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Leadership award presented to KANCO by the World CSR Day, for being the best NGO leader in East Africa

On the 19th of June 2019, KANCO was awarded the East African Leadership award 2019 for being the best NGO leader in East Africa. In an event held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, The World CSR Day presented the NGO leadership to Kenya AIDS NGOs Consortium (KANCO) alongside WWF Tanzania, Water Aid and Hellen Keller International.

The East Africa Leadership Awards recognizes leaders who have contributed value & made a change as a strategic tool for sustainable growth, transforming livelihoods at the grassroots level, whose quality of work especially in rural areas reach a multitude of people and contribute the value of social change.

Dr. R. L. Bhatia, the founder of WCSR Day leader, speaking on the award said that they were recognizing leaders that are making a difference in the lives of people “A Change that can be quantified - especially since it impacts the lives of many. If it does then it is positive change. But the main is Making A Difference (MAD) in the livelihoods of people”

The Executive Director KANCO Mr. Allan Ragi received the award on behalf of the Consortium.

MCA's Engagement for Immunization in Nakuru County



KANCO regional Coordinator with Members of the County Assembly Nakuru County during the meeting

KANCO in partnership with the Ministry of Health convened a Members of the County Assembly (MCAs) meeting in Nakuru county seeking to sensitize them on immunization and health. The acting Director Medical services Dr. Wainaina making welcoming remarks stated that ‘Moving forward now that Kenya has become a middle income country, donor support will go down including GAVI set to exit by 2025 and that gives us more reason to put more funds into vaccines and immunization.’ He reiterated on the need to support the community strategy towards realizing set immunization goals sharing that in the next budget the county was planning to support two community units in two sub counties. He commended the MCA’s for their good work and mostly the health Management committee for their continued support as well as KANCO for organizing the forum and supporting immunization work in the county.

The chair of the parliamentary health committee Hon. Njuguna also thanked KANCO for organizing the forum. He shared that the county was making plans to address the human resource shortages by 2020, to improve the health service delivery. He reiterated the county's stakeholders commitment to delivery of quality health service saying that with the data provided to them they would work to improve the vaccines and immunization coverage. He committed that the members of the Health committee would take up advocacy on matters immunization both on the floor of parliament as well as in their respective wards to address the low immunization coverage in their area. He stated “The health committee will table a report to show the seriousness of the vaccine and immunization to the house,” adding that they would also be meeting with the community units to discuss the way forward.

Mr. Kimemia an immunization champion also got to share his story towards impressing on the legislators to be deliberate on ring-fencing immunization financing. At the age of one and a half years he fell ill was taken to Naivasha district hospital with high fever. His mother narrates that on arrival there were no nurses present at the hospital so they were attended to by some interns who recommended an injection after which they went home. Back home the situation got worse and he could not stand. His father took him back to the hospital where he was diagnosed with a polio attack, that saw him lose the functionality of one of his legs. This however had many negative ripple effects on his life including affecting his education as he could no longer go to school which was over 7 kilometers, away and was often left home to do simple domestic chores for the family. In his concluding remarks Mr. Kimemia impressed on the need to fully immunize children which could have dire consequences.

On the way forward Dr. Agere, County Health Director impressed on a number of issues including: the need for public participation as an avenue to advocate for increased funding for immunization, strengthen the community strategy through legislation for CHVs; MCAs support to the child health bill: need for quarterly meeting with MCA’s to review progress, and called on the MCAs to become vaccines and immunization advocates at the ward level to improve on the immunization outcomes.



Mr. Kimemia, an immunization champion sharing during the MCAs sensitization meeting, Nakuru County



L-R- Esther Kagure, KANCO representative having a conversation with the ICPD and making remark during the forum

As Kenya prepares to host the International Conference on Population, private partners and Development (ICDP) 2019, KANCO among other stakeholders participated in a CSO Consultative forum convened by UNFPA, that brought together over 70 CSO groups, guests from different Embassies, Kenya Government representatives and United Nation (UN) agencies. The consultative forum sought to: Raise awareness of stakeholders and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) on the ICPD programme of action; Mobilize CSOs support leading up to the Nairobi summit, ensuring a broader high level participation and fruitful outcome at the summit; Discuss the ICPD25 themes and propose commitments as well as formulate a roadmap for the CSO engagement in the conversations on ICPD25.

