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## Planning for 2020: ACTION Partnership Leadership meeting

*The change we want in the world: better and equitable health and nutrition, and the systems to maintain them—ACTION*

The KANCO Executive Director, Allan Ragi, who is also the chairperson of the ACTION partnership joined ACTION partnership leaders for a forum in Seattle to plan for the partnership 2020 engagements. ACTION is a partnership of locally rooted organizations around the world that advocate for life-saving care for millions of people who are threatened by preventable diseases. The leadership group is the body responsible for ensuring that the shared vision, mission, values, and strategic aims of the partnership are upheld in the three areas of focus: **End the Epidemics, Healthy Start, and Equitable and Sustainable Systems** with an ultimate goal to **achieve health equity**.

The partnership envisions a world where there is better and equitable health and nutrition, and the systems to maintain them and they use advocacy as the driver to end the epidemics, giving all children a healthy start, with equal opportunity for girls and women to thrive, and building equitable and sustainable systems.

ACTION main strategy is advocacy for: investments in effective health services by governments in their own countries and globally, policy change informed by collective expertise about political systems, policy options informed by proven health interventions and gaps in research and development (R&D); and foster and maintain accountability to ensure that investments and policies translate into practice and into health impact. It further develops accountability tools, skills training, and policy analysis to support civil society in countries where there is not a formal ACTION partner.

The 5 days leadership forum facilitated discussions amongst the leadership group on development and taking forward the partnerships 2020 advocacy agenda, towards the realization of health equity.

# Review of TB Management Guidelines



Delegates during the TB guidelines review meeting held in Nyeri County

WHO held a Guidance Development Group (GDG) meeting to review the South African data on the TB modified shorter oral regimens. A rapid communication was made in December 2019, with WHO recommending for shorter oral regimens. This has implications on the regimens that Kenya has designed, after extensive consultations and implementation considerations, The guideline has also been reviewed. The rapid communication also affects the countries plan for the regimens to be implemented for the shorter oral regimens.

In view of the above, the Ministry of Health in Kenya has been implementing a transition plan towards the oral regimens for Drug Resistant TB and the transition date remained 1st January 2020. The proposed regimens for Multi Drug Resistant/Rifampicin Resistance (MDR/RR) are to be administered over 18 months. The longer duration was a concern considering the country had implemented short term regimen in October 2017. Shorter oral regimens could only be implemented through Oral Route (OR) . A protocol has been in development for this regimen.

The National TB, Leprosy, Lung Disease convened a Technical Working Group meeting with members of the Programmatic Management of Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis (PMDT) in a forum where KANCO was represented by the Campaigns manager, Rahab Mwaniki. Kenya intends to transitions to the new longer oral regimens, and therefore this necessitated the development of new TB guidelines to be used in the country. This will help in consolidating the TB guidelines to one document and still have the other documents for references and update the TB treatment regimens to longer oral regimens.

# Exploring Partnerships for Nutrition

KANCO held a meeting with the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), Embassy of the USA and the USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council representatives Carol Kamau the Agricultural Marketing Specialist and Johanna Stabbs USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council Regional Representatives respectively. The forum sought to discuss feasible partnerships in efforts towards enhancing nutrition outcomes, in appreciation of the intersection between health and nutrition.



KANCO team and the visiting team holding discussion during the meeting at the KANCO boardroom



## Upcoming Events:

- ◆ GF/HIV RDQA– 23Rrd January 2020
- ◆ KANCO staff planning Meeting—27-28th January 2020
- ◆ Ongoing– Cervical Cancer Awareness Month
- ◆ World Leprosy Awareness Day –30th January 2020

## CONTACTS

**Regent Management Limited Courts/ Opposite Nairobi Women's  
Hospital/**

**Argwings Kodhek Road/ Block C**

**P.O. Box 69866 – 00400 Nairobi – Kenya**

**Email: [kanco@kanco.org](mailto:kanco@kanco.org)**

Compiled by: Wachira Charity – Communications Officer.

Contributign Writer:- Rahab Mwaniki– Campaigns Manager

Reviewed by: Bernadette Mwikali– Communication, Research and Documentation  
Advisor



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