

KANCO Weekly Bulletin: November Issue 1

Issue no. 33

- ♦ *KANCO at the IFAD Conference*
- ♦ *KANCO at the Union Conference 2018*
- ♦ *KANCO partners in the development of the Roadmap towards ending TB in children and adolescents*
- ♦ *Grassroots Advocacy championing immunization legislation and increased domestic funding for health*

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Our Vision: Healthy People, Empowered Communities

Our Mission: To improve the Health and Well Being of Communities through Capacity Building and Promotion of Innovative

Leadership

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KANCO at the IFAD Conference



Rahab Mwaniki, Campaigns Manager KANCO during the IFAD conference in Rome Italy

KANCO participated in the conference themed “**Leaving no one behind – making the case for adolescent girls**”, hosted by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Save the Children from 22nd- 23rd October 2018 at IFAD headquarters, Rome, Italy. The conference brought together Institutions, practitioners, technical specialists, academia and civil society organizations contributing to the debate and discussions around the theme.

The conference highlighted the importance of investing in adolescent girls to ensure that they grow up and are educated in a healthy and safe environment to prevent the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition, food insecurity and poverty.

According to Development AID, adolescent girls especially if undernourished and stunted, are more likely to die in childbirth and are at greater risk to be left nutritionally depleted and to give birth to malnourished children, affecting the latter’s development and future productivity.

Making a presentation during the conference, the KANCO Campaign Manager Rahab Mwaniki impressed, “We need to ensure that children do not become parents when they are children.”

The conference focused on interventions and holistic approaches to fight against early marriage and early pregnancies, with special attention to youth empowerment initiatives, considered through a nutritional lens. This is in addition to sustaining on-going momentum of identifying solutions to break the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition, and to contribute to the achievement of the global nutrition goals and objectives of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition.



Campaigns Manager KANCO with her Royal Highness Princess Marie Esmeralda of Belgium at the IFAD conference in Rome

KANCO at the Union Conference 2018



KANCO Campaigns manager with the ACTION team at the ACTION partners booth during the Union Conference, Hague, Netherlands

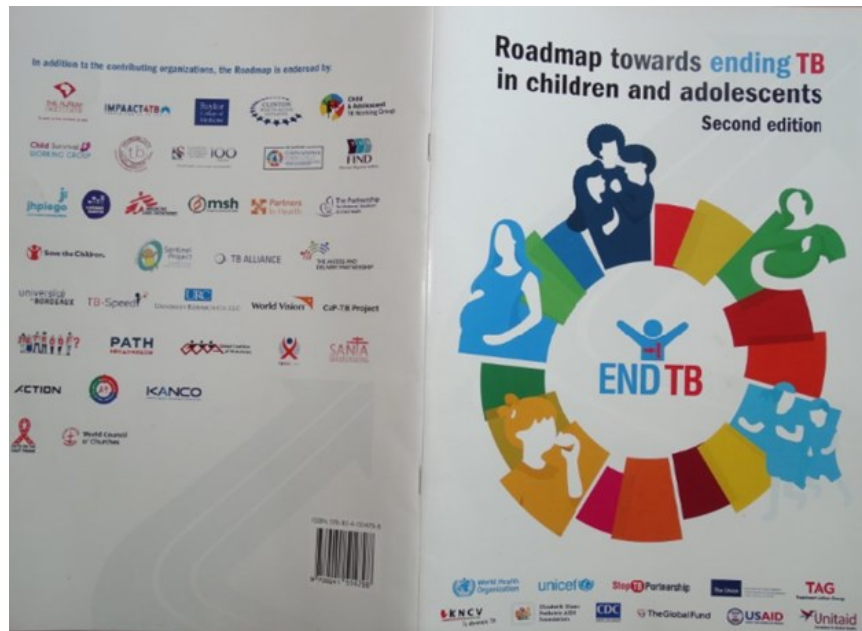
KANCO under the ACTION partnership joined delegates from across the globe at the 49th Union World Conference on Lung Health in The Hague. The four day conference held plenary discussions, symposiums and abstracts presentation focusing on both emerging science and the urgent political commitments to end TB. This was against the deliberations and discussions from the recently held first United Nations High-Level Meeting on tuberculosis (TB) in New York.

