

## Upcoming events

World Malaria Day  
25<sup>th</sup>/April/2016

United Nations  
General Assembly  
Special Session  
(UNGASS)  
Meeting 2016

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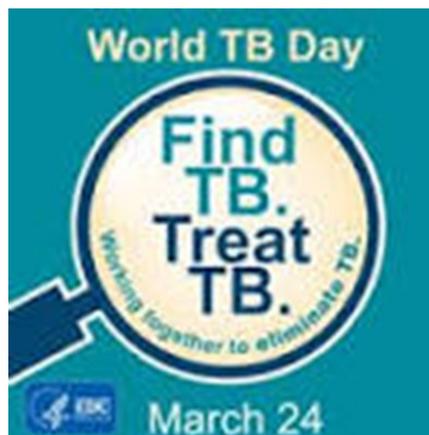
# KANCO Newsletter March 2016 Issue

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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: Tuberculosis (TB)***

TB has been and continues to be a major public health concern. In the recent past there has been evolution of TB with increased awareness on the wake and rise of pediatric TB and the unique treatment challenge this presents amidst the rise of new strains of TB (MDR and XDRTB) that are as dangerous as they are hard to treat. Kenya still remains in the list of High TB burden countries ranked number 15 with approximately 32 deaths every day. Despite these challenges the country continues to record progress in both case detection and treatment success rates as reported by the WHO.

With more innovations in the strategy to fight TB and achieve the global set targets coupled with efforts from multi-stakeholder, we may be on the final homestretch in the fight against TB.

## LAUNCH OF THE AFRICA TB CAUCUS

Africa continues to bear the brunt of the global TB burden, with 9 out of the 22 High TB burden countries that contribute 80% of the global disease burden being in Africa. In 2014 alone, 760,000 people died from TB in Africa, more than any other region. The African Region accounted for 74% of the estimated number of HIV positive incident TB cases.

Based on this premise, there has been need for not just accelerated political commitment and for the region to join efforts and deliberate on strate-

gies to end the epidemic in the region in line with the WHO defined global targets, but also a call for formation of an African TB caucus, as a recommendation from the Global TB caucus to action the Barcelona Declaration

Marking the World TB day celebrations, KANCO in partnership with AHF and the Stop TB partnership, convened a meeting for African members of parliament (MPs), to discuss TB issues in the African continent with the aim to mobilize political commitment in the Africa region and support the

call to End TB in Africa and globally by 2030.

The meeting led by Hon. Steven Mule (Kenya), with participation from MPs from 6 African countries led to the formation of the Africa TB caucus to be officiated in the Durban HIV HLM meeting and a [statement of commitment](#) to end TB in the African continent to be circulated to all the 52 African countries parliaments for ownership and action.

*“We can end TB in  
our Generation  
Mulika TB maliza  
TB”*



Members of Parliament from six African countries from left, Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya, Zimbabwe and South Africa



Participants of the steering committee for the Nairobi meeting

## Lighting Torches To Commemorate the World TB Day - 2016

As a build up to the world TB day celebrations, KANCO in partnership with AHF, Stop TB partnership and G4S in an exemplary public private partnership (PPP) came together to sensitize and create awareness on TB in 10 high TB burden counties. With the theme “**Find, Treat and Eliminate TB**” and slogan “**Mulika TB Maliza TB**”, symbolic torches were lit and taken around the 10 counties, signifying shining a light to find and treat hidden TB.

The exercise sought to increase TB awareness increase testing (screening) at community and at the health facilities and treating the infected persons. Kenya

has made progress in the fight against TB from being ranked number 10 in 2007 to present number 15 among high TB burden countries. Despite this notable progress there are further calls for more concerted efforts in the fight against TB and hence a call for a change in strategy to achieve the global TB targets.

In 2015, WHO, Stop TB Partnership and other partners in a consultative process developed and launched the new strategy to End TB. This would continue the TB control strategy (2011-2015) and deliver the

new goal of ending TB by 2030. The new global plan is a paradigm shift from the previous TB control Strategy with new targets and approaches.



Lighting and handing over of torches to elected leaders from the 10 high TB burden counties

## KANCO HOLDS A HARM REDUCATION MEDIA TRAINING



Journalist and KANCO staff pose for a photo during the media harm reduction training

The role of media in highlighting important, yet little understood approaches to handling complex social processes cannot be over emphasized. The same applies to managing the drug problem in the country that has recently seen rapidly emerging populations of heroin users.

Harm reduction refers to **policies, programmes and practices** that aim to reduce the harms associated with the use of psychoactive drugs. The approach is now more than ever becoming an important public health concern. With the explosion in the heroin/narcotic drug use as well as the need to have a holistic approach in tackling the global drug problem, harm reduction is proving to be one of the timely interventions that can bring long lasting human centered and rights based solutions to the drug use problem.

