



Preparations Ahead of the HPV Vaccine Launch



Nairobi County EPI logistician, Florence Kabuga, making a presentation during the forum

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KANCO supported the Nairobi County health team to host their 4th quarter Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) review on August 28th 2019, through the GAVI-HSS grant. The meeting saw the attendance of different stakeholders and ministries including, the Health and Education Ministries, the County Government and CSOs, to hold deliberations and make plans ahead of the HPV vaccine Launch, set take place in September 2019. The meeting also focused on the EPI performance, sharing on the overview of the Nairobi county performance, development of the micro planning tools to be used in the HPV Vaccine mapping and orientation on the same. The forum also saw the sub-counties make presentations on their status in regard to the EPI performance.

Making opening remarks, Nairobi County EPI logistician, Florence Kabuga, gave an overview of the Nairobi County EPI performance. She explained on the meaning of a Fully Immunized Child (FIC) saying "It is when a child has received a dose of the BCG, three doses of OPV, DPT and hepatitis B and one dose of the measles vaccine before reaching the age of one.' She added that the FIC, status for Nairobi County stood at 91%, below the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended percentage of 95% terming it as fairly good results, but with room for improvement. However, under the independent vaccine uptake review, she noted some vaccines had a very low uptake, including the Measles Rubella 2, standing at a 26%. She recommended partnering with Communities through CSOs like KANCO, to conduct outreaches to reach the defaulters and to increase the demand for the poorly taken up vaccines. She further took the team through the national HPV vaccine introduction programme, saying that the strategy to involve communities was instrumental to protecting every girl against cervical cancer. She added that the County projection was to reach 10,000 girls aged 10years through the school outreach program me.



Elizabeth Muchoki, GAVI program manager KANCO making her remarks during the meeting

Impressing on the importance of the HPV vaccine, the EPI logistician stated that "Nairobi County registers over 5000 cervical cancer cases annually, with about 15 % of these dying"

Speaking on behalf of the County, the Nairobi County Health Director Dr. Lucina Koyio, impressed on the need for partnerships and community involvement for successful health interventions. She further thanked KANCO for their support and commitment in the immunization agenda.

Elizabeth Muchoki, the GAVI-HSS Project Manager, making a presentation on KANCOs work around child health and immunization, reiterated on the need for concerted effort to reach every child with immunization services. "Children will always be out there playing, and as a parent, you will not always know who your child is

playing with, and whether they are immunized or not", she stated. She impressed that every parent should not stop at ensuring that their children are fully immunized but those of their neighbors as well as vaccines are more effective when we are protected together.

Petronella Mabea (MOH), facilitated the orientation of the team to the micro planning tools, to be used for mapping and collection of data in the anticipated HPV vaccine introduction. The tools included, health facilities mapping tool, out of school girls mapping tool, a facility register, school registers, sub-county consolidation tool and a county consolidation tool. She noted that the data collected through these tools will be useful beyond the HPV launch and thus must be safeguarded.

Sub-County teams then did their presentations, highlighting the challenges encountered in the implementation of the EPI program and made recommendations to improve the vaccines uptake in their respective sub-counties.

Strengthening CSOs voices in TICAD 7

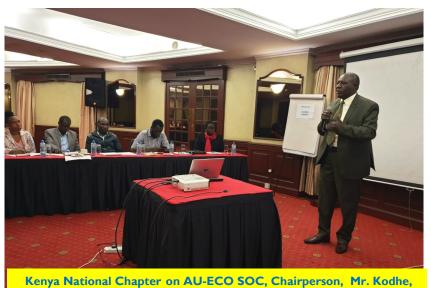


Non-state actors briefing meeting participants posing for a photo during the discussions ahead of the TICAD 7 Conference

Tokyo international conference on African Development (TICAD), is hosted by the Japan government in collaboration with the United Nations. The TICAD 7 Conference, is taking place from the 28th to the 30th of August 2019 in Yokohama, with the KANCO consortium being represented by the Executive Director KANCO, Mr. Allan Ragi, alongside other CSOs representatives from Kenya and around the world. Ahead of the TICAD meeting a CSOs briefing meeting was held aimed at consolidating citizen voices around business and innovation, human security and peace.

Mr. Paul, a representative of UNDP led a session on TICAD 7 agenda in a bid to come up with a joint resolve on the way forward ahead of the conference. He informed that the TICAD 7 outcome document was already finalized, point-

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Kenya National Chapter on AU-ECO SOC, Chairperson, Mr. Kodhe, the chairman, giving his remarks

ing out that the CSOs had not been involved. He explained that the Conference is purely on trade and it is between the Japan government and the governments from Africa. He observed that even after the many years since the first conference, African states are not yet benefiting fully from the process as it should be, provoking a discussion on the nature of the relationship between Japan and other Countries, whether the relationship was mutual, and the importance or not of the CSOs participation in the forthcoming conference, and for what benefit.

Mr. Dennis Kodhe, the chairperson AU-ECOSOC explained that the Japanese government had provided a platform for social-economic growth and

integration and it was up to the African States to optimally utilize the platform. He added that from the minimal time given, only one of the delegation from the African countries speaks in these conferences, compared to the Japanese side where all their offices are presented and get some time for declarations and asks. The Chairman challenged on the need to strengthen the African engagement saying "We have an opportunity to change the narrative of bilateral government to government engagements by including the CSO voices."

