

In this Issue:

**World Immunization
Week 2019:**

- ◆ *Parliamentary Engagement for Immunization*
- ◆ *KANCO Hosts a Child Health Outreach Camp*
- ◆ *CSOs sensitization for increased demand for immunization*
- ◆ *Media Sensitization on Child Health*
- ◆ *Finding the Missing Immunization Cases*
- ◆ *Immunization Schedule Kenya*



African Immunization Week Procession in Ngando ward supported by KANCO under the GAVI-HSS project

World Immunization Week 2019



To mark the World Immunization Week (WIW), KANCO planned a series of activities towards increasing the demand for immunization by sharing the status of immunization in the country, the current financing gaps and the multi-stakeholder call to action towards reinforcing immunization in Kenya in the wake of GAVI transition.

In the lead up week to World immunization week that started on the 29th April 2019, KANCO held a series of activities as follows:

- ◆ Members of Parliament briefing on immunization (Parliamentary Health Committee)
- ◆ Held a National –CSOs stakeholder forum
- ◆ Held media sensitization meeting with over 30 journalists in collaboration with the Ministry of Health
- ◆ Hosted a Maternal Child Health and Nutrition Camp in Ngando ward to profile and promote the uptake of immunization.

Status of immunization in Kenya at a glance

- ♦ 1 out of every 3 children are not fully immunized, putting them at risk of getting infected with vaccine preventable diseases.
- ♦ Current National Immunization Coverage stands at 84%, however there are major disparities across the country with the least coverage being among the poor and hard to reach areas
- ♦ Funding: Over 90% of immunization services in Kenya is donor funded mostly by GAVI Alliance.
- ♦ It is estimated that 1.7 Million children born between 2013 and 2017 did not receive all the scheduled vaccines due to vaccine stock outs and industrial actions experienced in Kenya. Further in 2017 more than 500,000 children were not fully immunized, informing the presidential directive to have a Rapid Results Initiative spanning 27th June to 31st October 2018 reaching 400,000 children.
- ♦ Every Shilling invested in immunization has an economic return of Ksh. 1200
- ♦ Immunization is a basic right as defined by the constitution of Kenya under the children's Act.

Call to action

- ♦ Governments (County and National) need to prioritize, increase and sustain domestic financing for health and enact policies and laws to prioritize immunization.
- ♦ There is need to promote accountability by all stakeholders, invest in human and financial resources for immunization at all levels.
- ♦ Empowering Communities for better uptake of immunization remains critical for increased demand for immunization services.
- ♦ There is need for multi-stakeholder emphasis and promotion of immunization for improved child health and reduced mortality and morbidity.
- ♦ There is need for development of a clear transition roadmap to facilitate the donor exit and sustainability of the gains made.
- ♦ There is need for adoption and integration of the Community Strategy for effective implementation of Child Health services.
- ♦ There is need for increased investment in health service delivery infrastructure to ease access to health services.

Parliamentary Engagement for Immunization



Parliamentary Health Committee Representatives led by the Chair Hon. Sabina Chege, KANCO led by the Executive Director Mr. Allan Ragi and other CSOs representatives during the WIW, MPs briefing hosted by KANCO

KANCO held a meeting with the Parliamentary Health Committee led by the Chair Hon. Sabina Chege, in a meeting seeking to sensitize the committee on the status of immunization in Kenya, the policy, financing and legislation gaps as well as update on areas that KANCO with the support of GAVI is working in.

The Ministry of Health representative Veronica Kirogo-Head of Nutrition and Diatetics, making a presentation at the forum reiterated on health and nutrition as both 'Markers' and 'Makers' of development, yet these two functions in Kenya are greatly underfunded and yet continues to face the double burden of malnutrition (undernutrition, over nutrition) and hidden hunger. She impressed on the need to invest in nutrition as Every Shilling invested in nutrition has an economic return of Kshs.2200.