There is emerging evidence that harm reduction as an intervention is much more economical than the criminal justice system that is used in most countries to tackle the drug problem.

In 2014 over 130,000 new HIV Infections were recorded among injecting drug users (International HIV AIDS Alliance) and this calls for even greater efforts to profile and take up harm reduction.

The upcoming United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) provides an opportunity for the first time in 18 years for countries to relook and address repressive policies that counter harm reduction efforts. The conference provides a much needed opportunity to address the world drug problem across nations with Emerging evidence that redirecting 7.5% of drug control spending by 2020 would cut new HIV infections by 94% among Injecting Drug Users.

Over the years the support don't punish campaign <http://supportdontpunish.org/action/> has been ongoing and aims at reducing harms associated with drug use anchored on the premise and commitment to **public health and human rights, is seen as an effective tool**. As a key player in advancing the public health agenda, The Kenyan AIDS NGOs Consortium has been in the forefront in advancing the Harm Reduction agenda in Kenya as one of the strategies in the fight against HIV and AIDs. To this end the organization has been work-

ing with different key stakeholders from the donor's community, the government of Kenya and the media.

Towards sensitization of the media on harm reduction approaches generally and the oncoming UNGASS, KANCO held media training on harm reduction highlighting the media as an important player in creating awareness on this little known approach. The one day training was to empower the journalists not only to objectively report on harm reduction but also become an important ally in holding the government accountable to take up harm reduction as a key strategy to fight HIV and other social, economic and health drug harms.

*"I have done a couple of stories before on drugs and drug use in Kenya but I had never heard of the Harm reduction concept before this training" observed one of the journalists*

KANCO is also taking a lead in planting seeds of harm reduction across the Eastern African region in eight countries under a Global Fund grant in harm reduction. The project aims at creating a conducive environment for harm reduction programs to work in the region, to address the fast growing drug use problem

**The human face of the world drug problem is effectively and efficiently addressed through harm reduction**

### Kenya's road to UNGASS 2016

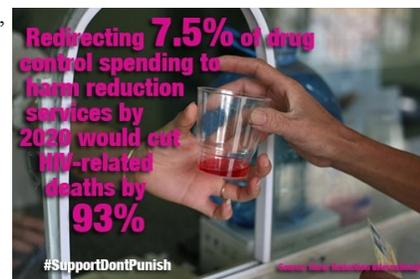
#### NACADA conference; Kenya's voice in addressing the World Drug Problem

In light of UNGASS2016 and Kenya's position on the World Drug problem, the National Authority for the Campaign Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACADA) convened a conference focusing on Kenya's road to UNGASS 2016, and its implications. Among the items of discussions included the draft Kenya position paper to the UN General Assembly Special Session [here](#). The conference focused on the key areas for UNGASS which are demand reduction, supply reduction, drugs

and human rights, youth, women, children and communities, new challenges, threats and realities in preventing and addressing the world drug problem and alternative development. The UNODC regional representative lauded Kenya in the efforts made so far in addressing the world drug problem, noting that Kenya is a leader in the region in addressing drug use problems.

The Kenya Position paper makes reference to harm reduction approaches and makes recommendations. It refers to 'demand reduc-

tion, supply suppression and other cross cutting issues' and recommends the inclusion of harm reduction in the UNGASS outcome document as an approach to treatment of drug use disorders, rehabilitation and social reintegration in relation to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care.



## New Funding Model TB Project



*The new funding model TB partners in session*

KANCO among other partners continue to upscale the gains made in the Global Fund Round 9 TB project under the New Funding Model TB project funded by the Global Fund. Under Amref Health Africa in Kenya, KANCO is implementing as a sub recipient working in three counties namely Kwale, Bungoma and Kitui.

Guided by the objective to *enhance TB care and prevention*; the project has been in the three counties carrying out activities towards achievement of its goal through the following: conducting county entry and planning meetings, Sensitization of Sub Counties on Data, Support for facility teams to supervise Community Health Volunteers (CHVs), Tracing contacts of smear positive TB patients, Tracing contacts of children under 5 years, Tracing of TB interrupters, Carrying out feedback meetings for providers and district stakeholders to communicate results of the interventions, receive feedback and refine approaches as may be necessary, Support for Facility CHVs, Strengthen diagnostic capacity of laboratories, Conduct ongoing TB screening of inmates in prisons, Conduct Integrated outreach services, Support day-to-day operations of Community Units -Supervision, Sensitization of Community Focal person(s) on Community based TB care and Training of Community Health Workers (CHEWs) on Community based TB care

## WORKING WITH INFORMAL SERVICE PROVIDERS TO FIGHT TB

The role of informal service providers in delivery of care has often attracted little attention from mainstream public health. However, they remain a key point of contact for people seeking health services, based on their proximity to communities and familiarity of communities to their presence.

