Amref Health Africa's vision is lasting health change in Africa. Our overall mission is to increase sustainable health access to communities in Africa and to offer solutions that are geared towards supporting a devolved system of government addressing the needs of vulnerable populations especially women, children, and youth, and addressing the burden of infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases and maternal mortality. Amref Health Africa has invaluable involvement and experience in Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH) and Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) management mostly in the remotest, under-served regions in Africa. Provision of safe water, sanitation and hygiene contributes largely to prevention and management of most NTDs. Cognizant of the role that WASH plays in the control of NTDs, Amref Health Africa coordinates its NTDs interventions through its in-Country WASH & NTDs Program. The organization has competent expertise and technical back up at the corporate, Country, Program and project level. Our commitment is to ensure sustainability, scalability and development of cost-effective innovative WASH & NTDs models and approaches replicable in different contexts across Africa. Amref Health Africa has a strong track record and competences in designing and implementing WASH and NTDs projects.

#### **b. WASH, NTD & Public Health Emergencies (PHE) Programme experience & expertise**

Amref Health Africa has over 30-year experience implementing NTDs control projects. Since mid-1980s, Amref in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and its partners has been implementing comprehensive integrated program in the control of trachoma, Echinococcosis (hydatid disease), Soil-transmitted helminthiasis (STH), Schistosomiasis (SCH), Lymphatic filariasis (elephantiasis), human African trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness), Tungiasis (jiggers), Visceral Leishmaniasis, snakebite envenoming, Scabies and other ectoparasites mainly through; epidemiological mapping (prevalence and impact surveys), morbidity management, integrated WASH, comprehensive school health and community health strategy related interventions mostly in the remotest and most under-served regions. Notably, Amref Health Africa supported the certification of Dracunculiasis (guinea-worm disease) free – in Country certifications through social mobilization and technical support for dossier preparation. Our work is guided by national and international standards, policies, strategies, guidelines on NTDs management and technical specifications on design and construction of WASH facilities.

#### **c. Current STH & SCH Intervention**

Amref Health Africa with its Partners, Akros and the African Institute for Health and Development in collaboration with National & County Governments of Kakamega, Bungoma, Trans Nzoia and Vihiga, with funding from The END Fund is implementing a 5-year program focusing on Soil Transmitted Helminthiasis (Intestinal worms) and Schistosomiasis (Bilharzia) aimed to interrupt transmission of the two NTDs by 2025.