

20th International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa - ICASA 2019



L-R Kunal Naik Advocacy Manager at PILS Mauritius, Kassim Khamis Nyuni, Chairperson-Africa network of People who Use Drugs (AfricanPUD), Dr. Michael Katende, MPH-M-ADHSM, MD -East Africa Community Secretariat, Tamara Chaves, Public Health and Harm Reduction Researcher- Harm Reduction International, UK, Charity Monareng, Parliamentary and Policy Research Officer at TB/HIV Care, South Africa, Maria Goretti Loglo Consultant-International Drug Policy Consortium and Sylvia Ayon, Key Populations Programs Manager-KANCO, Kenya during the harm reduction side event at ICASA 2019 in Rwanda, convened by KANCO and PILS Mauritius

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Peter Sands-Global Fund

KANCO participated in the 20th International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa in Kigali, Rwanda, under the theme **"AIDS Free Africa-Innovation, Community, and Political Leadership"**. The conference presented an opportunity for the international community and stakeholders to join efforts in committing to achieving an AIDS-free Africa. The conference was attended by scientists, policy makers, activists, PLHIV, government leaders, CSO's as well as a number of heads of state and civil society representatives.

The conference sought to: Promote community, scientific, and technological innovations for ending AIDS; Advocate for financing sustainable national health responses, political leadership, and accountability; Advocate for strengthened health systems and multi sectoral collaboration to integrate co-morbidities, emerging infections and Non Communicable Diseases: Rethink gender norms, human rights-based approaches and inclusion towards equitable and accessible HIV and AIDS services including Key populations and Promote youth-driven and youth-friendly approaches for an AIDS-free generation.



20th
ICASA
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON AIDS AND STIs IN AFRICA
KIGALI 2019



Stakeholders discussing the National Accountability Mechanism for TB /HIV in PEPFAR implementing countries.

KANCO participated in different sessions and thematic discussions and hosted two side events focusing on **National Accountability Mechanism for TB /HIV in PEPFAR implementing countries** and on harm reduction focusing on **Harm Reduction Programmes in Africa Policies and Progress**. The harm reduction session looked at the global and regional state of harm reduction, providing an opportunity to learn and share on policies and practice across the region as well as deliberate on the way forward for harm reduction in the region.

Addressing the participants at the harm reduction event organized by KANCO and PILS– Mauritius, Allan Ragi, Executive Director KANCO impressed on the need for adoption of an integrated people centered approach to harm reduction programming that would go a long way in addressing the multiple and unique challenges faced by key populations.

The conference provided an avenue for IDPC members attending the conference from South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Senegal, Zimbabwe, Ghana and Mauritius to have a round table discussion that entailed giving suggestions for IDPC to improve its vision, mission and strategy for the period 2020-2022. IDPC is a global network of 192 NGOs that focus on issues related to drug production, trafficking and use. IDPC promotes objective and open debate on the effectiveness, direction and content of drug policies at the national and international level, and supports evidence-based policies that are effective at reducing drug-related harm.

Sylvia Ayon, Key Populations Program Manager KANCO, was a panelist at the **UNFPA** satellite Symposium, “**Putting People at the Centre of Integration**” which shared on efforts to integrate Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and HIV to improve health outcomes for national health systems and all people, including those living with HIV, sex workers and injecting drug users. She also presented on **Integrated community-based HIV prevention, harm reduction, SRHR services for women who inject drugs**

The conference also saw many dignitaries make presentation and rally action towards a concerted health response in the continent

A presentation by UN Women Africa highlighted the inequalities in the rising HIV infections "In 2019, of the 1.6 million new infections, 47% were among women aged 15years & older. Addressing gender inequalities & structural barriers that reinforce women's vulnerability to HIV infection & response, is an essential component in eradicating HIV/AIDS." they stated.

The Global Fund Director, Peter Sands making his remarks called on the need for greater involvement of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the response saying ‘We will not get the ‘U’ in UHC if we don’t have civil society directly involved and funded to provide services.’