Making a presentation KANCO shared on the status of immunization and financing challenges facing immunization including the short term where the budget allocated to vaccine falls short of the forecasted needs despite a steady increase in budget in the past few years through solid forecasts and the supplementary budget process. In the Long term, Kenya is expected to enter into the accelerated transition phase under the GAVI support within the next few years and faces increased needs for other funding sources to replace GAVI support. They further highlighted the challenges of unreliable cash flow, the disparities between the role of the county and the national government

and well as the quality of the financial reporting.

The GAVI-HSS Project manager also took the MPs through the new vaccines that are set to be introduced in 2019, which include the Malaria Vaccine, Meningitis A and HPV vaccine for young girls between the age of 10-14 years.

Addressing the team KANCO Executive Director, Allan Ragi impressed on the need for leadership accountability and oversight as countries chart the path of transition to ensure that every child is reached with lifesaving vaccines and that the gains made are sustained. He further impressed on the need for a clear road map for the GAVI transition towards ensuring gradual increase of the domestic funding for health in preparation for the donor phase out.

Addressing the meeting Hon. Sabina Chege. the Chair of the Parliamentary Health Committee reiterated on the need for prioritization of immunization and nutrition by the ministry. She reiterated on the need for clear information and data that speaks to the situation on the ground as critical to informing policy and legislation. She further impressed on the need to leverage on the presenting opportunities such as the World Health Assembly (WHA) meeting, where she called on the legislators and stakeholders to have a clear strategy and position so as to have a unanimous voice in the forum to help drive the country agenda. She further reiterated on the committee's willingness to provide leadership and push the immunization and health agenda both at the county, national and global level.



Hon. Sabina Chege, Chair Parliamentary Health Committee, making remarks during the MP's engagement for health and immunization

KANCO Hosts a Child Health Outreach Camp



Dagoretti South Member of Parliament : Hon John Kiarie recognizing the role of the Community Health Volunteers during the Health and Immunization Drive hosted by KANCO in Ngando ward

KANCO in partnership with the Ministry of Health, the National Vaccine and Immunization Program (NVIP) and the County Government of Nairobi held an immunization drive campaign in Ngando ward Nairobi County. The two day immunization drive supported by KANCO, and hosted by the area chief was also graced by the Member of Parliament for Dagoretti South Hon, John Kiarie as well as officials from the Ministry of Health and NVIP. The immunization drive in the constituency was arrived at through consultations with the Ministry of Health, and NVIP supported by the GAVI-HSS project. Ngando ward was selected for the outreach based on the statistics by the Ministry of Health indicating that the current coverage in the area stood at 34%. Immunization in the region was compounded by several factors including the lack of a health facility within the ward to offer immunization and maternal child health services, information gap on the benefits of immunization as well as general anti vaccine sentiments driven by myths and misconceptions.

The area MP Hon. John Kiarie gracing the occasion, commended KANCO's efforts and commitment demonstrated over the years under the leadership of the Executive Director Mr. Allan Ragi to enhance the health outcomes in the County. He pledged his support and commitment to drive and champion the health agenda with the support and information coming from agen-

cies like KANCO towards improving the health outcomes of the people. He further acknowledged the role of Community Health Volunteers saying "As the first point of contact with the Community their contribution to the health outcomes was critical" pledging to champion the discussion on their remunerations.

Responding to the lack of a health facility the MP pledged to bring in a container to compliment the one room pledged by the area chief to offer health services to mothers and children twice a week. Speaking on behalf of the County, the ECE Health Dr. Mark Odingo pledged to bring health personnel to the established the facility to offer services fully to the resident of Ngando County.

