

Upcoming

Inside this issue

Word from the Editor

Its an AI! KANCO Global Fund Rating

Institutionalization of UHC in the Global calendar; What Next

Right Messaging critical to reversing HIV trends among the youth

Kenya and Global Fund sign new grant to accelerate response to disease

KANCO marks WAD in Kajiado County

KANCO pioneering Harm Reduction for PWIDs in Nakuru county.

Our Vision: Healthy people, empowered communities.

Our Mission: To improve health and well-being among communities through capacity building and promotion of innovative leadership



Theme of the Month: HIV and AIDS

Word from the Editor: Lucy Maroncha

Media needs more sensitization on reporting on HIV

As the world marks World AIDS Day 2017, use of words like 'scourge' or 'suffers' in different media houses in reference to HIV and AIDS or to people living with the illness is still rampant regardless of the detailed media guidelines given by UNAIDS to inform health reporters.

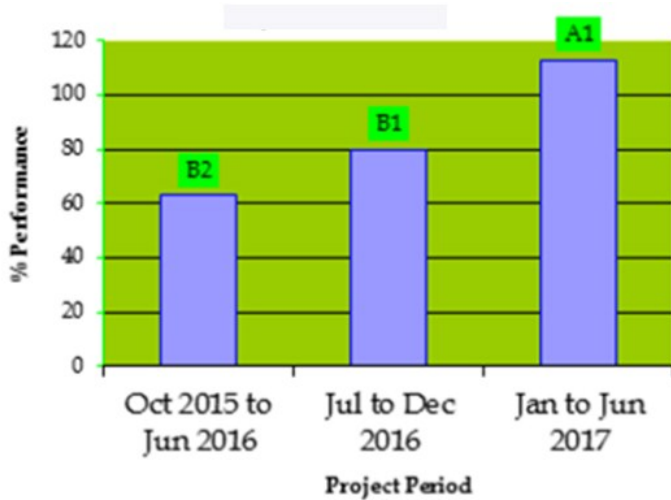
The media being a point of reference to many people should not be the source of stigma or discrimination but should be the platform that advocates for anti-stigma sensitization on the emerging trends of the pandemic. Journalists need to collaborate with health –related organizations such as KANCO in order get information that is timely relevant and accurate to HIV and Public Health response.

Continuous research and acquainting themselves with the disease programming language as it evolves is important for media outlets as key agenda setters. This is because what comes from the media is perceived as credible hence any stigmatizing language from the media can influence the actions or behavior of the consumers.

Organizations therefore need to collaborate with media houses in order to build a team that will help reduce stigma to people living with HIV. There have been major strides towards curbing HIV related stigma and there is need for organizations to train the media on how to report HIV in less stigmatizing ways.

Its an AI!: KANCO Global Fund Rating

By: Peter Kamau



Performance Rating	All Indicators or Top Indicator Score
A1	>100 %
A2	90% - 100%
B1	60% - 89%
B2	30% - 59%
C	< 30%

Global Fund Rating Criteria

Regional HIV and Harm Reduction Project performance graph

It has been a double win for KANCO Global Fund HIV grants for the period January to June 2017. For both the projects, *HIV and Harm Reduction for Eastern Africa* and *HIV Prevention Kenya country grant* KANCO scored grade A1.

The HIV and Harm Reduction for Eastern Africa project is a regional grant implemented in 8 countries aimed at increasing access to HIV and harm reduction service among People who Inject Drugs (PWIDS). The 3 year project started in October 2015. The Graph below shows grant performance over the period of time. Since inception, the project has registered incredible success more so in amplifying the voice of communities of PWIDS, generating evidence through research and grooming of champions among policy makers to advocate for policies on harm reduction for a conducive environment. Some of the exciting results include unwavering support from MPs from target countries who have been sensitized and are now in support of Harm Reduction. There has been establishment of networks of PWIDS in Burundi, Ethiopia, Mauritius, Seychelles and Zanzibar. Use of the project research data on size

estimate from Burundi and Uganda to apply for Global Fund grants by countries has also been instrumental coupled with the development of regional policy on harm reduction in collaboration with East Africa community. The draft policy now awaits approval by the council of ministers before being presented to East Africa Legislative assembly in Mid-2018. For the first time, Burundi and Uganda are providing NSP services to PWIDS supported by the project.