KANCO is implementing a USAID funded project through the Tuberculosis Accelerated Response and Care (TB ARC) activity targeting informal service providers in five high Burden TB counties; *Nairobi, Homabay, Kisumu, and Tharaka Nithi, Marsabit.*

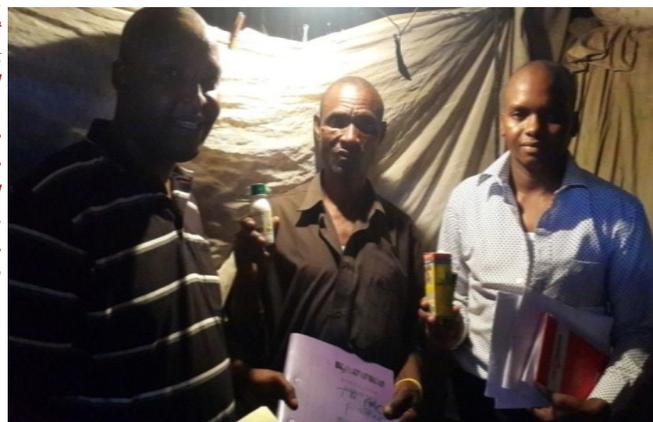
The project mainly focuses on contact tracing of new smear positive cases, defaulter tracing, referral and training of CHVs. This is a strategy which aims at improving access to and utilization of TB services, enabling implementation of evidence informed activities that support early identification and management of TB cases and supporting activities of the National Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases (NTLD)-Unit.

The project seeks to work with Informal Service Providers (ISP) who

include but are not limited to traditional healers, herbalists, faith healers, home-based care groups providing care to HIV positive patients and other health volunteers so as to empower them on TB prevention and control hence scaling up both number and diversity of private sector actors engaged in quality TB case detection and management.

***“It’s interesting that two very different entities can work together for the good of the community, working with the community to solve community is bound to bring better results for TB treatment and new cases identification.”***

So far some progress has been made including the sensitization of the ISP and about 20 clients have been linked to the formal health service provides.



KANCO staff and a herbalist with some of the alternative medication used to treat his clients

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*Healthy people, empowered communities*

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KANCO is a regional membership network of NGOs, CBOs, and 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 the 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 organisations (CSOs) working in the region.

## GRASSROOTS REVIEW ON GLOBAL FUND- KAJIADO

In the last few years there have been calls globally for increased national contribution to the Global Fund (GF) replenishment. These funds have seen many governments including the Kenyan government go on to pledge and contribute to the GF kitty, that has over the years contributed immensely in the fight of the three diseases HIV, Malaria and TB.

In the same breath there has been a buildup of citizens/ grassroots of different countries taking interest in the operations of their government in different sectors and playing a key role in holding their government(s) accountable. In Kenya, KANCO in partnership with Results established a grassroots movement that now has 14 county chapters that have been working to empower citizens to engage their elected leaders and county government(s) for increased accountability to their citizenry with a bias on health and other social cross cutting issues.

These chapters spearheaded by KANCO locally have grown and have in their short

time of existence made great strides in stimulating discussions between elected leader's and the citizenry on different topical issues affecting them and have since effected some policy issues.

Recently the Kenyan grassroots along with their visiting grassroots counterparts set out on a mission to find out the impact of Global Fund on the beneficiaries, in light of their recent efforts and campaign for the Kenyan government to pledge and give its contribution to the global fund a campaign that culminated to the Kenyan government pledging, for the first time. The visit not only provided an opportunity for Kenyan grassroots to share experiences with their counterparts from the UK but also see the impact of their advocacy by interacting with the beneficiaries and getting a feel of their experiences.

### Findings

- The Global fund continues to play a critical role in the fight against the three diseases: Malaria, HIV and TB

especially among the poor and marginalized.

- The beneficiaries attribute their wellbeing and present recovering/ recovered state to Global Fund. "*I would not be alive were it not for the support I got enabled by Global Fund*" observed Mary\* during the field visit, sentiments that cut across the beneficiaries, who have been able to get access to life saving medication. This are sentiments shared by millions who attribute their being alive today to the treatment, care and support given by the Global Fund working with different community organizations to deliver these much needed services.
- The role of citizens /grassroots in holding their governments accountable especially in health can no longer be overlooked; there are calls for now more than ever for citizens to drive the health agenda by working closely with their elected leaders on issues that affect them by influencing policy.