Response to REC Queries: ASSESSING THE CAPACITY OF THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM TO HANDLE NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES IN A REFUGEE SETTLEMENT IN UGANDA

1. Objectivity in Purposive Sampling
Purposive sampling will be employed for qualitative in-depth interviews to obtain insights from key informants with relevant experience in NTD management. To maintain objectivity and minimize bias:

- **Predefined Selection Criteria**: Participants will be selected based on clearly defined inclusion criteria related to their role in healthcare delivery such as Facility Incharges, District Health Officers, and Inspectors

- **Triangulation**: Data from purposively sampled participants will be compared with quantitative survey results to cross-check consistency.

- **Neutral Probing Techniques**: Interviewers will use neutral language and open-ended questions to avoid leading responses.

2. Ensuring Genuine Responses in Participant Selection
To reduce social desirability bias and encourage authentic responses:

- **Anonymous Data Collection**: Surveys will be conducted anonymously to ensure participants feel free to share honest insights.

- **Confidentiality Assurance**: Before data collection, participants will be assured that their responses are confidential and will not affect their professional standing.

- **Emphasizing Study Intent**: Participants will be informed that the research aims to improve healthcare capacity, not evaluate individual performance.

3. Enhancing Accuracy and Reliability of Self-Reported Questionnaires
To improve the validity of self-reported data:

- **Pre-Testing**: The questionnaire will be piloted among a small sample of healthcare workers to refine clarity and reliability.

- **Cross-Verification**: Responses will be triangulated with qualitative interview findings and facility-level data.

4. Encouraging Honest Responses to Sensitive Professional Matters
To ensure open and truthful feedback while addressing concerns about self-perceived competency:

- **Anonymous Surveys**: No personally identifiable information will be linked to responses.

- **Safe Environment for Interviews**: One-on-one online interviews will be conducted in private settings.

- **Framing of Questions**: Questions will be framed in a non-judgmental way, focusing on system-level challenges rather than individual deficiencies.

5. Participant Compensation
Participants will receive monetary compensation provided as UGX 10,000 as compensation for their time.

6. Consent Forms
The required consent forms have been attached to this submission. These include:

- **Informed Consent Form for Survey Participants**

- **Informed Consent Form for Interview Participants**

7. Ensuring Participation of Those Unfamiliar with Online Meetings
To facilitate participation among individuals who may not be familiar with virtual meetings:

- **Step-by-Step Guide**: A simple guide on how to access and use Zoom/Google Meet will be shared beforehand.

- **Technical Support**: A research assistant will be available to provide technical assistance before and during the sessions.

- **Alternative Participation Modes**: Participants uncomfortable with online platforms may be given the option of telephone interviews.

8. Ensuring Stable Internet Connectivity
To minimize disruptions due to poor internet:

- **Pre-Session Connectivity Check**: Participants will be encouraged to test their connections before scheduled meetings.

- **Provision of Data Bundles**: Participants in online interviews will receive mobile data support.

- **Offline Participation Backup**: Where connectivity issues persist, participants will have the option to submit responses via recorded audio or written feedback.