

## ICDP25 Side Event: High Level Panel Discussion



L-R, Harrieta Geigner -EU, Benda Kithaka- Women 4 Cancer, Dr. Ngozi -GAVI, Sicily Kariuki- CS Health Kenya, Rudi Eggers-WHO and Anuradha Gupta-GAVI during the forum

We look at the HPV vaccine and vaccines in general as one of the best investment due to the high demonstrated returns-Health CS  
-Sicily Kariuki

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On the side-lines of the ICDP25 conference, the CS Health Sicily Kariuki, GAVI High Level Mission (HLM) representatives, CSOs representatives and the media held a dialogue forum to discuss the status of the recently launched HPV vaccine in Kenya.

The CS shared that so far 42 counties had rolled out the vaccine and 5 were remaining but were however on course, citing that the five had experienced disruptions in the Programme.

Addressing the controversy surrounding the vaccine's rollout in Kenya, the CS said the process had been riddled by speculations pedaled by different stakeholders. Allaying the fears, she shared that the vaccine was safe attested by the successful launch in the two pilot counties. She shared that Kenya is on course in the immunization of 800,000 girls against cervical cancer, and so far 280,000 girls had received the first dose of the HPV vaccine adding "We look at the HPV vaccine and vaccines in general as one of the best investment due to the high demonstrated returns"

Dr. Rudi Eggers, the World Health Organization's Country Representative, said vaccines are about protecting the individuals lives and it would be irresponsible for parents not to take their children for vaccination. "It is like travelling in a car driven by a drunk driver without fastening the seat-belt," said Dr. Eggers. He assured the stakeholders that the vaccine was safe saying, "The WHO would not allow use of a vaccine without evidence of its safety and effectiveness. We have rigorous testing procedures for every vaccine that is in use,



Delegates following discussion during GAVI HLM HPV High Level Panel Discussion

and they must take place before we allow them to be used, there is 20 years of evidence and research available for the cervical cancer vaccine, including the study carried out in Kitui."

Moderating the session, Aruradha Gupta, GAVI Deputy CEO stated that "Investment in prevention helps shield countries from catastrophic treatment costs, with data showing that millions of families sink into poverty every year due to high cost of medical care." adding that "Leadership makes the difference in health matters."

Dr. Ngozi, the Chairperson GAVI, stated that '70-90% of all cancer deaths are in Africa, with the leading countries being Zimbabwe, Malawi and Kenya. She stated "The numbers in our continent call for action , as a cancer survivor I would advise that for any preventable cancer we take up the vaccination because its not easy". She further noted that the provision of the cancer vaccine also provides an opportunity to give integrated services including nutrition interventions. She reiterated that 'we must communicate that this vaccine is not about reproductive health but about saving lives"

European Union Representative, Harrieta Geigner addressing the forum reiterated on the need to strengthen health systems as this is a move towards sustainability and realization of the SDGs.

Representing the CSOS, Women for Cancer chairperson, Benda Kithaka stated "More than 9 women die daily from cancer in Kenya, and inaction now could mean 33 death by 2020 and we simply cannot afford that as a county." She made a call to all stakeholders including CSOs to come forth and mobilize communities for uptake of the vaccine saying, "Tomorrow will judge us by our actions today and thus we must hold each other accountable to ensure that we secure our tomorrow.'



Benda Kithaka– Women for Cancer Chair, making remarks during the HPV forum discussion

## GAVI HLM Delegation Engagements with the Council of Governors



GAVI HLM Delegation, Council of Governors, MOH and KANCO engagement at Serena Hotel

KANCO facilitated a briefing between the GAVI HLM delegation to Kenya and the Council of Governors (COG). The forum brought together 3 Governors, the GAVI team headed by Dr. Ngozi Onkonjo Ineala, the Board Chairperson, Rachael Belt, Country Director, Anuradha Gupta, Deputy Executive Director, County Executive Officers for Health, WHO, and the CSOs representatives focused on improving immunization equity and coverage at the sub national level in Kenya.

