

Launch of the Cost of Hunger in Africa Study



The CS Health Hon. Sicily Kariuki Officiating the Launch of the COHA

- ◆ Launch of the Cost of Hunger in Africa Study
- ◆ Kenya's first Mental Health Conference
- ◆ 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence
- ◆ Communication hacks for Social Media
- ◆ Drumming Support for the HPV Vaccine

The cost of child undernutrition to our economy is Ksh. 373.9 billion, which represents a loss of 6.9 percent of our GDP as at 2014- Ukur Yatani Cabinet secretary of national treasury

KANCO participated in the cost of hunger in Africa (coha) study launch on the 21 September 2019 at the KICC, Nairobi. The study sought to estimate the social and economic costs and implication of hunger on health, education and labor productivity. This was towards generating evidence for the need to increase investment in nutrition and to recommend actions to inform and support the concept of human capital gain that will catalyze implementation of Kenya's big four agenda and vision 2030 as well as caution on the cost of inaction in addressing hunger and malnutrition.

Addressing the delegates during the launch Cabinet secretary of the National Treasury Hon. Ukur Yatani stated, "The cost of child undernutrition to our economy is Ksh. 373.9 billion, which represents a loss of 6.9 percent of our GDP as at 2014." This loss to the GDP is equated to the revenue allocated to the Forty-Seven (47) County Governments in Kenya in 2019/20 financial year. He reiterated the government's commitment to end hunger and strengthen the health systems stating "Kenya has undertaken the COHA study for empirical evidence that will go a long way in complimenting the government's commitments in fighting hunger and related health challenges."

In a speech read by the Cabinet Secretary for Health Sicily Kariuki, on behalf of President Uhuru Kenyatta, the President stated "The study touched on two pillars in our Big Four Agenda, Food and Nutrition and Universal Healthcare, a clear indication on the relevance of the study to our key priority policy objectives and the long term development goals." The president reiterated on the government's commitment to ensuring that the constitutional provisions in article 43 and 53 are met that stipulate the right to be free from hunger and every child having a basic right to nutrition respectively. He added that Kenya was on course in addressing stunting from 33% in 1994 to 26% in 2014 stating "As a Government, we are committed to reducing the stunting rates to 14.5% by 2030, I call upon the County Governments to formulate and develop specific policies based on the recommendations stipulated in the study report and implement them seamlessly with the goal of achieving our health-



-care and nutrition objectives and saving the loss of our GDP. Development of County Specific nutrition strategies, is no longer a choice but mandatory.” he stated

The president further called on the urgent scale up and diverse financing for good nutrition for a healthy and productive nation to address malnutrition.

Kenya’s first Mental Health Conference



Hon Sabina Chege, Chair of the Parliamentary Health Committee Making remarks during the Conference

KANCO participated and wrote a blog on [the state of mental health in Kenya](#) ahead of the first mental health conference in Kenya under the theme "A conference to positioning mental health as a key public health agenda."

WHO reports indicate that between 10-20 per cent of children and adolescents suffer from mental illnesses globally and most people who contemplate suicide could be suffering from mental health problems. In 2017 the WHO ranked Kenya 6th in Africa on depression levels,

estimating that about 4.4 percent of Kenya’s population suffered from depression in 2015, with half of those committing suicide being the youth. It is also estimated that 1 out of every 4 Kenyans suffers from a mental health illness at some point in their lives. Compounding mental health challenges is stigma, the criminal justice system that looks like attempted suicide as a criminal offence and the gap in the health care systems as well as policy implementation.

The Conference sought to push for the: Official launch and implementation of the WHO sponsored Quality Rights Initiative in Kenya; Proper utilization of the Kenya Mental Health Policy (2015-2030) by relevant stakeholders; Alignment of the Kenya’s mental health policy with national frameworks such as Vision 2030, Kenya Health Policy, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Global Mental Health Action Plan; Fitting mental health into Kenya’s Universal Health Care (UHC) agenda; Address of

the systemic challenges and emerging trends in Kenya's mental health landscape.

The conference further focused on strategies to: Fast-track the implementation of the Mental Health Amendment Bill (2018), increase multi-sectoral and stakeholder engagement in the mental health redress to enhance creation of diverse solutions to emerging mental health problems as well as strengthening of the connection between mental health and human rights

Commitments made during this conference include:

- ◆ The restructuring, renovation and the eventual autonomy of Mathare Hospital as a state parastatal addressing mental health issues exclusively
- ◆ The full implementation of the Mental Health Amendment Bill into mental health service delivery and the treatment of people living with mental health challenges.
- ◆ Creation of mental health sensitization programs and their subsequent introduction in institutions such as workplaces, schools and places of worship.
- ◆ Increased investment in mental health at both the county and national level.

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence



KANCO has been participating in the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, an initiative of the Women's Global Leadership Institute as an organizing strategy by individuals and organizations around the world to call for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls.

The annual event runs between the 25 November on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women November and 10th December there the globe marks the Human Rights Day.

The 16 days of activism are in support of the Women's Global Leadership Institute initiative, under the leadership of the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres under the UNiTE campaign towards ending violence against women by 2030. The campaign calls for global actions to increase awareness, galvanize advocacy efforts and share knowledge and innovations.

To join the campaign you can share your photos, messages and videos showing how you are participating in the campaign on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter using #OrangeTheWorld and #GenerationEquality.

Communication hacks for Social Media

Social media is emerging as the next frontier for communication, given its wide usage and reach. It has become part of the everyday organizations work and lives creating alternative and reliable channels to amplify the organizational work. It has also become an important gateway to fundraising by profiling the organizational brand when used efficiently.

Things to Consider:

- ◆ Identify who we are trying to reach
- ◆ What do we want them to do?
- ◆ Communicate how success will look like
- ◆ Understand what else is happening on the internet to effectively position yourself
- ◆ Use a relatable voice: simple easy to understand language, play to the emotion to nudge people to take action
- ◆ Think about who will need to sign this off
- ◆ Evaluate the likely impact
- ◆ Measure against yourself (For example see your retweets, shares, hearts, commentary, tone, topic followers earned or lost) and against others, see what they are doing better than you and learn

Quality of Voice

- ◆ Use an empowering voice—the ability to take action and make impact , to be part of a bigger whole
- ◆ Use a steady voice – be firm and hopeful
- ◆ Principled- Communicate organizational values, that represents who we are , what we do and why we do it
- ◆ Respectful- speak truth to power and always be respectful to institutions
- ◆ Inclusive- Never create divides ‘We’ vs. ‘Them’ instead communicate as “ We are them”

Drumming Support for HPV Vaccine in Kiambu County

KANCO through the GAVI/HSS project partnered with the Kiambu County Women Representative Hon Gathoni Wamuchomba in hosting the County talent show dubbed “ Stars are Made.” The event was also supported by the National government and a host of other stakeholders. KANCO through the Women Representative used the platform to advocate for uptake of the HPV Vaccine. Addressing the forum she called on the residents to take all their 10 year old girls to get the HPV vaccine saying it is the only way to stop cancer that’s ravaging our women.



L-R Participants during the Kiambu County Talent show following proceedings, R– Hon Gathoni Wamuchomba, Women Representative Kiambu County, talking about Cervical cancer during the forum



Left: Cabinet Secretary for the Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs ,Margaret Kobia addressing the forum, and Right: Youth donning t-shirts drumming support for immunization

Upcoming Events:

- ◆ ICASA 2019: 2nd -7th December 2019
- ◆ 14 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence-Ongoing 25th November –10th December 2019
- ◆ GAVI-HSS County RRI Review Forums in-Mandera and Tanariver Counties Ongoing

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