The first lady Rwanda Jeannette Kagame observed ‘Indeed concerted efforts, between public and private stakeholders, have resulted in notable progress towards ending AIDS, at different levels, however there is still a long road ahead’

The newly appointed UNAIDS Executive Director, Winnie Byanyima appreciating the conference stated “ It’s a place where the people living with HIV, activists, scientists, governments & partners deliberate on how to end AIDS, empower Communities to Fight Inequality, promote Gender equality & Human Rights and push for more Science & Finance to end AIDS” Impressing on the need to fight for the human rights of the marginalized communities she impressed ,

“We must get rid of the laws against sex workers because the only thing those laws do is make our fellow women run away from coming to test and get treatment. We must fight for all groups that are marginalized.”

The 5 days conference saw multiple engagements and discussions focused on addressing inequalities, systems strengthening, community’s voices strengthening for important conversations around the persistent power imbalances between men & women and how they contribute to the increase of women’s vulnerability to the HIV epidemic and the centrality of political good will in the response with a call for leaders not to be merely politically correct, rather people correct.

ICASA 2019 KANCO Engagements Pictorials



Panelists at the harm reduction Policies and Programs session hosted by KANCO and Pils-Mauritius



Member of Parliament and Chair of the Parliamentary Health Committee Tanzania, following the harm reduction session proceedings



Stakeholders following and making contributions at the harm reduction side event



Harm stakeholders drumming support for the Support Don't Punish Campaign



KANCO Executive Director Making a Contribution during the National Accountability Mechanism for TB /HIV in PEPFAR implementing countries, L- a participant during the session making a contribution.





World AIDS Day 2019 procession in Kilifi County

KANCO joined the globe and the national stakeholders to mark the World AIDS Day under the theme global theme “**Communities make the difference**” and the national theme adopted from the global theme “**Towards UHC: Communities united for a HIV free generation**”. The celebrations were towards support to the people living with HIV and in remembrance of those who have succumbed to aids related illness. The year’s theme was in recognition of the role of the communities in the fight against HIV and AIDS and towards strengthening the role of stakeholders in the response by amplifying the voice of the communities, civil societies and grassroots actors to strengthen the fight against HIV and AIDS through advocacy for sustainable domestic funding for the response in the face of shrinking donor resources. The community led response remains critical to ensuring that no one is left behind, by galvanizing a people led and centered response.

The world AIDS Day 2019 come shortly after the World AIDs Day Report 2019 which indicated that Kenya has registered more than 51 per cent reduction in new HIV/AIDS infections from 100,000 per year in 2013 to 46,000 and AIDS related deaths have also declined falling from 60,000 in 2014 to 28,000 in 2018. It further estimated that 1.6 million people were living with HIV in Kenya in 2018 and 68 percent on treatment against the 90percent target as per the UNAIDS 90:90:90 strategy. The report further shows women as more adversely affected by HIV than men with about 65 percent of all the 1.4 million adults living with HIV being women. Further New HIV infections among young women aged 15 to 24 years were more than double those among

World AIDS Day Report

- ◆ There are about 1.6 Million PLHIV in Kenya with 68% of them on treatment.
- ◆ Women are more adversely affected by HIV making up 65% of all the 1.4 adults living with HIV being women

young men.

KANCO with the support of ACTION partnered with the National AIDS Control Council in the national celebrations held in Kisii County as well as with a number of counties across Kenya including: Mombasa , Kwale , Kilifi, Machakos, Nakuru, Kakamega and Bungoma Counties to mark the county celebrations.

This is in line with the theme of the year where the role of the Civil society and other actors more than ever need to be strengthened for advocacy to ensure that HIV and AIDS remains on the political agenda, human rights of People Living with HIV (PLHIV) are respected and that decision-makers and implementers are held accountable and that communities are empowered take part in the response.

