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## News Release

# THE COCA-COLA AFRICA FOUNDATION AND AMREF HEALTH AFRICA LAUNCH REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP TO IMPROVE HEALTH AND LIVELIHOODS FOR 500,000 PEOPLE

**NAIROBI, Kenya, July 19th, 2017** – Today, The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation (TCCAF) celebrated the launch of a partnership with Amref Health Africa that will sustainably improve the health and enable the economic empowerment of more than 500,000 people living in communities in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda through improved access to safe water and sanitation as well as economic empowerment through income generating opportunities. This partnership is part of TCCAF's Replenish Africa Initiative (RAIN) which aims to reach at least 6 million people throughout Africa with improved and sustainable access to safe water.

The partnership with Amref Health Africa addresses the gap to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in three key areas: increasing access to water; increasing access to safe sanitation and hygiene; and increasing livelihood opportunities for women and youth.

Despite the progress that has been made over the past decade to improve access to water and sanitation in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, significant gaps still exist in vulnerable communities. In March 2017, the United Nations declared that more than [17 million people](#) face food insecurity due to the drought in East Africa. Water scarcity and lack of access to sanitation services can increase disruptions and exacerbate fragilities in social, economic and environmental systems.

In response, this partnership will address the significant gaps in water and sanitation access across the four countries. With funding support of more than USD \$4.2 million from TCCAF, Amref will work with local and national governments, adopting a systems-wide approach to implement key project activities including multiple-use water services, community-led total sanitation, as well as waste management and horticulture to generate income for women and youth. The project is expected to be completed by February 2020.

During the celebration, Dr. Susan Mboya, President of TCCAF, remarked: "Water is the most essential ingredient for a healthy and productive life. In sub-Saharan Africa, and here in East Africa, drought impacts many of our communities, making access to safe water for drinking and water for productive uses such as agriculture, a constant worry for many people. We recognize the urgency of these issues and that is why The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation has taken this step through the RAIN program to contribute to achieve the SDGs and ensure access to safe drinking water for all."

"Development needs a big shift in thinking, from just building infrastructure to creating and strengthening institutions through innovation and entrepreneurship. We know that the lasting health and economic benefits of water, sanitation and hygiene are optimised under conditions of full and sustainable access to these services." added Dr. Githinji Gitahi, Group CEO, Amref Health Africa.

Professor Fred H. K. Segor, Principal Secretary, State Department for Water Services, Ministry of Water & Irrigation remarked, “With this project, our goal to reach full and reliable access to safe drinking water for the residents of Kitui will be achieved. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our partners in this launch, including The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation’s Replenish Africa Initiative and Amref Health Africa for your support to achieving the SDG #6, ‘Clean Water & Sanitation’ to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.”

## **About The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation**

[The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation](#) (TCCAF) is an entity funded through Coca-Cola that implements community development programs throughout Africa. TCCAF has committed resources and is collaborating with partners to provide communities with improved access to safe drinking water and sanitation through the Replenish Africa Initiative (RAIN), to contribute to strengthening Africa's health systems through Project Last Mile, and to create opportunities for youth empowerment through the Youth Empowered for Success (YES!) program.

The Foundation's community activities focus on three key areas central to life in Africa: water, health systems strengthening and empowerment. By providing assistance in the most critical areas of need, TCCAF strives to improve the quality of life for communities in Africa and expand the opportunities for those who live there. Additionally, The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation is involved in humanitarian assistance in Africa, for disaster relief and emergency assistance.

## **About the Replenish Africa Initiative (RAIN)**

In response to the severe water challenges faced by nearly 300 million Africans living without access to clean water, The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation (TCCAF) introduced RAIN in 2009. RAIN is Coca-Cola's contribution to helping Africa achieve the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals on clean water and sanitation access. To date, RAIN has reached more than 2.6 million people with improved water access across 37 countries. By the end of 2020, RAIN aims to measurably improve the lives of at least six (6) million people in Africa through sustainable water access, sanitation, and hygiene interventions.

## **About Amref Health Africa**

The African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF Health Africa) is an independent non-profit, non-governmental organization (NGO) founded in 1957. The foundation has country offices in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, South Africa, Ethiopia and Southern Sudan.

AMREF's vision is a lasting Health change in Africa. AMREF Health Africa believes that the power for lasting transformation of Africa's health lies within its communities. AMREF works side by side with individuals in communities to empower them to build the knowledge, skills and means to transform their own health.

AMREF's Strategy Goal is to advance Africa's health by catalyzing an evidence-based movement aimed at reducing the gap between communities and the rest of the health system using a series of programme drivers that are crosscutting and process-based. The programme themes that will lead to realization of the strategy are partnership with communities for better health; building capacity for strengthened communities and health system responsiveness and health systems research for policy and practice.