

SUN Global Gathering 2019



We must all take our roles to realize the goal of nourished people and planet –SUN Global Gathering 2019

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KANCO joined delegates from all over the globe drawn from 61 SUN Countries and 4 Indian states for the SUN Global Gathering 2019 at Kathmandu Nepal between the 4-7 November 2019, under the theme '**Nourishing People and the planet together**'. The annual event brings together all SUN Government Focal Points and representatives from civil society, donor, United Nations agencies, private sector partners, academia, media, parliamentarians and others.

The conference provides an important platform for delegates to take stock of progress and challenges, share their innovations and learn what is helping to reduce malnutrition across all SUN Countries. The conference encompassed plenary sessions, workshops, and a marketplace designed to showcase country experiences in scaling up nutrition where Kenya also made its contribution.

Distinguished dignitaries made remarks including Gerda Vergab, the United Nations General SUN movement coordinator, asking the delegates to "Carry the spirit of Kathmandu forward, by not only engaging in country discussions to enhance nutrition outcomes but also asking ourselves what we can do to contribute to the cause" Ambassador of Japan to Nepal, Masamichi Saigo, called on the need to promote urgent actions for the fragile regions to help improve nutrition outcomes hence development.

The Minister for Finance Nepal, Dr. Yuba Raj Khatriwada, appreciated the spirit of the discussion saying they are critical to informing national policy and planning. He reiterated on the importance of data as critical to informing planning, policy and implementation of nutrition sensitive programs.

The rallying call from all the speakers was to leave no one behind in this cause, as all have a role in improving the nutrition outcomes for the realization of a nourished people and planet.



Courtesy of: Pixabay

The Campaigns Manager, KANCO, Rahab Mwaniki made a presentation at the Session on **Implementing National Level Accountability for the UN High Level Meeting on TB** at the 2019 Lung Conference held in Hyderabad India. The session was organized by RESULTS UK in collaboration with ACTION Global Health Partnership and KANCO among other partners.

According to WHO 2017, Kenya is listed among the 30 high burden countries for TB and has triple burden of TB, TB/HIV and MDR TB. Further, the Kenya Catastrophic cost study indicates that between 27.1% and 53.7% of TB affected households experienced food insecurity due to TB. Proportion of TB patients living below poverty line increased from 13.9% to 31.1%. Therefore, a number of strategies are to be embraced including Universal Health Care to support TB diagnosis, provide low cost of treatment, cater for admission facilities and provide insurance cover and social protection schemes.

There was also a rally on call to sensitize CSOs on the WHO Multi-sectoral Accountability Framework and develop a CSO report. KANCO already began this a while ago



Campaigns Manager, KANCO, Rahab Mwaniki-Making a presentation during at the Union Conference

but will fast track this in the next months.

Rahab Mwaniki also attended the WHO Annual meeting for Child and Adolescent Working Group. It is important to note that children < 15 years have now been included as part of TB vulnerable population unlike other years. Just to point out that there were presentations that pointed increase in TB notification among children. Therefore KANCO will be advocating to have strategies and target in the next GF Grant.

The new Global Fund cycle and opportunities for TB

Kenya among other countries will be applying for the first wave of GF grant. The resource envelope will be communicated to respective countries by mid December 2019. Therefore linking TB and UHC and also in line with the recent publication by RESULTS UK on TB and UHC, there is need to see how CSO will get more support for the Community Systems Strengthening for Health under the RSSH grant. On the treatment side, KANCO will advocate for wider access to BDQ and Delamanid through National TB Lung and Leprosy programme. Allan Ragi, KANCO Executive Director emphasized the adoption on a large scale of the 2 drugs. KANCO is an active member of the MDR- TB sub-committee hosted by Ministry of Health.

Prior to the conference, KANCO signed on to the TB treatment campaign document for the cost reduction of Rifapentin, a key preventive tuberculosis (TB) drug. The great news of cost reduction was announced at the conference. The volume-based agreement will discount the price of a three-month treatment course of Rifapentine by nearly 70 per cent, from approximately USD45 to USD15. Advocacy is now needed on putting people with LBTI on treatment. There was also the news of a promising new TB vaccine.



CSO developing a statement read at the 50th Union Lung conference

Rwanda Harm Reduction Learning Exchange Visit to Kenya



Rwanda delegation and KANCO staff after a learning session during the learning visit

KANCO in partnership with NASCOP hosted Rwanda delegates, comprising of Health Development initiative (HDI) representatives, -a Civil Society Organization- and Ministry of Health officials to learn more about harm reduction from Kenya. Kenya is considered a regional leader in matters harm reduction.

HDI is an organization that strives to improve both the quality and accessibility of healthcare for all Rwandans regardless of their socio-economic status. HDI is currently looking to begin the implementation of harm reduction programs, hence the exchange learning visit to Kenya.

The four days visit (5th – 8th November 2019), saw the delegates engage with government agencies that KANCO has



Rwanda delegation and KANCO team with NACADA officials led by the Executive Director, Victor Okioma

been working closely with including NASCOP and NACADA and partner organizations that work in harm reduction.

Addressing the delegates, the Director NACADA, Mr. Victor Okioma, shared the role of the agency stating that it implements harm reduction as one of the interventions in support of HIV management driven by the view that prevention is better than cure, and in support of the Vision 2030 by recognizing the dangers that alcohol and drug abuse pose in society. He added that drug use is a health issue that must be addressed adding that 'Africa is seriously affected by alcohol and drug use, hence the need for regional cooperation.

tion to address the challenge.’

The team further engaged with the NACADA team and had discussions on programmes and interventions carried out by NACADA, policies, regional and global deliberations on drug and substance abuse as well as working with multiple agencies to implement harm reduction and shared on important lessons, challenges, successes and opportunities for harm reduction implementation.