WAD 2019 Pictorials

Kakamega County



Stakeholders led by First Lady Kakamega County Priscilla Oparanya and CEC Health Hon Rachael Okumu, during the county wad 2019 celebrations



First Lady Kakamega County Priscilla Oparanya and CEC Health Hon Rachael Okumu, visiting the KANCO booth during the WAD 2019 celebrations in Kakamega County

Mombasa County



Abdulswammad Nassir Mp. Mvita and other health stakeholders in MOBASA County DURING the WAD 2019 celebrations



Mombasa County Celebrations procession

Nyeri County

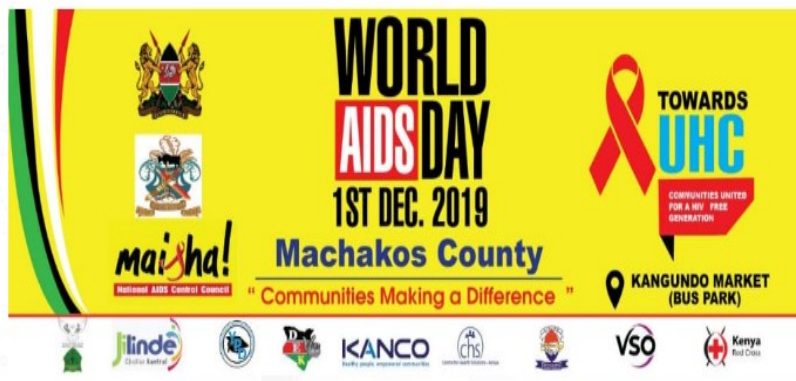


Nyeri County WAD celebrations flagged off by CEC health, director health services and Canon Muriithi of ACK Church



Candle lighting in memory of those who has succumbed to AIDS in Nyeri County

Machakos County



Machakos County wad 2019 procession Banner



Machakos WAD 2019 County Syrup

Kisii County



H.E the First Lady Margret Kenyatta and Health CS Sicily Kariuki among other delegates during the WAD 2019 national Celebration in Kisii County– Photo Courtesy of MOH



WAD 2019 National Celebration Procession in Kisii County

Kilifi County



WAD2019 Procession in Kilifi County

Nakuru County



Nakuru County WAD 2019 celebrations and launch of the county EMTCT business plan

16 Days of Activism



L-R Sammy Kihui representing KANCO during the Launch of the 16 Days of activism Mombasa County, L., Betty Sharon representing Coastal Women in Development making remarks during the forum

KANCO attended the launch the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence an annual international campaign celebrated between 25th of November, the International day for the elimination of violence against women to 10th of December on the Human Rights Day. Millions of people world over join together for the noble cause joined by over 6,000 organizations in 187 countries. KANCO through the Mombasa office joined stakeholders in the county launch of the 16 days of activism launch in a forum that saw participation from human rights groups, Security personnel and Mombasa County Government.

On the international day for the elimination of violence against women marked on the 25th of November, a strong call was made by stakeholder to end all forms of violence against women especially in workplaces under theme **End vio-**

lence in the world of work. During the forum Betty Sharon representing Coast Women in Development (CWID) explained that the focus on the workplaces stemmed from the view that work places have become an unsafe place for women recently. This was followed up by a sensitization session on the different *types of violence against women* from a representative from FIDA Kenya including rape, the effects and where victims can seek help.

Milka Moraa Ngare the Chairlady of the Women Caucus Mombasa County and a Nominated MCA, addressing the forum stated ' We are were not only marking the 16 days but also campaigning against violence targeted towards women" She however raised a concern over the often delayed justice meted on offenders even when there is overwhelming evidence' She reiterated on her commitment to realization of the campaign goals

Mr. Dan Aloo representing the Kenya National Union of Teachers stated " We do not entertain any form of GBV, we are willing to work with development organization and the security forces to ensure that women get their rights'

The Nyali Sub-County, District County Commissioner Mr Cyrus Gatumu affirmed the security forces commitment to ensuring that in the workplaces all workers are protected whether male or female. He added that they are making sure that all that all GBV cases are presented with evidence to the police so that affirmative action can be taken. He called on the community to refer GBV cases to the police for proper redress.

Upcoming Events

- ♦ CSOs Capacity Development on: Media Engagement , Project Management and M&E-9-13th December 2018
- ♦ TB Quarterly Review Meeting: 9th -11th December 2019
- ♦ CSOs BBI review and Development of a Health Position Paper
- ♦ Kenya 3rd Cycle Universal Periodic Review Presentation 10-13th December 2019
- ♦ Health Sector Round up meeting 10th December 2019

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