Sharing on the status of Immunization, Dr, Collins Tabu-NVIP, shared that the essence of devolution was to bring services





Discussion during the GAVI HLM and Council of Governors (COG) engagement

including health and immunization closer to the people, noting that however counties need to step up their funding investment for immunization to make this a reality.

Addressing the forum, Dr. Ngozi shared GAVI's mission for the next five years steered by the strategic plan 2020-2025, focused on reaching the zero dose child. She stated that from the engagement with GAVI sought to understand the country and county plans for immunization as Kenya prepares to transition, a process scheduled to start in 2022 and exit in 2027.

She explained that GAVI works towards

reduction of costs for vaccines for the countries and has a unique instrument called the advance market commitment which enables it to negotiate with vaccine manufacturers to lower the cost of vaccines. *"For HPV instance, a case where it would cost USD 100, it was brought down to USD 4.50 and this is what makes it affordable for our countries,"* she said adding if they did not have these kind of mechanism, it would be much harder for Africa to afford it.

She emphasised that it is critical to remember that the *'The HPV vaccine is not about reproductive issues with girls rather about saving lives'* underscoring the importance of communication as critical to vaccine uptake.

She highlighted that the biggest challenge of the vaccine is the supply and demand. *"The continental demand of the vaccine could reach 80 million doses and we only have about 35 million available meaning there is a deficit of about 45 million,"*

Hon. Kuti, Governor Isiolo County, asked GAVI to be deliberate and develop relationships with counties to help them understand what they need to do before the transition. *"There is need to have a structured way of exiting and its imperative that the negotiations at the county level begin, expressing that the 2022-2027 transition timeframe may not be adequate to sustainably transition while safeguarding the gains made so far"* he observed. He recommended a review of the current vaccine distribution process which he said compromises the vaccines potency as they moved from the central repository and down the cascade proposing more decentralised repositories. The governor further proposed *"Institution of performance based funding to improve immunization outcomes."*

Kericho County Governor Hon. Paul Chepwony, stated his government's commitment to the scale up immunization and realise the UHC goals. *'My government will put up a match fund for GAVI's financing by putting in a dollar for a dollar to scale up immunization'* he further impressed on the need to strengthen systems and efficiency.

Anuradha Gupta, Deputy CEO GAVI, shared that they were happy to work with the Council of Governors as the country gets into the transition phase, calling for the need for increased investment in immunization gradually for example by taking up fully the operational costs.

The forum concluded with the call by GAVI for increased commitment by the political leaders to invest in immunization. The team further committed for more stakeholders engagements through routine meetings between the counties and country GAVI team. Dr. Ngozi called on the need for Multi-sectoral dialogue to evaluate what works and what doesn't as we move forward



## Pictorials : GAVI HLM delegation Engagement with the Council of Governors



**H.E. Dr. Mohammed Kuti Governor Isiolo and Health Chairperson COG addressing the forum**



**H.E. Paul Chepkwony Governor Kericho making remarks during the forum**



**H.E Peter Ndambiri Deputy Governor Kirinyaga County making remarks during the forum**



**Dr. Collins Tabu-NVIP, making remarks during the forum**



**Dr. Ngozi Okonjo,- Board Chairperson GAVI addressing the forum**



**Anuradha Gupta- Deputy CEO GAVI, making remarks during the engagement with the COG.**



**KANCO ED, Allan Ragi, having an engagement with Dr. Collins Tabu Head-NVIP during the engagement**



**Systems strengthening Advisor KANCO, Jack Nedgwa and Dr. Ngozi Okonjo having an engagement**



**KANCO Executive Director Allan Ragi, Campaigns Manager, Rahab Mwaniki having an engagement with Dr. Anis Omar, CEC Kilifi**



# GAVI and Kenya Parliamentary Health Committee Engagement



**GAVI HLM, Parliamentary Health Committee, KANCO, UNICEF and WHO representative during the Engagement**

On the 14th of November 2019, KANCO facilitated an engagement between the Parliamentary Health Committee, the GAVI HLM delegation to Kenya, an engagement that was hosted in the Kenyan Parliament. The meeting sought to discuss matters immunization with an aim to galvanise political goodwill from the members of parliament for increased investment in immunization.