For the Kenya HIV Prevention Grant managed by Kenya Red Cross Society as the Principle Recipient KANCO is implementing comprehensive HIV prevention program supporting 2123 surpassing the initial target of 2000 Sex Workers in Mariakani, Kilifi County. The beneficiaries were reached out with comprehensive services on SRHR, HTC, PSS and economic empowerment. In Watamu and Malindi Kilifi County, KANCO is supporting 1409 PWIDS as sub-recipient of the Kenya Red Cross Society.

For KANCO to have achieved A1 rating in both the grants, it means the organization achieved over 100% in the key indicators and at

the same time demonstrated quality performance, efficiency and excellent financial burn rate. The performance was realized through strong leadership, great team work, consistency among the staff and strong partnership with the country partners.

Both projects are unique as their work targets key population including sex workers and PWIDS. This does not only cement KANCO strong experience in HIV programming but her unique interest in working with key population and developing the capacity for organization led by or for key populations.

The projects have demonstrated that to realize universal health coverage, the communities have to be central to the programs and everybody counts. In addition there is need to continue pushing for the rights of all by engaging the policy makers and KANCO stands to promote for **Health for All, Rise for Our Rights.**

What next for Institutionalization of UHC?

By: Wachira Charity



Health is wealth and thus for any nation to attain optimal development it has to realize universal health coverage.

Five years ago all United Nations countries endorsed a resolution calling for Universal Health Coverage, dubbed “Health for all”. On 12th December 2017, the United Nations officially declared the Universal Health Coverage day as a world day.

According to the World Health organization, (WHO) Universal health coverage is defined as ensuring that all people have access to needed promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative health services, of sufficient quality to be effective, while also ensuring that people do not suffer financial hardship when paying for these services.

UHC championed by the Universal Health coverage organization has become a powerhouse of over 1000 organizations in over 120 countries. UHC is premised on health as a human right, and though it recognizes the inequalities around health, and the long road ahead to achieving this, its anchored on the strong belief that every person can get quality health care

that they need and deserve.

In recognition to this day, KANCO alongside other stakeholders in disease response world over received the news with great enthusiasm and renewed commitment to actively participate in its realization as well as holding their institutions accountable to guarantee the right to quality health care affordably.

Towards accelerating access to universal Health coverage in Kenya, it has been incorporated in the legal and policy instruments to accelerate progress.

Health Cabinet Secretary Dr. Cleopa Mailu in a UHC meeting in Tokyo Japan earlier this month said the government has integrated UHC as a goal in the national health strategies and entrenched it in the Constitution, the Health Policy goal and Kenya Health Sector Strategic Plan theme.

Through the ministry of health there are efforts to expand the number and scope of services available to the population, expand coverage of existing services, focusing on hard to reach

populations and the vulnerable populations and reducing financial risk associated with use of essential services.

A range of new services have also been introduced including the National Hospital Insurance Fund Scheme with a range of services towards realization of UHC.

Dr. Cleopas Mailu further shared that plans are underway by the government to increase budgetary allocation from 7% in 2017 to 10% in 2022 as well as create a conducive environment of investments in the health sector. Currently, the public health sector accounts for 55 percent of all health services.

Plans are also underway to enlist 100,000 Community Health Volunteers to each recruit 20 households per CHV in efforts to boost recruitment of citizens under the national social health insurance scheme- MOH

The call is that all stakeholders now step up their efforts and make UHC a reality.

By: Wachira Charity



This year's World AIDS Day theme Step up for HIV prevention resonated with many Kenyans' sentiments. Effective communication through messaging has proven critical in the HIV response.

According to CHS, over the last few years, scientific innovations have provided more options for prevention, making this an imminent reality in today's world. The availability of condoms, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), effective and affordable drugs, amongst other efforts, present solutions to persons both HIV positive and negative as a HIV prevention measure. However, some of the attempts to communicate are sometimes not understood to inform an effective HIV response.

According to a report by NACC delivered on the World AIDS Day, young people between the

ages of 14-24 represent about 49% of the HIV prevalence in Kenya. This group is contributing to two in every five new infections. While this is very worrying, it calls for a serious inquiry to this imminent threat to the nation's wellbeing by asking pertinent questions such as why the rates of new infections are on the rise among the youth.

During a round table meeting organized by MESHMA to address the state of HIV/AIDS in Kenya, Communications Officer BLAST said: , "the youth have been adversely affected by HIV and will remain so because they have been left out in the messaging. The messaging around HIV is often told at not told to the youth through forums that allow them to contribute." BLAST is a youth-based organization focusing on HIV prevention among the youth.

