

Upcoming events

World TB Day

INSIDE

Advancing immunization in Africa

NEW PROJECT: 2
GAVI IMMUNIZATION

KANCO hosts the Regional consultative forum for stakeholders in Harm Reduction

High level advocacy during the ACP-EU Meeting in Nairobi

Launching 'Turning the TIDE'

Advancing the ECD agenda 2

Strengthening TB Interventions in Kanyemi slum 3

4



KANCO

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Our Goal: Providing leadership among CSOs in contributing towards realization of universal access targets in Kenya.

Vision: Healthy people, empowered communities.



Theme of the month: Child health and immunization

Maternal and Child Health in Africa remains at the heart of development and is critical to the attainment of the SDGs that impress the highest attainable standard of health as a fundamental right of every person. A healthy mother brings forth a healthy baby and a healthy baby is most likely to become a productive member of the society. Therefore all childhood interventions not only became mandatory but of critical importance cognizant that life begins before birth, therefore the health and wellbeing of the mother as well as that of her unborn child, to birth and after birth demand that their interventions be well thought out.

KANCO has three complementary programs focusing on the child, to ensure the holistic development of both babies and their mothers programs centered on child health and immunization namely; the Early childhood development, Nutrition programme and vaccines and immunization project funded by The Conrad Hilton foundation, the European union and GAVI respectively.

The point of convergence for these programs is the need to see a thriving maternal and childhood environment that holds the promise of a better tomorrow

Advancing immunization in Africa

A historic mark was made during the 28th African Union summit where the Africa Leaders showed their commitment to immunization and child health by endorsing the [Addis Declaration on Immunization](#). This endorsement speaks to African leaders readiness to deliver on the promise of immunization. Stronger political will, financial investments and backing the commitments will go a long way in accelerating actions towards universal access to immunization.

This comes at a time when statistics indicate that one out of every five children in Africa does access the vaccines they need, despite the knowledge that Vaccines can help save lives, strengthen health systems, drive sustainable development as they help helping children, families and hence nations thrive.

Political will is needed to propel

Africa towards the goal of universal immunization, whereas Africa has made historic progress in reducing child deaths through stronger immunization service delivery, a lot more still needs to be done.

Child deaths in Africa have declined by 50%. But much more remains to be done, and the goals towards universal immunization laid out in the Global Vaccines Action Plan remain largely off-track. Without greater support from governments, including greater financial support from domestic budgets, immunization for all children in Africa will remain out of reach.

With over 1.5 million children still dying globally from vaccine-preventable illnesses, increasing access to immunization should be a top priority, and special focus should be made to reach the poorest and most vulnerable children, who categorically have lower coverage levels

than their wealthier peers;

Beyond simply saving lives, immunization remains one of the smart investments for all nations. This endorsement holds the promise to see more children access life saving vaccine and the task ahead remains to ensure that these commitments translate to sustainable financing for immunization.



'Investment in immunization as one of the smartest Investments a country can make in it's future. When our children are healthy, our families, communities and countries thrive—'
H..E Professor Yifru Berhan Mitke

New Project: The GAVI Immunization Project

KANCO with the support of GAVI and the Ministry Of Health Kenya, will be implementing a 3year immunization project (2017-2019), aimed at Health Systems Strengthening for immunization.

The \$5,241,438.58

Will support advocacy in 47 counties to create ownership and investment in the immunization program. The project objectives are;

To accelerate strong political engagement, improve governance and financial sustainability for immunization outcomes in line with devolu-

tion by 2019, To achieve equitable access to and utilization of routine immunization services in 16 focus counties and in special populations in Nairobi County by 2019

To strengthen immunization supply chain and logistics system (iSCL) for availability of quality vaccines and immunization supplies at national and subnational levels by 2019

To strengthen immunisation data management and information systems for timely decision making at national and subnational level by 2019 and program management

This grant will not only contribute towards attainment of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), but also reduce the equity barriers to access of immunization services among remote and underserved populations as well as accelerate

the Reach Every Child/Community (REC) strategy.

This project comes at a time when African leaders are expressing greater commitment to invest in immunization through the signing of the Addis Declaration on immunization (ADI), where there is renewed effort to reach every child with life saving vaccines



KANCO hosts the Regional consultative forum for stakeholders in Harm Reduction



Country delegates from the Eastern Africa region attending the Regional consultative forum on harm reduction in Arusha

According to UNODC, there is an estimated 256 million people globally who use illicit drugs, with about 1.65 million of these being people who inject drugs and living with HIV. The Eastern Africa

region is estimated to be home to about ---- who use drugs with about – of these being people who inject drugs (PWUIDs).

Entrenched in a Criminal Justice approach system to drug laws, there is a blanket punitive environment resulting in the criminalization of people who use drugs (PWUD) and presenting significant barriers to accessing prevention and treatment services where they exist.