Dr. Ngozi, GAVI Board Chairperson, shared that GAVI was happy with Kenya's progress since 2000, as one of the beneficiaries of the USD670Million investment in Africa, towards the goal of saving 1.1 Billion children and 22 Million lives through immunization. She stated that GAVI plans to transition ultimately as it has in 18 countries with another 10 in the process, and the hope was that the gains made will be sustained. She impressed on the need to institute sustainable domestic funding for immunization saying immunization is a worthy investment with a return of USD54 for every dollar invested.

Sharing on the status of funding for immunization, Dr. Collins Tabu-NVIP shared that there were huge deficits in funding for immunization both at the national and county level.

He stated that the current allocation was at 1.2 Billion with a deficit of 500Million, with 5 Billion going to the new vaccine and another 6.5Billion going to human resource and utilities. He noted that GAVI had given about 4.6 Million dollars to the immunization programme, and while this helps complement the budget, there was need for increased investment in immunization at the county level to enhance equity.

Hon Mule, MP Matungulu, requested GAVI to give clear indicators of the transition to the committee that would help to transition effectively. He cautioned that health is a critical matter and lack of proper preparation for the transition could lead to loss of the gains made so far. *"Health is a critical matter*



**Members of Parliament following the discussion during the engagement with the GAVI HLM delegation in Parliament**



that cannot be pegged to infrastructural development that the transition maybe pegged on, as it does not necessarily translate to health equity, and therefore we need proper data that is informing GAVIs transition and we would request that the process is negotiated because we may lose a lot'

Hon. Esseli impressed on the need to secure vaccine financing pegging the rein fencing to GDP to effectively eradicate vaccine preventable diseases.

The MPs impressed on the need to carry out an opportunity cost evaluation for immunization to underscore the importance of immunization and the value in terms of the social, political and economic befit, promote awareness of the value of the vaccines in the face of many misconception being peddled.

Anuradha impressed on the need to address equity and coverage. She cited the disparity between the measles 1 and 2 , saying the system has to be deliberate to enhance coverage and equity.

Hon Sabina reiterated her committee's dedication to the health cause. She challenged the Ministry of Health to make comprehensive requests for their budget saying the committee was committed to working with them. She commended KANCO for the good job they have been doing engaging policy makers, Media and different stakeholders in immunization advocacy, saying there was still a lot to be done especially in awareness creation.

## Parliamentary Engagement Pictorials



**GAVI HLM delegation and  
Parliamentary Health Com-  
mittee engagement**

## GAVI HLM and GAVI Country Partners Meeting



**GAVI –HSS Project Manager Elizabeth Muchoki, taking the GAVI Deputy CEO Anuradha Gupta through a KANCO photo speak presentation on implementation of activities towards demand creation for immunization, during the partners meeting**

GAVI HLM delegates, Kenya GAVI partners and Alliance Partners on the 13<sup>th</sup> of November 2019, held a briefing forum on the overview of the immunization programme in Kenya. The forum led by the National Immunization and Vaccines Programme (NVIP), delved on the issues of coverage and equity.

Addressing the forum, Dr. Tabu, Head NVIP, noted that there has been significant improvement in immunization coverage between 2017 and 2018 from 82-92 percent coverage respectively. *“The counties with less than 50% coverage are getting fewer and fewer with the government being deliberate to increase visibility and tailor actions that would improve immunization coverage countrywide”* he noted. He however shared that Kenya is among the top 10 countries with unvaccinated children, reiterating the government’s commitment to increase the immunization uptake in the country, an example being the presidential directive for a Rapid Results initiative in 2018.