Mr. Ezekiel Ngunjiri, UNFPA, sharing an overview of ICPD, the commitments and progress at the global level, pointed on the bold commitments by the global leaders articulated in the vision towards strengthening the relationships between population, development and individual well-being. ICPD's Programme of Action, adopted by 179 governments, recognized that reproductive health, as well as women's empowerment and gender equality, as a pathway to sustainable development. He shared that these commitments were significant in influencing policy and programs away from a focus on human numbers to a focus on human lives: putting emphasis where it should be, reaffirming reproductive health as a basic human right as well as contributing to Millennium Summit in September 2000 at the United Nations headquarter in New York.

Dr. Ademola Oladije, UNFPA, sharing on accelerating the promise, informed the meeting that since the first summit, some of the indicators have deteriorated, attributed to the rapidly growing population. He called on the need for push back, calling on the CSOs and the youth to come up with clear commitments for the November summit.

Dr. Githinji Gitahi, CEO-Amref health Africa representing the CSOs, gave an update of the situation of maternal and child mortality in Africa pointing out that "The reason why the plan of action from the 1st conference has not been achieved 25 years after, is because we have not yet identified the priority population and the priority services for them". He shared that UHC means "everyone gets their right at the right time" and in this case means that the priority population (women and girls) get the priority services at the right time. He further impressed on the need for strengthening the CSOs voice, promoting equity and youth leadership.

Mr. Henrik Larsen representing the Royal Danish Embassy stated "all the hands are on deck because the ICPD25 is very important for our planet". He acknowledged the progress as well as the shortfalls calling for the need for concerted efforts to achieve the goals sets.

Mr. John Mosoti the Global Coordinator for ICPD pointed out that "Every day in the world over 800 mothers die during child birth, failing to realize the 1st Cairo summit objective where no woman or girl should die from preventable cause". He informed that the conference will be held in Kenya as a follow-up to President Uhuru Kenyatta's announcements at the Vancouver summit. He called upon the CSOs and other stakeholders present to actualize this by actively being involved in the pre-conferences and the conference itself in making their bold voices of the community they represent heard.

Mr. Joel division of reproductive reiterated the Ministry of Health's commitment to making ICPD25 a success. He stated that Kenya is leading in UHC matters in the region, nevertheless, maternal and neonatal mortality rates are still high and cases of FGM are also being reported. He asked the CSOs to be bold and hold all responsible to account.

The stakeholders developed a Roadmap entailing discussions to: accelerate the objectives of the 1st Cairo summit: Spring

board for commitments and action and inclusivity in the forums. The conference is supposed to deliver: Global commitments, National commitment and Commitments from different groups. The team also identified sub-thematic areas including : Creating financing momentum: Getting to Zero: Essential SRHR package of interventions and UHC: Demographic transition and sustainable development: Getting to zero: GBV and harmful practices and SRHR in humanitarian and fragile contexts. The envisioned accelerators to the five themes are:-Political and community leadership for accelerating the promise, Private sector engagement, Youth engagement, Women's empowerment and gender equality and Innovation and data Sub-theme five: sustainable financing.

Among the way forward action points for CSOs was the call for CSOs to submit the thematic group reports to the ICPD secretariat by Monday 15th July 2019, undertake an online survey among communities and leverage on the partner events to communicate, validate and prioritize the asks/commitment contained the final draft CSO report between 22nd July and 9th August 2019, hold a validation workshop to consolidate Kenyan CSO asks/commitments/position on 15th August 2019 as well as communicate their participation interest in advance for inclusion in the programme.

Upcoming Events:

- ◆ The 10th IAS Conference on HIV Science: 21-24 July 2019
- ◆ KANCO, MOH Immunization Outreach: Embakasi East (Kware) and West (Bundalangi area)- 2-3rd August 2019
- ◆ World Breastfeeding week: 1-7th August 2019

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