The Ministry of Health, through the National Tuberculosis, Leprosy and Lung Disease Program (NTLD-Program) in collaboration with Amref Health Africa in Kenya, has embarked on a mission to redesign TB control strategies. One of these strategies targeting local contexts is the Kenya Innovation Challenge Tuberculosis (TB) Fund (KIC-TB).

Kenya Innovation Challenge TB Fund (KIC-TB) is an exceptional opportunity for organisations/groups working with communities in Kenya to show how innovative and impactful they can be in the national fight against TB. Emphasis is on finding missing people with TB using innovative strategies that are specific to issues identified in local settings. This strategy will complement the country’s efforts to motivate and engage other key stakeholders to find the missing people with TB in the community.

Scope and Eligibility
The call for innovative interventions will be open to the whole country. The organisations eligible to apply include: community based organisations, non-governmental organisations, self-help groups, faith-based organisations, academic and research institutions, innovation hubs, social enterprises or private sector organisations.

Why KIC-TB Fund
Kenya is classified as a high burden country for Tuberculosis (TB), TB/HIV and Multi-Drug Resistant (MDR) TB [WHO Global TB Report 2017]. TB is the 4th leading cause of death in Kenya. The National TB Prevalence Survey (2016) found that about 50% of the country’s estimated people with TB are currently missed by public health services. Research has shown that any person who is ill with TB and not yet on treatment can infect between 10 and 15 people in close contact within a single year, posing a big challenge in TB control. While there exists a strategy of linking the community to the health system in Kenya, there are a number of gaps in coverage limiting the effectiveness of TB case finding interventions at community level.

This initiative is funded by the Global Fund under the strategic initiative designed to inspire innovation and ambitious, evidence-based programming approaches, in order to maximize impact in specific strategic priority areas. The objective is to address specific barriers to finding the missing people with TB, develop innovative approaches to accelerate case finding and scale up tools and approaches that have worked well. It targets to increase TB case notification by diagnosing 1.5 million additional people with TB by end of 2019 compared to 2015 in 13 priority countries.

Further details will be in the advertisement and application materials in due course. Send any queries to the email address gftbgrant@amref.org
Application Process

A multi-stage application process will be used. The first stage will involve submission of a two-page concept note detailing the proposed interventions and the organisation’s capacity to implement. These will be evaluated by an independent interdisciplinary review committee and successful organisations will be invited to defend the innovative ideas in their concepts. Those who pass this stage will then be asked to submit full proposals. Field capacity assessment will be carried out for the successful organisations to identify those that will be funded.

Tentative Dates

The call for concept notes will be advertised in the local daily newspaper in August 2018. The application materials will be available on the Amref Health Africa website (www.amref.org) and the NTLD-Program website (www.nltp.co.ke). The call will be an open tender that will run for duration of 14 calendar days from the date of advertisement.

Areas of Focus and Objectives

The goal of the KIC-TB Fund is to find missing people with TB in the communities and link them to TB testing and treatment services through innovative strategies.

The prevalence survey demonstrated that 67% of the people with TB symptoms did not seek care because they did not perceive that their symptoms were severe enough to seek medical attention. As such, the key focus is to create demand to ensure that these people are identified and linked to facilities for prompt diagnosis and treatment.

The objectives of the KIC-TB Fund are:
1. To identify and screen the target populations for TB in the community.
2. To refer those with TB symptoms from the communities for diagnosis in the health facilities.
3. To strengthen social accountability and linkages between communities and health facilities.
4. To ensure correct documentation and prompt notification of those diagnosed with TB.

Target Population

The target groups for these interventions will be key populations for TB defined as people who are vulnerable, underserved and at risk of TB illness. The National TB Prevalence survey identified key populations that were found to have a greater burden of TB than the general population as:

- Men
- Women > 65 years old
- Age-group 25-34 years
- People living in urban slums

In addition to the above populations, the NTLD-Program has also prioritised the following as special populations that require considerable attention in TB prevention and control:

- Children
- Health care workers
- Refugees
- People Living with HIV
- People living or working in congregate settings
- People who are undernourished
- Contacts of TB patients other than household members
- Migrant/mobile populations
- Any other county-based populations that have a high burden of TB and are underserved.