Global Fund Meets the US$14 Billion Pledge to End the Epidemics

In the months and days leading up to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria 6th replenishment conference, held on the 10th of October 2019 in France, a host of health stakeholders including CSOs intensified their advocacy efforts for governments and donors to increase their pledges to the Global Fund to hit the US$14 Billion mark. On the 10th October Global Fund made the landmark declaration that it had achieved this target, thus stepping up the fight was on course!

Global Fund report indicates that from the global solidarity, donors at the Global Fund’s Sixth Replenishment Conference pledged US$14.02 billion for the next three years – the largest amount ever raised for a multilateral health organization, and the largest amount by the Global Fund.

The funds will help save 16 million lives and end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria by 2030. France through President Emmanuel Macron and Bill Gates calling on all partners to increase their commitment by at least 15%, led by example by each pledging an additional US$60 million, bringing the total pledges for the three year period to slightly over US$14 billion, dedicated to ending the epidemic.

Kenya was also not left behind among the 23 Africa nations that pledged their support to the global fund by pledging $6 million (Sh623 million) a 20 per cent increase from the Sh500 million pledged at the fifth replenishment meeting in 2016. Kenya is both a funder and one of the implementers of Global fund projects towards ending the three diseases: HIV, TB and Malaria.

Different speakers at the conference appreciated the global solidarity in raising the funds towards ending the epidemic while strongly reiterating on the importance of domestic financing to develop long-term sustainability plans for health programs.
The National Authority for the Campaign against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACADA) is working on the finalization of the National Alcohol and Drug Abuse Control Policy which was developed collaboratively with different stakeholders.

In recognition of the role of multi-stakeholders in prevention, treatment and management of Alcohol and Drug Abuse and the need to leverage on the expertise and experiences of partners, NACADA organized a one-day meeting to harmonize the National Alcohol and Drug Control Policy in line with the just completed *African Union Plan of Action on Drug Control and Crime Prevention 2019-2023* and the *East African Regional Policy on Prevention, Management and Control of Alcohol Drugs and other Substances*. The later was steered by the East African Community Secretariat working closely with KANCO with the support of Global Fund through the Regional HIV and Harm Reduction Project.

Appreciating these two recently concluded policy documents, the CEO NACADA Mr. Victor G. Okioma commended them saying, they were very comprehensive and well done and would go a long way in informing the national policy in line with the regional goals. The national policy also draws from the basic principles which drive the three United Nations drug control conventions.

The National Alcohol and Drug Abuse Policy provides a framework for sustainable, multi-sectoral and balanced approach in the management of alcohol and drug abuse through application of demand reduction and supply suppression strategies equal measure for multi stakeholders towards the realization of an alcohol and drug free Kenya.

Going forward the technical teams will be reviewing the document in detail before its final ratification.
Group discussions of the Strategic Information Technical working Group (SI-TWG) preparing the Kenya HIV Modes of Transmission Report 2019

The National AIDS Control Council (NACC) invited KANCO among other organizations to attend a task team retreat for the Kenya Modes of Transmission (KMoT) Study. The retreat sought to review and develop 2019 KMoT Report and provide strategic information support for review of Kenya AIDS Strategic Framework (KASF I) and development of KASF II.

The Kenya Analysis of HIV Prevention and Modes of HIV Transmission (KMoHT) Study, popularly known as the Kenya Modes of Transmission (KMoT) Study was conceived in 2007 by the UNAIDS Regional Support Team, working in partnership with The World Bank GAMET team, and UNFPA, to support better HIV prevention efforts in Eastern and Southern Africa. The Kenyan National AIDS Control Council (NACC), joined at the design stage to implement the study in the country when it became one of the five pilot countries to conduct a MoT Study.

The overall objective of the study is to contribute to the ongoing efforts to understand the epidemic and response in Kenya and thus help the country improve the scope (doing the right kind of activities), relevance (with the right populations) and comprehensiveness (reaching all members of target populations) with HIV prevention efforts, with an ultimate goal of helping Kenya make more effective HIV/AIDS-related decisions.

Despite national decreases in HIV prevalence, the HIV epidemic in Kenya is heterogeneous – the epidemic has different dynamics (and possibly different drivers) across the country. However in recent years, with the HIV epidemic in Kenya stabilizing and treatment programs provided to scale, questions have arisen as to whether sub-populations traditionally seen as at most risk of HIV are still the main sources of new infections. This the importance of “Knowing Your Epidemic” (KYE) and “Knowing Your Response (KYR)” becoming apparent to effectively target and improve HIV responses.

KANCO is a member of the NACC Strategic Information team, which convenes quarterly and KANCO is committed to the cause of developing the revised KMoT study. Speaking during the meeting Joshua Gitonga, the Monitoring and Evaluation Manager, NACC impressed all should focus on the development of the second version of the Kenya Modes of Transmission study since it has been 12 years (2007) since the last report was launched. He urged the participants to participate actively in the subsequent engagements towards the completion of the KMoT II and KASF II.
Upcoming Events:

- Launch of the HPV Vaccine: 18th October 2019
- World Mental Health Day 2019: focus on suicide prevention– 19th October 2019