

Title: Social Science Research to assess the Introduction of a novel Child-friendly Pediatric Formulation for the Treatment of Schistosomiasis among Preschool-aged Children in Endemic Counties in Kenya

Background: The Ministry of Health, Vector Borne and Neglected Tropical Diseases Unit (VBNTDU), in partnership with the African Institute for Health and Development (AIHD), the Technical University of Munich (TUM), the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI), the County Government of Homa Bay, with support from the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnerships (EDCTP), is implementing the ADOPT program which aims to introduce a novel pediatric formulation (arPZQ) for the treatment of Schistosomiasis in endemic counties in Kenya. We seek to conduct a study to analyze the factors surrounding the pilot introduction of arPZQ among PSAC in communities in Kenya at the macro, meso and micro levels. Specifically, the project will seek to: (i) Evaluate the acceptance, appropriateness and perception of paediatric Schistosomiasis treatment and distribution (delivery) among parents/guardians of PSAC and other community members; (ii) Analyse the acceptance and perception of the paediatric praziquantel distribution methods among implementation personnel; and (iii) Evaluate advocacy, social mobilization and communication strategies and toolkits supporting the delivery of paediatric Schistosomiasis treatment.

The study outcomes will help generate recommendations that will be used to refine and guide the planned scale-up of arPZQ distribution, particularly focusing on training, implementation, and social mobilization and communication strategies. In this regard, it will involve conducting participant observation, in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, transect walks, photovoice, key informant interviews and surveys before, during and after the mass drug administration (MDA). We will conduct a survey amongst parents and guardians after the distribution as a quantitative assessment.

Position Description: The purpose of this position is to serve as a temporary research assistant (RA)/enumerator for the study in Mbita Sub-County in Homa Bay County. The overall duty of the RA/enumerator will be to ensure that data is collected appropriately and submitted to the supervisor promptly. Specifically, s/he will be required to perform the following services:

- Attend the training on data collection methods and go through the data collection forms.
- Perform field data collection and management activities following approved protocol, including the permission process and confidentiality requirements.
- Secure storage of all data according to outlined procedures.
- Meet deadlines including conducting assigned interviews in a timely manner.
- Orient oneself to research ethics materials (this does not count into consultancy or training period).
- Report to the immediate supervisor as required (e.g. discuss any problem).
- Maintain confidentiality and security of data gathered.
- Execute any other duties assigned by the supervisor.

Requirements: The candidature for this position is expected to have the following qualifications:

- At least a first degree in Social Sciences from a recognized university.
- Fluent in English, Swahili and the local language.
- Vast experience in data collection, both qualitative and quantitative - experience in electronic data collection using Survey ODK is important.
- Excellent organizational skills and ability to follow study-specific procedures and guidelines reliably; and
- Good verbal and written communication skills.

How to apply: Interested candidates are invited to submit their application letter and CV with contacts of three referees via email info@aihdint.org. The application deadline is **2:00 pm on 11th August 2025**.