Addressing the forum, Allan Ragi the Executive director emphasized on the need for accountability and partnership in health for the realization of a Healthy people and Empowered communities'



Ngando ward Residents and the area Chief, KANCO team and health stakeholders during the procession to the chief's camp for the official launch of the WIW health and immunization camp



Hon. John Kiarie MP. Dagoretti South shaking hands with KANCO Executive Director Mr. Allan Ragi



MP donning an immunization T-shirt in support of immunization in the area as the area Chief looks on



KANCO staff following proceedings at the forum



Hon. John Kiarie MP. Dagoretti South and the Senior Systems Advisor KANCO making a rallying call for immunization to the resident of Ngando Constituency



L-R, activities during the World Immunization week health camp hosted by KANCO , Ministry of Health and Nairobi County Government (Child receiving a BCG Vaccine, Vitamin A Supplementation and KANCO Nutrition Program assistant giving a nutrition talk at the camp



L-R Weight Talking, Nurturing training by CHS and Registration of mother and children for services

CSOs Sensitization for Increased Demand for Immunization



Senior Systems Advisor Jack Ndegwa making remarks during the National Stakeholders forum

Ahead of the World Immunization Week KANCO also hosted a National immunization stakeholders breakfast -CSOs meeting , to reiterate on the role of the Civil Society in driving the immunization agenda. The forum brought together representatives from the CSOs Ministry of Health and the County Government to discuss the current status of immunization and the way forward.

Traditionally, CSOs have been critical players in health and across sectors in amplifying the voices of the communities through advocacy and their role in the immunization agenda now more than is especially in the face of GAVI transition .

Making the opening remarks during the forum KANCO Executive Director Mr. Allan Ragi underscored the importance of CSOs in enhancing accountability stating , “ CSOs must hold the government accountable to ensure every child is immunized, must empower the communities to demand for better services and must leverage on existing strategies like the Community Health Volunteers to increase the demand for immunization.’

Addressing the forum the GAVI-HSS Project Manager Ms. Elizabeth Muchoki, underscored The importance of the families and communities in bridging the immunization gap. She further highlighted Financing, Supplies, Human Resources and lack of adequate Data as some of the major challenges facing immunization at the moment thus the need for CSOs to take up advocacy to enhance the immunization coverage.

The Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) Logistician, Ms, Florence Kabuga addressing the meeting shared on the challenges facing immunization Nairobi County as the influx of people from neighboring counties, human resources , inadequate of updated data among other challenges, calling for multi-sectoral collaboration in immunization to reach to the national immunization objective of over 95% coverage.

Presenting on the call to action the for CSOs, the Campaign Manager Ms. Rahab Mwaniki underscored on the need for CSOs advocacy towards the prioritization of immunization, develop a position Paper to guide engagements, advocate for the development of a 5 year transition plan emphasizing on increased domestic funding for health as well as redefining the role of the CSOs in the immunization agenda,

As way forward from the meeting the CSO representatives agreed to develop a CSOs position paper featuring : Integrated people Centered Services, Transition; Immunization coverage; Access; Financing; Pricing; Research as well as Leveraging on existing Resources as a common advocacy tool moving forward.



GAVI-HSS project Manager, making a presentation during the forum

Media Sensitization on Immunization

Journalists and the media have a critical role in informing and educating communities on pertinent issues and promoting uptake of public goods and services such as immunization. They are also pertinent in promoting accountability from government and other stakeholders in the delivery of services.

In the case of immunization their role is critical in promoting the reach of the underserved and unvaccinated children, highlighting milestones achieved as well as rallying communities to take up immunization by demystifying the anti-vaccine sentiments that derail immunization.

In lieu of this, KANCO held a media sensitization meeting sharing on the status of immunization in the country and counties, the challenges facing immunization including financing, myths and misconception as well as the role of stakeholders including media in promoting immunization uptake. The journalists were also taken through the GAVI transition process and the need for increased domestic funding for health to sustain the gains made in health and immunization.

Addressing the forum the EPI Logician Nairobi County Ms. Florence Kabuga, took the journalists through the 11 vaccine preventable diseases in Kenya as well as the



The EPI Logician MS. Florence Kabuga making a presentation during the journalist sensitization and Ngong Hill Hotel

new vaccine set to be introduced in Kenya including Malaria, HPV and Meningitis as well as the new switches. Addressing the participants the KANCO Executive Director Mr. Allan Ragi reiterated on the need to understand the science behind the vaccines and immunization to help demystify some of the myths and misconceptions around

vaccines that play a role in inhibiting the uptake of immunization.