HDI, KANCO and NASCOP teams holding a discussion during the learning visit

The team later met with the NASCOP team led by the Key Populations programs manager, Helgar Musyoki, who shared on the mandate of the agency. NASCOP was established in 1987 to spearhead the Ministry of Health's interventions on the fight against HIV/AIDS by providing technical co-ordination of HIV and AIDS programmes in Kenya.

The NASCOP team shared on their role in key population programming, working with communities and partnerships,

strategies, tools, capacity building, data collection and documentation experiences. Addressing the team, Ms. Musyoki reiterated that “Leadership, collaboration, standardization of services and guidelines, technical support and resources are critical for success in harm reduction and key population programming’.

The HDI team also had a session with the KANCO management representatives, where the Deputy Director, Peter Kamau, shared on KANCO'S history and KANCOs leadership in the harm reduction response in Kenya and the region starting 2011. Mr. Kamau reiterated the importance of strategic advocacy and policy development saying “We cannot rely on the goodwill of individuals, harm reduction need be cemented in policy for sustainability”

The visiting team also held engagements with different partners and communities for more exposure and experience sharing to help shape their programming.



KANCO and HDI team during a session at the KANCO offices

Thank you For Giving! 6th Global Fund Replenishment

KANCO in partnership with GFAN_Africa partnered for a photo shoot aimed at thanking all the partners and countries that pledged in the Sixth Global Fund Replenishment Conference. The event saw a pledge of US\$14.02 billion for the next three-year cycle, being by far the largest amount ever raised. Under the social media campaign themed [#becauseyugave](#), the partners expressed their gratitude as the pledges portend to save up to 16 Million Lives.



KANCO and WACI Health representatives during the thank you [#becauseyugave](#) to the Global Fund Campaign

KANCO Offers Technical Support for Harm Reduction



KANCO, NASCOP and IDI team during the technical support training

Between 28th October to 1st November, Sylvia Ayon, Key Populations Program manager KANCO, was invited by Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI) to provide technical assistance in the establishment of Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) programs in Uganda. KANCO was the primary recipient of the Regional Harm Reduction project grant, which closed in March 2019. This provided KANCO with experience around harm reduction, effective advocacy and ground breaking strategies when working with People Who Use and Inject Drugs (PWUDs & PWIDs), which IDI wanted to learn from. The Objectives of the mission were to cultivate a common understanding regarding the effectiveness, efficacy and challenges surrounding MAT, facilitate buy in by all stakeholders and provide insights for start-up, to guide the establishment of a MAT center at Butabika National Referral hospital.

Harm Reduction (HR) is a set of practical strategies and ideas aimed at reducing negative consequences associated with drug use. As one of the strategies, MAT is mostly considered. MAT is the use of medications in combination with counselling and behavioral therapies, effective in the treatment of drug and opioid use disorders (OUD) to sustain recovery. Methadone and buprenorphine are often used and proven to be cost effective, yielding USD 3-4 for every dollar spent while increasing retention of HIV treatment.

The IDI, a non-profit organization in Makerere University, has a mission to strengthen health systems in Africa, with strong emphasis on infectious diseases, research and capacity development.

The 2018, Kampala Place Study estimates that there are 18,000 people who inject drugs in Uganda with 17% HIV prevalence and underlying mental health problems. Programmatic data from various sites and organizations consistently show a higher prevalence of HIV among PWIDs compared to that in the general population (45% vs 7.3% respectively). Although the Government of Uganda has acknowledged the existence of drug use,

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Sylvia Ayon- Key Populations Program Manager

the HIV and drug treatment response is limited to private hospitals and a public mental health facility. Barriers to HIV and drug treatment services include: high cost, negative service provider attitudes, stigma, discrimination and criminalization of drug use.

The UNAIDS fast-track plan calls for rapid acceleration of HIV treatment and prevention services by high HIV burdened countries such as Uganda, through roll out of comprehensive HIV combination prevention services for people who inject drugs. MAT reduces HIV transmission risk and other harms associated with illicit opioid use.

The support team met with the MAT Taskforce Members, IDI Program staff, Butabika Team, Medical Access Uganda Limited (MAUL), Ministry of Health, Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), Uganda Harm Reduction Network (UHRN), and Uganda Police (Anti - Narcotics drug unit). The team also visited Butabika National Referral and Mental Hospital (the proposed MAT Centre) and Medical Access Uganda Limited (MAUL), a not-for-profit organization specialized in the provision of supply chain management services for pharmaceutical products and health commodities in Uganda.

There was a positive outcome, outlined by Enhanced understanding of MAT program implementation by IDI and Butabika National Referral and Mental hospital staff. It was also agreed that Additional Drop in Centers to be set up near Butabika Hospital to facilitate access of MAT services by the PWIDs alongside provision of safe spaces, and training of peer educator to be conducted by December 2019 to enhance implementation of full NSP program and Increased understanding of specification, forecasting and quantification for MAT through technical guidance and sharing of resources.

9 Interventions on Harm Reduction, Recommended by WHO

- ◆ *Needle and syringe programmes -(NSP)*
- ◆ *Opioid substitution therapy and other evidence-based drug dependence treatment*
- ◆ *HIV testing and counselling*
- ◆ *Antiretroviral therapy*
- ◆ *Prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections*
- ◆ *Condom programmes for people who inject drugs and their sexual partners*
- ◆ *Targeted information, education and communication for people who inject drugs and their sexual partners*
- ◆ *Prevention, vaccination, diagnosis and treatment for viral hepatitis*
- ◆ *Prevention, diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis.*

Upcoming Events:

- ◆ ICPD25 Conference 12- 14th November 2019
- ◆ GAVI High Level Mission Week 12-14th November 2019

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