PIs, senior researchers, Heads of Departments, Directors – Interview Guide

1. What are your research interests and responsibilities at KWTRP?

2. Membership of Ethics Review/Research Regulation committees, in or outside the Programme. *How long have you been a member and what have been/are your roles in these committees?*

3. You submitted a protocol to the KWTRP CSC [name protocol/s]. *Why is this an important area for research during the pandemic? And what are the latest developments a) with the protocol b) with the research project generally?*

4. What has been your experience with the review process?
   In terms of a) processes of review b) turn-around time c) quality of review c) any other area e.g. preparedness for expedited review/guidelines…

5. What recommendations would you have for ethics review of research during global health pandemics? What lessons can we learn from your experiences that can help prepare and respond better to current and future pandemics?

6. COVID-19 was announced as a Global Health emergency by WHO on 11th March 2020; the first case was reported in Kenya on 13th March. One of the implications of COVID-19 at KWTRP is that all studies were stopped until further notice.
   - How did this affect your studies? Have your studies resumed?
   - How were decisions to stop/resume communicated to a) participants b) study staff c) collaborators d) others e.g. funders?
   - Was any form of engagement used in stopping/resuming the studies, who was engaged, why? with what results?
   - COVID-19 has been here for over one year now, over this period; in what ways have your work/staff/Programme's work adjusted to respond to this pandemic?
   - Which of these effects have been a) most strenuous/difficult to handle/address; b) easy to implement; why?

7. During the COVID-19 pandemic, what ethical challenges have you or your team faced in your roles at KWTRP?
   - What has been the impact of COVID-19 related restrictions on consenting, community engagement, benefit sharing and participant recruitment in your studies?

8. Various activities were implemented at the Programme to support the Government's response to COVID-19. In the next questions, we will discuss these a bit more.

   a. Support: are/were you aware of the initiatives that were implemented to support the Government's response? What do you think about these? What worked well, what did not work well?
   b. Coordinating COVID-19 related research: there were efforts to coordinate COVID-19 related research in the Programme, were you involved in these initiatives? If yes, in what way? What is your view on the research that are/were conducted?
   c. Non- COVID-19 research was stopped immediately the government directive was given. How do you feel about this? Any suggestions on how to handle this in the future?

9. Responsibility of researchers and research institutions during COVID-19: what do you think is/should be the role of a) researchers, b) research institutions in responding to health emergency situations?

10. Before COVID-19, had you ever been involved in responding to a disease outbreak? What outbreak and in which capacity? How does your experience in responding to COVID-19 compare to responding to the other outbreaks?

11. Out of this pandemic, what are some of the take home lessons that we can learn?
12. Any other views/recommendations