From the media sensitization held by KANCO, immunization coverage was featured on several media outlets as per the links below:

The forum allowed for interactive discussions with the journalists and culminated to several media pieces on immunization issues both in print and electronic media



Participants during the journalist training pose for a photo after the training

Finding the Missing Immunization Cases

Immunization is the process by which an individual's body is fortified against diseases. Despite the utmost importance of vaccine both to the individual and to the larger community, and despite it being one of the most cost effective interventions and its legislation as right for every child, some children still do not enjoy this right due to varied reasons as they unfolded in a recent immunization drive supported by KANCO in Ngando ward Nairobi County which has an immunization coverage of 34%. Some of the emerging issues impeding the uptake of vaccines was the lack of knowledge hence appreciation of immunization, myths and misconception creating huge anti-vaccine sentiments, difficulty in accessing services due to lack of health facilities, the feeling that vaccines added no value as un-immunized children presented as healthy among other issues, competing priorities such as need for basic needs, and the lack of understanding of the importance of fully immunizing children.



Mama Joseph a mother of three aged 13, 7 and 6 years has never had any of her children immunized. In an interview with her she shared that all her three children were delivered at home explaining why they could have missed the first BCG vaccine. As her children continued to grow she cited the lack of transport as the major hindrance to taking her children for immunization even though she says she thinks vaccines are important. The lack of a public facility in her area offering free immunization services necessitated her to have transport money to go to the nearest facility, and being a single parent, she opted to use the money for other pressing needs like food. Her hope during the drive was that her children would be accepted and initiated on the vaccines as she made a call to other parents to come forth and take advantage of the services that had been brought to their back yards.



Mama Caleb a mother of two both under 2 years says both her children got their first immunization and then dropped off (defaulted). She cites the lack of funds to facilitate her transportation to the nearest free public health facility, as the one nearest to her charges about Khs. 100 an amount she cannot afford. She also cited the daily hustle for basic needs like food taking up most of her time thus lacking time to take her children for immunization. She also stated that she did not quite understand how immunization works mentioning that she worried that some of the diseases she had heard immunizations guards against would affect her children. She also expressed that she was happy with the immunization outreach and was thankful that the services had been brought close to them and free of charge thus a huge opportunity for the residents .

A Fully Immunized Child should undertake all the Immunization Below and on schedule:

	Age	Antigen	Disease Prevented
1	Birth	BCG OPV HEP.B	Tuberculosis Polio Hepatitis B
2	6 Weeks	DPT HIB HEP B OPV PNEUMOCOCCAL ROTA VIRUS	Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus Haemophilae Influenza Type B Hepatitis B Polio Pneumonia Rotavirus
3	10 Weeks	DPT HI HEP B OPV PNEUMOCOCCAL ROTA VIRUS	Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus Haemophilae Influenza Type B Hepatitis B Polio Pneumonia Rotavirus
4	14 Weeks	DPT HIB HEP B OPV PNEUMOCOCCAL ROTA VIRUS	Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus Haemophilae Influenza Type B Hepatitis B Polio Pneumonia Rotavirus
5	6 Months	VIT A	Vitamin A Deficiency
6	9 Months	MEASLES YELLOW FEVER	Measles Yellow fever
7.	18 months	Measles 2	Measles

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

Development, Design and layout: Wachira Charity– Communications Officer
Reviewed by: Elizabeth Muchoki– GAVI-HSS Project Manager
Ruth Ngii– M&E
Francis Njenga– ICT Officer



[@KancoKE](https://twitter.com/KancoKE)



KANCO KANCO



[@Kenya.AIDS.NGOs.Consortium.KANCO](https://www.facebook.com/Kenya.AIDS.NGOs.Consortium.KANCO)