The discussion on harm reduction in the Eastern African region

therefore can no longer be delayed.

KANCO through the support of the Global Fund has been championing the harm reduction advocacy in the Eastern Africa region with recognition that for effective advocacy and ultimate transition of the drug using environment there needs to be a multi stakeholder effort and collaboration.

KANCO organised a three day meeting with multi-stakeholder delegates from the Eastern African countries implementing the harm reduction project, to address different issues around service delivery and policies as they relate to PWIDs.

The meeting with representatives from the Government, civil society, policy makers, healthcare providers, the community sought to advocate for a favorable environment for PWID to access comprehensive healthcare with the objective to create an enabling environment for harm re-

duction service delivery in the region

Some of the emerging issues were the need for more data and information to strengthen the investment case for harm reduction, issues of transitions and management of HIV, best practices that can be replicated, the need to counter punitive laws through strengthened advocacy and the specific advocacy issues by country, sustainability of harm reduction interventions,, the need for data for informed advocacy and service delivery among others

'We need everyone on board for the success of harm reduction'

Happy Hassan-TANPUD

High level advocacy during the ACP-EU Meeting Nairobi



MPs representing different countries attending the TB side meeting during the ACP-EU meeting

During the 32nd Session of the African Caribbean Pacific-European Union ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly held between the 19th to 21st December 2016 in Nairobi (Kenya), KANCO in collaboration with Global Health Advocates (GHA) Stop TB partnership and World AIDS Campaign (WACI) held a side event to sensitize the MPs from across the African region on the effects of Tuberculosis (TB) on development with political commitment to ending TB. This provided an important opportunity for the political leaders to discuss TB issues and take informed

action. Speaking at the meeting Hon. Stephen Mule, the MP for Matungulu and a staunch TB champion as well as the chair of the Africa TB Caucus, impressed on the parliamentarians to champion the fight against TB:

"If we are to achieve the TB SDG goals, then as members of parliament we must take on the leadership and ensure that enough resource are allocated to TB"

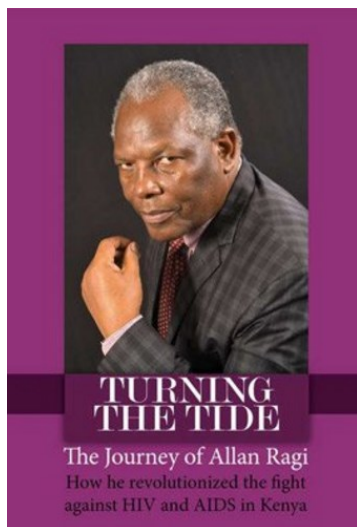
This comes at a time when the Global TB report 2016 indicates that Global actions and investments fall far short of those needed to end the global TB epidemic. Looking ahead, it is crucial for governments to continue supporting the TB response, including strengthening integration of TB in other health responses and mainstreaming TB/HIV integration.

The meeting also saw the participation of Hon Augustin Neto, Hon. Shakeel Shabir and Hon. Joyce Laboso, who were recognized as health champions working closely together with the CSOs.

The meeting was followed a blog by Hon. Stephen Mule accessible through the link: [We Must Invest in TB-HIV Programming or Lose Two Fights at Once!](#)



KANCO TB advocacy manager presenting an award to an MP's representative during the meeting



Turning the Tide is a practical biography written by Allan Ragi on his career journey in the advocacy field curbing the Spread of HIV/AIDS in a Socially Rigid Kenya. The book talks about how Allan challenged the notion that HIV/AIDS was purely a medical condition and revolutionized the fight against the scourge in the region that ultimately has an impact on the social, political and economic landscape. His advocacy work on HIV/AIDS is also centered on his leadership of KANCO which is clearly presented in the book.

Through Allan's leadership, KANCO has succeeded where many other have failed to turn around Kenya's fight

against HIV/AIDS and to influence Government policy on the scourge in quite meaningful ways, while inspiring massive social change. However, Allan is an unsung hero as his friends would say such as Kenya's former Foreign Minister Raphael Tuju observes,, "Allan is one of a handful of unsung heroes in Kenya's fight against HIV and AIDS."

Allan has received a number of awards for his work

and contribution in the fight against HIV and AIDS including **Head of State's Commendation** from President Kibaki . He also received the **Commonwealth Secretariat award** together with President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda in appreciation of their work on HIV and AIDS policy and advocacy as well as steering KANCO to winning the **2005 Gold Medal Award from the Geneva-based Foundation for Excellence in Business Practice** .In the early 1990s, going against the grain, Allan braved to powerful forces including H.E the President, Daniel Arap Moi the wrong way, to publicly reject the notions that AIDS was an infectious death

sentence that called for quarantine. Allan was convinced beyond any doubt that HIV and AIDS was manageable, and that the ailment did not warrant isolation of patients. Together with other stakeholders, a careful and deliberate fight was put forward in 1997 and succeeded in obtaining **Sessional Paper number 4 of 1997 on AIDS in Kenya**, which dramatically changed the HIV and AIDS policy in Kenya culminating in drastic changes in Government policies on HIV/AIDS.