Making the closing remarks, the President of the Union, Dr. Jeremiah Chakaya Muhwao observed that, “With the UN General Assembly approving the first-ever Political Declaration on the Fight Against tuberculosis, we have never been in a moment like this, where TB has such a prominent place on the global agenda”, adding that he was inspired to see the eagerness of the people to help turn the promises made to action. He further pointed out the crucial roles of leaders in the journey to end TB and in ensuring that the global commitments within the political declaration lead to action at the national and local levels.

Dr. Eric Goosby, UN Special Envoy on Tuberculosis, challenged the delegates “We must remember that TB is preventable, treatable and curable’ making a rallying call for stakeholder to come together and ‘make it doable’.

The conference discussions further impressed on the urgent need to invest in new tools to improve treatment and new drugs accessible to all in line with rights of the individuals as well as the right to health.

KANCO partners in the development of the Roadmap towards ending TB in children and adolescents



KANCO participated in the review of the Roadmap for childhood tuberculosis dubbed **'Roadmap towards ending TB in children and adolescents'** led by the World Health Organization (WHO), in effort to end TB among children and adolescents.

The roadmap advances recommendations which together with the recommendations of the United Nations General Assembly High level meeting on (TB), present moments to 'Consolidate and advance advocacy, commitment, resource mobilization and joint efforts by all stakeholders to provide health care and address the burden of TB among children.'

The review of the roadmap was informed by the need to incorporate adolescents who were largely overlooked despite forming a huge part of the global population, thus a critical group to address in line with the global momentum to end TB. The first roadmap spanning 5 years successfully drew attention to the childhood TB epidemic after decades of neglect, creating ripple response effect towards realization of a generation of children free from TB. The road map further indicates that about 10 percent of all TB cases affect and manifest in children under 15 years and provides a clear vision of what is needed and how to achieve it.

It highlights adolescents present an important population for TB control due to their multiple contacts in congregate settings, calling for adolescent-friendly services where they can access diagnosis and care for TB and other integrated health services.

WHO proposes the adoption of the document aligned to national contexts and health priorities to inform policy and practice towards ending TB.

Grassroots Advocacy championing immunization legislation and increased domestic funding for health



L-R, Hon. David Ayoi, MCA Dagoretti during an engagement with the electorate; Right a grassroots leader trained by KANCO training a group in Dagoretti

With the support of GAVI through the GAVI-HSS project, KANCO trained 35 grassroots leaders on the **Grassroots Advocacy Model** that KANCO uses to engage for effective policy advocacy. KANCO uses this model to empower citizens to organize, identify and build up campaigns using a ground up approach, engaging with elected leaders to find solutions to issues affecting them. The training hoped to create a ripple effect where the community opinion leaders would form groups or train existing ones on the grassroots model for effective advocacy and engagements.

The training brought together leaders from the informal settlements around Nairobi, and was facilitated by the Ministry of Health and also hosted a UNAIDS representative. It sought to train the opinion leaders on the grassroots advocacy model; the tools used, the engagement process and execution of actions. The GAVI-HSS team shared on the status of immunization in the county and how the grassroots model would be instrumental in addressing two immediate issues towards increasing the demand for immunization; the adoption of the Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) CHV bill tabled in parliament and advocacy for increased financing for health with a call to action for the two.

As a result of the training, over 6 groups have been formed in different informal health settlements as well as training of existing groups on the grassroots model by the trained leaders with the support of KANCO, focusing on the two identified priority areas.

The ongoing engagement across the informal health settlements are being held during the monthly community dialogue days that bring together elected leaders and other stakeholders to discuss issues of concern. Through the engagements several MCAs have committed to support the CHV bill that will see an increase in the workforce to help increase the uptake of health services within the community as well as immunization services.

The GAVI-HSS manager KANCO, Elizabeth Muchoki, expressed her optimism on the power and possible impact of grassroots engagement saying, “Continued and effective engagement between the grassroots and their elected leaders holds the promise to increase the uptake of immunization and realization of better health outcomes for our children.”