October, 2023

POSITION STATEMENT

Construction, Equipping, and Handing Over of Primary Healthcare Facilities in Nairobi's Informal Settlements

We take note of various media reports highlighting minutes of a Parliamentary Account Committee (PAC) meeting with questions around a contract duly executed between Amref Health Africa (Amref) and the now defunct Nairobi Metropolitan Services and the Ministry of Health in Kenya for improvement of primary health care (PHC) infrastructure in the informal settlements of Nairobi.

In its activities, Amref is answerable to all its stakeholders including governments, partners/donors as well as the general public who are the communities for whom our mission exists. We are open to scrutiny in everything we do, and this case is no different.

Winston Churchill said, 'Criticism may not be agreeable but is necessary' and it's therefore our public duty to present the facts on this project without prejudice.

In August 2020, Amref Health Africa, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health in Kenya and the defunct Nairobi Metropolitan Services, executed a procurement agency contract valued at KES 869,400,000 for the construction and equipping of 19 primary healthcare facilities in Nairobi's informal settlements.

The ten (10) Level-Two and nine (9) Level-Three facilities would enhance primary healthcare access for millions in underserved communities, particularly mothers and children who previously had to travel long distances for services.

The scope of the contract includes the purchase and installation of X-ray machines and theatre equipment for all the Level-Three hospitals, as well as ultrasound, maternity delivery, laboratory, infection control, and laundry equipment, including all other equipment required for full operationalization of the high-demand facilities as defined by the Ministry of Health. These facilities would rapidly scale up health service access for millions of underserved Kenyans living in the informal settlements of Nairobi and for whom public health facilities did not exist and were served by non-governmental organizations including Amref.

Following procedural contracting, Amref procured a contractor with the capacity to rapidly construct and equip these facilities while working closely with the Ministry of Health. Amref successfully delivered and handed over fully functional sixteen (16) facilities with thirteen (13) of these handed over within twelve (12) months of the contract.

The completed facilities and currently actively offering public health services are: Muthua-Uthiru, Ngundu-Kamulu, Karura Mwiki, Kwa Ndege Tassia, Kianda 42-Kibra, Our Lady of Nazareth- Mukuru Kwa Njenga, Maendeleo Learning Centre-Mukuru Kwa Reuben, Chief Camp- Githurai, Gatina-Kawangware, Ushirika-Dandora, New Mathare-Kiamaiko, Lower Savannah, Gichagi-Kangemi, Zimmerman, Ngomongo-Korogocho, Sinai-Viwandani.

Amref, navigating challenges such as site readiness variations, non-existent infrastructure, and community engagement disparities, successfully delivered and handed over sixteen (16) of the nineteen (19) facilities on various dates. These facilities, currently managed by the Nairobi City County Government, have collectively served 925,941 outpatient cases and facilitated 5,763 deliveries between 2021 and July 2023.

Click HERE for key highlights of the project.

One (1) additional facility, Lucky Summer is completed pending handing over to Nairobi City County Government.

The remaining two facilities, Majengo in Gikomba (Level Three) and Gumba in Mathare (Level Two), are progressing through different completion stages, having experienced delays due to various factors, and will be completed.

The Office of the Auditor General in Kenya, in adherence to legal requirements, raised concerns about value for money due to the delay. Parliament, in its oversight role, has sought clarification on the causes of the delay, value for money, and contracting issues.

As a longstanding partner of government in Kenya's health service delivery, Amref acknowledges the opportunity to contribute to the government's commitment to achieving Universal Health Coverage. The organization remains dedicated to its mission of fostering lasting health change in Africa, emphasizing people-centered, community-led primary healthcare, and addressing social determinants of health, including population growth, urbanization, and the climate crisis.

Amref commits to cooperating with official requests, providing all documents and information material to the inquiry, and ensuring the successful completion of the two facilities in collaboration with the contractor and relevant government agencies.

For further information, don't hesitate to contact us via Global.Communications@amref.org

Ends!

About Amref Health Africa

For more than 65 years, Amref has worked tirelessly with communities, with and through their governments to attain lasting health change in Africa. We are the largest Africa-based international health development organisation delivering health services and training to over 30 million people annually in 35 countries in Africa, including but not limited to Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda, South Sudan, Malawi, Zambia and Senegal. Our core values are entrenched in the African spirit: ubuntu, integrity and quality.