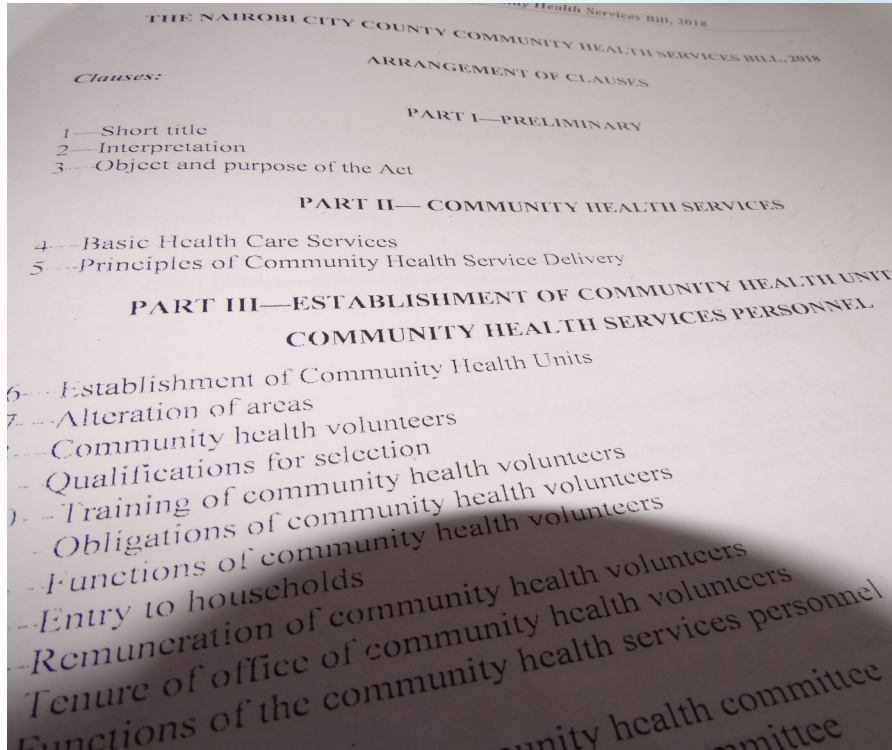


Analysis of the Nairobi City County Community Health Services Bill, 2018



A preview of the Nairobi City County Community Health Services Bill, 2018

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The first analysis of **The Nairobi City County Community Health Services Bill, 2018** took place at Raiciri House on April 4th, 2019. Chaired by Mr Peter Karanja, the CHV Network Co-ordinator, The Nairobi Community Health Volunteers convened the bill analysis meeting. The bill is set to legitimize and protect the Community Health Volunteers. KANCO's role in the bill is to offer effective and timely policy guidelines.

The objectives of the Nairobi City County Community Health Services bill,2018 are:

- 1) To provide for delineation and establishment of community health units within the County so as to provide for effective delivery of community health services.
- 2) To create the necessary institutional and coordination framework to encourage and facilitate voluntary provision of community health care services.
- 3) To protect the health and safety of all community health volunteers and community health services personnel in the County.

During the meeting, the CHVs were requested to familiarize themselves with Article 43 of the Constitution of Kenya, which focuses on Economic and Social Rights, and this includes health. In addition to the request, the CHVs were taken through the various aspects of the Bill and this provided them a chance to air out their opinions/proposed changes. The first reading of the bill is scheduled to happen in early April and the members present were requested to mobilize more CHVs for public participation purposes during the reading of the Bill.

Various in-house committees were formed to follow up on the CHS Bill, the CHV network structure and future activities. They include:

- 1) **Profile Committee**-The committee will focus on improving the public image of the Nairobi CHV Network.
- 2) **Harmonization Committee**-The committee will focus on streamlining and unifying the components of the CHV Network.
- 3) **Community Mobilization Committee**-This committee will focus on mobilizing people from the spheres of influence of the CHV network for public participation narratives.
- 4) **Resource Mobilization Committee**-This committee will focus on securing and strengthening relationships with various partners with the intent of acquiring advisory and financial support to which KANCO is an active member.

World Health Day, 2019

World Health Day is celebrated each year on the 7th of April, and is an initiative by the World Health Organisation to make people more aware of certain health issues. The World Health Assembly took place for the first time in 1948 and was held in Geneva. World Health Day commemorated every year on 7th April as this was when World Health Organization was founded, which came into being to address vital health care issues.

The **objective** of the World Health Day was to *spread awareness about equal health care facilities all over the world and to dispel all the myths that are there regarding health related matters.* Organisations all over the world held different kind of events related to health on this occasion. The theme for this year's Health Day is *universal health coverage.* WHO is working towards a future where everyone should get the healthcare they need and when they need it. Adequate steps are being taken to ensure that someday in the future, this theme becomes a reality.

WHO acknowledges that the world is making progress in many areas, however, millions of individuals still cannot get access to the right medical care at the right time. Countless others are such a bad state that they have to choose between eating or getting the medicines for treatment.