Addressing the forum, Anuradha Gupta, the Deputy CEO GAVI, commended Kenya’s efforts in improving the immunization coverage and focus on realization of Universal Health Coverage. *“For immunization to succeed in any nation, it is important that Vaccines, Vaccinators and the Vaccines all work seamlessly to realise the goal of a fully immunized children. It is imperative that all dots connect to wane any negative impacts that are often driven by vaccine outages, human resources and the general service experience”* she impressed.

She shared that GAVI’s current focus is on the zero dose child in the spirit of leaving no one behind, and thus committed to improving coverage and equity. *“Zero dose children are symptoms of communities that have no access to other basic services such as nutrition, water etc”* she observed. She added that currently there are about 10.4 Million zero dose children spread across 68 countries and about 7 Million of them live below the poverty line. *“These large numbers reminds us of the work that still lies ahead with the understanding that Poverty is the biggest barrier to immunization services and therefore poverty must be our lens to viewing access to services”*



Kenya has about 200,000 zero dose children who need to be reached. Gupta added that as the country moves towards UHC, there is need for a strategy to anchor immunization into the national UHC agenda as one of the best strategies to realization of UHC. She further impressed on the need to consider strategies that bring together different stakeholders to effectively reach the unreached children through an integrated system to cater for the poorest of the poor and hard to reach.

Dr. Rudi Eggers, WHO Country Representative, impressed on the need for the government to step up supervision to ensure uniformity of services, being precise on the focus on low performing areas and leveraging on the multiple entry points to enhance coverage. He further impressed on the importance of data and proper interpretation to effectively design specific interventions that works to facilitate a tailored response.



Deputy CEO GAVI, Anuradha Gupta, Making remarks during the GAVI partners meeting

## International Conference on Population and Development ICPD25



**ICPD25**  
International Conference on  
Population and Development

Between the 12-14 November, KANCO participated in the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), Nairobi Summit Conference convened jointly by UNFPA and the governments of Kenya and Denmark, 2019 marking the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the event. The conference aimed to mobilize the political will and financial commitments necessary to implement the ICPD Programme of Action under the theme **Accelerating the promise**, stems from the ICPD Programme of Action adopted in Cairo, Egypt 25 years ago.

The Summit opened with the release of new research data, showing the price tag to achieve “three transformative results” -- zero maternal deaths, zero unmet need for family planning, and zero gender-based violence and harmful practices -- within the next decade. The total cost to the world would be \$264 billion, according to the analysis by UNFPA and the Johns Hopkins University, in collaboration with Victoria University, the

University of Washington and Avenir Health.

The Summit addressed various themes covering: Power of gender equality, Youth leadership and community leadership, innovation, data use, partnerships and financing for SRHR to accelerate progress, Universal access to SRH education, demographic diversity to drive economic growth and achieve sustainable development.



Making opening remarks for the conference, H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta, relayed Kenya's commitment to Ending gender-based violence and harmful practices including FGM saying *'Because our women are the gatekeepers to family health, they exert such a powerful influence on intergenerational outcomes for their children,..'* "Empowering women essentially empowers all our families. It empowers our societies. It empowers our nations. It empowers our world."

The Nairobi Summit provided a platform for governments and other organizations to make bold commitments to transform the world by ending all maternal deaths, unmet need for family planning and gender-based violence and harmful practices against women and girls by 2030. Over 1,000 political and financial commitments were mobilized, commitments urgently needed to save millions of lives & empower women. It also raised the voices of marginalized communities, youth and grassroots advocates, who were able to directly engage heads of state and policymakers about how to realize the rights and health of all people.

### Upcoming Events:

- ♦ **First Annual Kenya Mental Health Conference** (21-22nd November 2019)
- ♦ **Launch of the Kenya Cost Of Hunger Study** (21 November 2019)
- ♦ **Malaria target Setting Meeting** (18th-22nd November 2019)

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