While harrowing stories have been told about the youth especially in poor rural setting engaging in transactional sex and the experiential

sexual behavior in the journey of self-discovery that predisposes the youth to risky behavior, there is need to proper messaging that communicates to this age group.

The youth is the back bone of any economy and if threatened, the existence of a people is at risk. Although evolving data show HIV contraction among different groups at different times, targeted interventions and messaging has proved very effective in the past for instance in prevention of mother to child transmission and reduction of new infections among married couples.

The raiding statics among the youth now call for multi-stakeholder cooperation to save the youth from imminent destruction and ultimately a threat to the economy. Both HIV prevention and management strategies have to be communicated effectively to the youth, alongside behavior change communication including encouragement of voluntary HIV testing and counseling for effective responses. There is also need for a comprehensive analysis the modes of communication and kind of messaging that is put across to hence its effect.

KANCO Pioneering Harm Reduction for PWIDs in Nakuru County

By KANCO Writer



The County government , KANCO and other stakeholders during the World AIDS day procession in Nakuru County

KANCO is pioneering Harm reduction targeting people who use drug in Nakuru County. Following a mapping exercise that was done by NASCOP in 2011, that estimated about 133 People Who Inject Drugs (PWIDs) in the county, a follow-up mapping exercise by KANCO six years later in Nakuru East and West indicated that there are about 525 people who use drugs with 169 of them injecting. These new findings prompted an urgent need to introduce harm reduction for this population in the county.

In a finding validation meeting that brought together over 50 users held in a county government representative noted that during the findings validation meeting that brought together over 50 drug users, that PWUDs has for a long time not been acknowledged much in the county programming for key

populations in the county.

The world AIDS Day presented an opportunity for KANCO and harm reduction partners in the county to demonstrate their presence as well as the need to invest in harm reduction in the county through drama and song that highlighted the plight of the community including limited access to harm reduction interventions

Through KANCOs support made by Nakuru Drop in Centre and Big Africa, organizations that respond to the needs of people who use drugs, beneficiaries made presentations highlighting issues of people who use drugs. This was the first time such presentations were made in such a forum and executed by the community representatives.

In response to the presentations, the county government CEC for health, Mr. Jonah pledged the county's commitment to strengthen the communities systems for an effective response to HIV/AIDS and to achieve the UNAIDS target of 90:90:90.

The Community members expressed their gratitude to KANCO for the empowerment and the commitment to introduce harm reduction in the county, a service they term as dire in the efforts to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS. On the same occasion, 33 PWUDs were tested for HIV.

KANCO is presently offering the needle and syringe support to the injecting drug users through the Integrated Alliance Health Project as well as linking them to health services.

Stakeholders Meeting in Tanzania



Global Financing Facility (GFF) Stakeholders ACTION team meeting in Tanzania, with representatives from KANCO, WACI Health, HDT and PANITA.

KANCO and WACI Health held a partner meeting with Health Promotion Tanzania on Thursday 14th in Tanzania as a side meeting during a two day Global Financing Facility (GFF) stakeholders feedback meeting hosted by HDT .

The meeting provided an opportunity for KANCO and WACI to share the ACTION priority framework, the terms of reference, sup-

port , communication with partners as well as the focus area, with the new action member HDT.

From the meeting , HDT was appointed to take lead in the inauguration of the Tanzania coordination team and representation in the Reproductive Maternal Newborn and Child Health committees.

The meeting also provided an opportunity for the ACTION partners to plan for the future and identify strategic partners in their work in the coming year including key government .

The team also developed a detailed work plan for GFF covering highlighting four key areas: coordination of CSOs engagement with GFF structures, accountability roles for the CSOs and capacity building on Budget literacy and advocacy including citizen engagement

KANCO

wishes you
a Merry Christmas
and
a Happy New Year
2018



www.kanco.org



About KANCO

KANCO is a regional membership network of NGOs, CBOs, FBOs, Private Sector actors, Research and Learning Institutions as well as associate membership that includes individuals and International Non-Governmental Organizations involved in or that have interest in HIV & AIDS, Tuberculosis (TB) and other public health care concerns.

Established in 1990, KANCO has implementing partners locally, regionally and globally with global advocacy networks; [ACTION](#) and [RESULTS](#) and is also an accredited linking organization of the [International HIV/AIDS Alliance](#) since 2009.

Over time KANCO has evolved to become a premier agency for sensitizing, mobilizing and promoting collaboration among civil society organizations (CSOs) working in the region.

Twitter: @KancoKE

Facebook: KANCO

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