

# *KANCO Participates in the Beyond Zero*

KANCO joined the Kenyan First Lady, H.E Margaret Kenyatta and other stakeholders in the fourth edition of the first Lady Half marathon 2019 that took place on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March 2019, at the Nyayo National Stadium, Nairobi.

The Beyond Zero is an initiative of the First Lady HE. Margaret Kenyatta, which was launched in 2014 as a charitable organisation that seeks to address maternal and children health. The initiative seeks to push for policy prioritization and formulation, increased resource allocation, improved service delivery and better individual health-seeking behaviours and practices, for better health outcomes for women and children.

The initiative complements national efforts by accelerating policy and program implementation and further, by influencing investments for strategic, high impact interventions towards zero new HIV infections and zero maternal and child deaths towards the realization of Universal Health Coverage.

The Beyond Zero Initiative uses the Half Marathon as the anchor fundraising platform, raising funds and resources to bring to focus key challenges facing Kenyans especially women and children. Addressing the Marathoners and stakeholders at the stadium, the first lady stated that 'Beyond Zero Marathon is dedicated to several causes including mothers, women and girls, women living with obstetric fistulae, to babies and children living with intellectual challenges, and the elderly.

Among the Prominent personalities taking part in the event were the First Lady Margaret Kenyatta, DP Dr. William Ruto, Sports Cabinet Secretary Amina Mohamed, Her Excellency Roman Tesfaye (the wife to former Prime Minister of Ethiopia HE. Hailemariam Desalegn) and Central Bank Governor Patrick Njoroge among others. Corporates and CSOs were also well represented.

For KANCO the Marathon is a step towards the realization of a Healthy People and Empowered Communities.

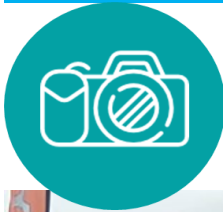


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## BEYOND ZERO CAMPAIGN PICTORIALS



1. All ready for the race !!



2. Preparation for the marathon !!



4 Check out the medals!!



3. made it to the finishing line.



5. check out our victory dance.

## Cementing Nutrition Gains in Mombasa County

### ABOUT KANCO

KANCO is a membership organization established in the early 1990s in Kenya with operations in the Eastern Africa region. Its membership comprises of Non- Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs), and Faith Based Organizations (FBOs), Network organizations and learning institutions that have a focus on health advocacy and or implementing health programs.

### OUR VISION

Healthy People, Empowered Communities

### OUR MISSION

To improve Health and well- being among communities through capacity building and promotion of innovative leadership

*“We are very hopeful that the structures within the schools’ administration will help this project succeed. We want it to be sustainable”- Rita Wanjiru*



Photo Credit: Charles Mghenyi, Star Newspaper. Image: Pwani Lishe Bore Program Manager Rita Wanjiru with the 4K club members at Port Reitz School

In 2016, KANCO in a tripartite partnership with Grassroots Alliance for Community Education (G.R.A.C.E Africa) and Scaling up Nutrition Civil Society Alliance (SUN CSA), supported by the European Union embarked on partnership to enhance high-impact Nutrition Interventions in order to improve nutrition of the under-fives and women of reproductive age, including adolescent girls and women before pregnancy, in Mombasa County.

Through the three year grant, the consortium managed to rally support for nutrition through policy advocacy, community systems strengthening, high nutrition interventions, community mobilization for nutrition sensitive actions, rally political goodwill for nutrition and health, engage state and non-state stakeholders including the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, Nutrition Department, Ministry of Education and forged Public Private Partnership (PPP), for sustained gains in nutrition.

The project was also keen on sustainability and focused on interventions that would outlive it by creating partnership with different stakeholders. Through the partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Education, KANCO supported nutrition programs in schools by training students through their 4K clubs to grow vegetables contributing to the school feeding program. The pilot schools were selected from six sub counties of Mombasa and trained on sustainable farming, with the continued support supervision by the health extension workers

under the Ministry of Agriculture. Rita Wanjiru, the Pwani Lishe Bora Project Manager expressed “We are very hopeful that the structures within the schools’ administration will help this project succeed. We want it to be sustainable”.

Towards sustaining the gains made in the health service delivery and for continued offer and uptake of nutrition sensitive actions, KANCO trained health care service providers under the continuous medical learning services in partnership with the Ministry of Health and took journalist through refresher trainings to strengthen their watchdog role in matters nutrition. KANCO also encouraged the use of iron and folic supplementation for pregnant women working closely the ministry of health to ensure every pregnant woman accessed the supplements.

At the community level, KANCO trained households on kitchen gardening to ensure supply of vegetables for households and well as demonstrated the feasibility of growing iron beans in households that would translate to adequate supply of iron and vitamins critical for women and their families. To facilitate this process KANCO distributed seeds to the households and also worked with school, leveraging on school going children as agents of change to keep sensitizing their families on nutrition sensitive actions.

The Consortium throughout the project cycle also made deliberate efforts to engage the private sector through Public Private Partnership, to ensure that the private sector plays an active role in promoting good nutrition in the county. These efforts were towards creating a nutrition sensitive and sustainable environment in which all stakeholders play an active role for improved nutrition outcomes in the County.

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