Problem Definition

- Despite strong commitment from the international community to fight major infectious diseases, weak laboratory infrastructure remains a huge rate-limiting step. This results in compromised quality of test results and negatively impact patient management.
- Access to reliable diagnostic testing facilities is among the major challenges in Kenya and despite the growing threat from emerging and re-emerging pathogens including HIV, TB and malaria as well as Ebola, the majority of an estimated 12 million annual deaths in Sub-Saharan Africa remain un-investigated.

Business Model for Intervention

The solution, facilitated by DFID funding: PSP4H is assisting AKMLSO to strengthen the laboratory system in Kenya via facilitating development of a branded laboratory network. The business model design is drawn on expertise learned from formation of Pharmnet under KPA intervention and will comprise of:
1) Formation of a private laboratory network
2) Development of a pooled procurement arm of the network
3) Transition phase

Laboratories in the network will in the long run benefit from discounted prices for equipments and reagents through pooled procurement. PSP4H will initially facilitate the process up to the Implementation phase. Through the process, AKMLSO members will be trained and positioned to take over and ensure sustainability.

Intervention Partners

- Association of Kenya Laboratory Scientific Officers is a professional body for laboratory scientific officers in Kenya. It has about 2,500 members across Kenya some of which manage 100 private laboratory businesses in the country serving the low income populations.

Expected Impact

- Overall expectation is that, by the end of the first year a branded laboratory network will be in operation in the market serving the low income segments.
- By the end of the second year the network members will start to benefit from group purchasing and pooled procurement, this will improve service delivery and in turn bring about increased access to quality assured Laboratory services to over 1,000,000 working poor consumers.

Value for Money

- PSP4H will cover the initial costs for technical support and capacity building, at transition phase AKMLSO is expected to begin taking up all the costs to ensure sustainability.
- Initially a population of about 1 million working poor consumers will be reached with quality assured laboratory services.
- This number is expected to increase during scale-up phase.