Florence Syevuo from SDGs Kenya Forum took the team through the background of TICAD, and the expectations for TICAD 7. She highlighted the various commitments—and declarations that have been made over the years. She noted that despites the several TICAD conferences, it was unfortunate that the materials developed from the conferences were not accessible—for CSOs vetting. She reiterated the commitment of the CSOs to push for meaningful involvement saying 'CSOs are determined to push on until they get the process move from government to government to also include the CSO's voice'

Mr. Allan Ragi, the Executive Director KANCO, echoed the AU ECCOSSOC Chairperson's words Mr. Kodhe, saying "There's an opportunity and we should take advantage of the low hanging fruits presented in the TICAD engagements'. He urged the non state actors to get a deeper understanding of TICAD and develop strategies to engage meaningfully for their own betterment and that of the communities they represent. He cited his learning experience from one of the TICAD engagements he attended, where he learnt that Japan realized UHC in 1961, stating 'There are great lessons we can learn from Japan as we implement our UHC objectives'

Susan from Partnership for Peace and Security (PfPS) tasked the CSOs present to be strategic and leverage on opportunities presenting within and behind the conference to engage. She suggested incorporating the CSOs agenda into the government's agenda.

Rosemary Mburu Executive Director WACI health, took the team through a declaration formation session, impressing on the need for advocacy for meaningful involvement of CSOs in the TICAD processes. The Non state actors declaration highlighted the key asks from the CSOs including: Global Fund and GAVI replenishments, Nutrition, last mile TB among others. The session also impressed on the need to engage policy makers especially from the ministry of Foreign Affairs and finding areas of convergence; Linking social and business agenda to facilitate a multi-stakeholder platform; Organizing the CSO collective voice and maximum utilization of the 40 to 50 side events: Planning for a national level capacity building activity after TICAD 7 and Encouraging the formulation of a strong AU platform that shall be used to strengthen the negotiations.

Concluding the meeting the teams attending TICAD7 were requested to discuss and develop a common agenda for engagement during the conference, to effectively represent all CSOs.

Shifting the Health Research approach



The Advocacy Coalition for Health Research and Development (CHReaD), held a meeting in August 2019, hosted by PATH. The meeting sought to share on the coalitions terms of reference, situational analysis of the country and county Research for Health (R4H) implementation, development for R4H priorities that are in line with international standards and the development of an R4H policy frameworks and financing mechanisms.

The purpose of CHReaD which KANCO is a member of, is to push for the realization of affordable and effective health research and development in law and middle income countries. This is through interventions, leading to cutting edge innovations in health related services, technology, programs/policy changes and implementation. This is towards strategic shift from standard health research to action research for health(R4H).

In the discussions, the existing legislative frameworks were impressed upon as critical in this process including: The Constitution of Kenya (2010), Vision 2030, Kenya Health Policy (2014-2030), NACOSTI's National Research Agenda (2013-2028), The Draft Health Bill (2015) Sustainable Development Goals, The Big Four Agenda, among other national and international frameworks for health.

Prof. William Macharia presented on the current state of R4H policy and priorities for CSOs. He noted that Kenya was lagging behind the international standards for health and research funding, noting. "95% of all health research and development funding in Kenya is externally sourced.' He added that majority of Low Medium income countries contend with high ill health burden contrasted to the low funding allocated to health research, speaking to minimal prioritization of research in these countries. In addition, he mentioned that Kenya does not have an overarching national health research policy and proposed the need for development of a harmonized framework for R4H governance and coordination. He added that CSOs would support the process by helping in the development of the policy frameworks and identification of priorities, interpreting research through training, developing community level research partnerships, hosting national and county levels stakeholders forums, resource mobilization, enhancing transparency and accountability, dissemination of findings, community empowerment through information and scaling up interventions.

Dr. Evans Amukoye, talked about clinical trials and the role of CSOs. He provided means in which CSOs can create an effective and safe space for clinical trials: by Creating awareness on the importance and tenets of clinical trials, Facilitating community engagement on clinical trials, acting as whistleblowers in the event of unethical/poorly conducted clinical trials, and create advocacy initiatives on issues such as: neglected diseases and government funding.

Training Grassroots on Advocacy and drug abuse



Sylvia Ayon, key populations manager KANCO, seated with the sisters of Divine Mercy Spiritual and Counseling Center and the grassroots who attended the meeting

KANCO ACTION Program in conjunction with Divine Mercy Counselling centre held a training on Grass-roots advocacy. The training was held at Divine Mercy Counselling centre in Theta Lane off Lenana Road in Nairobi town on 24th August, 2019. The participants included young people (18-24yrs) drawn from Divine Mercy Parishes in Kawangware, Nyeri, Machakos and Meru, with a representation from 10 wards. Three sister members of the religious institute were also present.

According to WHO, Roadmap towards ending TB in children and adolescents of 2018, despite making up I in 6 of the world's people, adolescents have been largely overlooked as global momentum to address TB grows. Few countries provide the adolescent-friendly services young people need to access diagnosis and care. At the same time, UNODC world drug report 2018, Surveys on drug use among the general population consistently show that the extent of drug use among young people remains higher than among older people. Peak levels of drug use are seen among those aged 18–25. This is broadly the situation observed in countries in most regions and for most drug types

The main focus of the training was grassroots advocacy directed to the young people in regard to improve access to TB prevention & treatment as well as reduce alcohol and other drug misuse and to increase protective factors. The participants were trained on how to become effective citizen advocates, equipped with the necessary tools as they approach elected leaders, specifically the MCA's in order to have empowered young people take charge of their futures by reaching out to county assemblies. This would eventually yield the expected results which are a budget allocation towards creation of adolescent friendly centres for TB services and life skills training/economic centres for drug abuse protection factor for young people

Upcoming Event:

- ♦ TICAD 7 (28th-30th August)
- ♦ County Health stakeholders Forums in Kajiado and Meru (29th August)
- Special HIV ICC meeting in NACC (30th August)

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