Allan, a true nationalist and son of Kenya stays true to the course and believes without a doubt that Kenya and Africa at large will get to beyond zero. He has continued to demonstrate this through his leadership which has seen KANCO receive many grants and work with many local, regional and global organizations including the Global Fund and is presently spearheading the Harm Reduction Project in the greater Eastern Africa region among other projects anchored on the belief that in the fight against this scourge, no one should be left behind! Because as he would put it; Everyone matters!

Almost three decades down the line, Allan remains as passionate and agile as he was when the war on HIV and Aids was waged in Kenya and is committed to keep championing the fight to beyond zero. The autobiography is informative and insightful enriched with ingredients a reader needs to nurture and grow an organization.

"Allan is one of a handful of unsung heroes in Kenya's fight against HIV and AIDS."
Hon.
Raphael
Tuju

Advancing the ECD agenda

Children's early experiences can either augment or inhibit childrens overall development, depending on their access to, and the quality of, nutrition and health services, family and community care practices, learning opportunities and protection. They need support from multiple sectors. Such support impacts not only on children themselves, but also on the environments in which children live and which, in turn, influence on children's development.

We all must do our part to fulfill responsibilities towards young children and build a strong foundation for our nations' future. This is imperative.

Multiple stakeholders have made resounding calls for putting holistic early childhood development at the centre of the policy discourse and development priorities.

KANCO continues to champion the Early Childhood Development (ECD) agenda. In the last quarter of 2016, KANCO organised a series of ECD forums including the National Stakeholders forum in Nairobi and Mombasa counties as well as a grassroots advocacy training meeting all aimed at building awareness as well as creating an investment case for ECD, domestic resource allocation and prioritization of ECD issues in funds allocation at the

County levels, need to develop contextualized ECD policy documents to guide ECD budgetary allocations in the county of Mombasa as well as promote

Information sharing and dialogue with the media and other stakeholders on the importance of National and regional advocacy to promote resource allocation towards ECD



KANCO's systems strengthening advisor making a presentation during the ECD stakeholders forum in Nairobi

Strengthening TB interventions in Kangemi slum



Stakeholders pose for a photo during the launch of facility handover ceremony

Upon the completion of renovations at the Kangemi Health TB Clinic, KANCO supported and participated in the Multi-stakeholders meeting / Handover ceremony. The meeting brought together key partners including RESULTS Japan, KANCO, Division of TB, Nairobi County Health Department, Malteser International, Private sector and Community health Volunteers from Kangemi region.

The meeting crowned the implementation of an advocacy project on TB by Results Japan spearheaded by Mr. Masaki. In Kenya, Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) provide health situation management for local community members. However, the quality of their activities is not as good as it could be due to a lack of capacity. In urban informal settlements and the countryside, inhabitants find it very difficult to access sufficient medical services.

RESULTS Japan started the advocacy project on TB in Kangemi in order to address this situation. We trained 80 CHVs to deepen their understanding of TB and take measures con-

forming to local needs. The culmination of the event was the handing over of certificates of training to CHVs and celebrate the completion of the TB clinic renovation.

More than 150 people including representatives from the Kenyan Ministry of Health, Eiken Chemical Co. Ltd. and Mr. Toshitugu Uesawa, the Ambassador from the Embassy of Japan in Kenya discussed the TB situation in Kenya.

We hope that this event was a good occasion to discuss TB control in Kenya and how it can be effectively improved.

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Healthy people, empowered communities

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KANCO is a regional membership network of NGOs, CBOs, FBOs, Private Sector actors, Research and Learning Institutions as well as associate members/partners across five continents. That include individuals and International Non Governmental Organization partners, involved in, or that have interest to effectively contribute to their national AIDS and disease response as well as advocating for favourable health policies that will promote and enhance increased health service access to all.

Established in 1990, KANCO has a membership of over 1200 partners in Kenya and other countries within the region namely: Burundi, Seychelles, Mauritius, Uganda, Ethiopia, Tanzania and Zanzibar. KANCO RESULTS is also a partner with different regional and global advocacy networks such ACTION and RESULT. In 2009, KANCO was accredited as the Linking Organization (LO) of the International HIV/AIDS Alliance (The Alliance), a global network that supports communities around the world to reduce the spread of HIV and meet the challenges of HIV and AIDS and related health issues.

Guided by the vision of *healthy people, empowered communities*, KANCO has evolved to become a premier agency for sensitizing, mobilizing and promoting collaboration among civil society organizations (CSOs) working in the region.