“Universal health coverage is WHO’s number one goal. Key to achieving it is ensuring that everyone can obtain the care they need, when they need it, right in the heart of the community.



Progress is being made in countries in all regions of the world. But millions of people still have no access at all to health care. Millions more are forced to choose between health care and other daily expenses such as food, clothing and even a home. This is why WHO is focusing on universal health coverage for this year's World Health Day, on 7 April." ~ World Health Organization

OPINIONS AND BLOGS: Making Grassroots voices count in the Devolved System

Community engagement is vital in many projects and there is documented evidence of high benefits resulting from it. This includes better outcomes for all stakeholders, community ownership, creating a more effective path for prioritization of projects and sustainable resource allocation. Effective community engagement is about recognizing that involving the public in a project is no longer about information dissemination and telling the people what is being done, but is a two-way information sharing process. Regardless of one's qualifications and status, everyone has an opinion about what needs to be done and where priorities should lay. The grassroots model creates a movements where ordinary citizens can engage in political processes towards addressing priority development issues at the community level. Grassroot advocacy empowers and supports citizens to engage and lobby their leaders, representatives and to effectively participate in development processes. It draws its mandate from the Kenya constitutional 2010's provisions in articles 118(1)(b) and 196(1)(b), that provide for the right of citizens to participate in the decision making processes and other duties of the national and county legislative bodies, further directing the two



levels of government to facilitate public participation in their work. Under the devolved systems the need for strong grassroots structures is critical as public participation promotes accountability where communities not just take part in development but also monitor performance of the county integrated development plans (CIDPs) and other county (ward) initiatives as well as budget making processes. The grassroots model championed by KANCO provides a platform for communities to effectively engage in these processes.

Building Grassroots advocacy movements

Since 2013, KANCO has been building and growing a culture of active grassroots citizens aimed at protecting the spirit of the constitution and promoting positive and meaningful engagement, with the ultimate of seeing devolution effectively implemented. Using the RESULTS advocacy model, KANCO has been training citizens across Kenya and modelling grassroots advocacy champion for meaningful engagement with the support of USAID *Wezesha Mashinani* loosely translating to enabling the grassroots was launched to build on the gains made in grassroots project. This project supports citizen advocacy chapters in 6 counties.

Everyone has a role to play for #HealthForAll. Take care of your health and the health of your family.



World Health Organization

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

Successes

The grassroots movement has celebrated wins and continue to push the agenda for the Kenya they want to see across sectors and specifically health:

From grassroots raising their voices on the issues of over 300,000 children across Kenya who were not protected by life-saving vaccines and TB first line drugs, raising the matter to parliament, leading to the National Treasury approving a reallocation to the Kenya Expanded Programme for Immunization and procurement of TB drugs; to the grooming of champions like Janet Wairimu a Murang'a based grassroots advocate who is physically disabled, who has made tremendous progress in mobilizing disabled people to champion for their rights, leading to a motion to establish disability friendly facilities in all health facilities in Muranga: to communities in Gaichanjiru working with their government to get piped water; to Community Health Volunteer in Siaya raising their voice to get a bus to facilitate their movements; to some of the grassroots advocacy movement groups acting as a platform for community sensitization to alleviate poverty through economic empowerment trainings; to all school children in Vihiga getting bursaries because the grassroots engaged their leaders; to the grassroots in Turkana demanding for greater accountability by their government; the list is endless.

These examples demonstrates the power and impact of well-organized grassroots movements can create at different levels at the county and national levels

Challenges and Opportunities of the Grassroots Movement

Devolution system has raised the expectations of the citizens for better fulfilment of the constitutional promises around civic engagement and public participation with the end goal of improved service delivery. With devolution in its second phase, the role of the counties is becoming clearer and there is realization that the county governments are key determinants of development at the grassroots level. This includes better health services as over 90% of health functions are devolved. This presents an opportunity for ordinary citizens to actively engage and partner with the county governments. This is even more as counties turn to locals to enhance resource mobilization. We have witnessed several protests by communities whenever the counties increase different charges/fees or evict traders. This in many times is attributed to lack of public participation. There has also been debate over quality of public participation as in some counties it is a 2 or 3 hours process with voluminous documents that are just read to participants. What this means is that in several counties, community agenda and priorities are not getting their way to the CIDPs and annual plans.

This presents a great opportunity for grassroots citizens with the continued

mentorship of KANCO to ensure their voices are heard and key priorities identified early enough and effectively presented in the CIDP, annual plans making processes, engagement avenues and monitoring delivery. This will be building on current initiatives of this model. For example, Murang'a grassroots advocates have their top 4 health related priorities and have interventions to push for their interest. Turkana county grassroots citizens have several youth groups who have different agendas that they are rallying to their county government for changes to be made to better their lives. With the scorecards to track progress of their efforts already in place, this will help in tracking and strengthening this model as devolution develops.

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