In 2014, Her Excellency Margaret Kenyatta, the First Lady of the Republic of Kenya launched the Beyond Zero campaign driven by the need to end preventable maternal and child deaths. The initiative has been working by calling to action policy prioritization and formulation, increased resource allocation, improved service delivery and better individual health seeking behaviors and practices. Through this high level advocacy platform, the First Lady leverages on her convening power to bring to focus key challenges facing Kenyans and building strategic partnerships that will address these challenges.

In the fifth edition of the beyond zero safaris launch, KANCO partnered with Nairobi County in support of the first lady Beyond Zero Initiative to offer immunization and child health services during the three day medical camp running from the 22nd-24th January 2020. Beyond zero is a charitable organization providing free medical services across the 47 counties. Addressing the forum, the First lady reiterated her commitment to supporting the health cause and in particular meeting the World Health Organization (WHO) target of eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV and Syphilis. She added that Universal Health Coverage (UHC) remains a priority delivered through people centered quality care. She ap-
preciated the multi-stakeholder support and partnership, citing the most important partner as that with the community.

‘I am committed to accelerate the prevention of mother to child transition of HIV and syphilis and that is why today I’m helping Nairobi county to launch the Tulinde Kizazi jijini framework and the eMTCT Business plan, to guide the City County in the delivery of health services. I also encourage Nairobi County to commit to and invest resources towards our shared goal of zero new mother to child HIV infections.’

She added that Beyond Zero will be launching four more medical safaris in 2020, to further the vision of the establishment. She also impressed on the need to upgrade Mama Lucy Hospital and Mbagathi Hospital to level 5 to help improve on health care service delivery.

The CS health Sicily Karuki, making her remarks appreciated her Excellency the first lady for her support to the health dock- et through her exemplary leadership and dedication, noting that her support had been instrumental in laying the foundation for UHC. She reiterated that the Ministry of Health’s approach is the primary health care service delivery, through strengthening the health care delivery system, with emphasis on tailoring county specific response plans to achieve UHC.

She stated that despite her move to the Ministry of Water and Sanitation, she was keen to continue supporting health and facilitating a seamless transition. The CS further stated that Kenya had enhanced its alertness to coronavirus through enhancing screening at entry points, enhanced alertness in hospitals and creating isolation spaces. She emphasized on the need to observe basic hygiene as a proactive measure to safeguarding our communities.

Dr. Patrick the Senior Deputy Director of Medical Services, commended the first lady for initiating the beyond zero campaign saying it had touched lives, impacted health and communities. The Speaker of the Nairobi County Assembly Hon. Beatrice Elachi stated that the First Lady had given us the opportunity and challenge to be the change we want to see. In the three days, KANCO and the Nairobi County Health team reached hundred of children with vaccine and child health services while thousands members of public sought various free health services
GAVI-HSS Manager Elizabeth Muchoki with the Nairobi County Health Team registering patient during the Beyond Zero Safari Launch

Nutrition Officer KANCO– Esther Kagure taking notes at the nutrition assessment desk during the launch

Nairobi County residents seeking different health services during the Beyond Zero Safari Launch event

KANCO Executive Director Allan Ragi among the delegates following the Launch proceedings

GAVI-HSS Manager Elizabeth Muchoki explaining about the HPV vaccine to 10 year old girls during the Launch

A ten year old receiving a HPV jab during the event
ADVANCING THE RIGHT TO FOOD THROUGH THE UN-UPR FORUM

For the first time in Kenya the Right to Food has been recognized and used as a parameter to evaluate the state of human rights under the United Nations Universal Periodic Review (UN-UPR), 3rd Cycle on human rights.

The United Nations Universal Period Review looks at the state of human rights in member countries through a Peer review approach towards improving the human rights situation at the country level. The fulfilment of the State’s human rights obligations and commitments and assessment of positive developments and challenges faced by the State.

Ahead of the UPR Geneva Convention, a number of in-country engagements took place including the UPR in-country pre-sessions, and national CSOs-Government name with KANCO leading the CSOs delegation, in championing the right to food. KANCO was the delegated convener for the right to food, bringing to attention right to food as an important parameter for evaluation of the state of human rights for the first time in the UPR forum.

From these engagements, CSOs developed a position paper that made seven recommendations towards enhancing food and nutrition security and realization of the right to food. Among the recommendations was to anchor nutrition in the Office of the president to enhance coordination of the multi-sectoral players in line with the food security and nutrition Policy implementation framework.

The position paper was shared with the UN office of the high commissioner on Human Rights which subsequently saw the recommendation of the right to food forwarded by Kenya, endorsed by four United Nations Member states.

As a follow up to the UPR recommendation in Geneva, SUN-Movement members including KANCO drafted a letter to the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government, seeking dialogue to FastTrack implementation for the UPR recommendation and food security and nutrition Policy implementation framework. The discussions were held with Director of Administration at the office of the President Mr. Paul Famba, towards anchoring nutrition in the office of the president for better coordination in line with the food security and nutrition under the government’s Big 4 agenda.

See full UPR declaration here with the recommendations for the right to food.
Following an invitation from the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), the Eastern Africa National Networks of AIDS and Health Service Organizations (EANNASO), organized a one day CSO meeting and a day EALA legislators orientation meeting at Kiriri Garden hotel on 23rd January and 24th and 25th January respectively 2020 in Bujumbura, Burundi. The meeting aimed at discussing the Sexual and Reproductive Health Bill in the East Africa Community region.

The Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) Bill, 2017, is a private Member’s Bill, which was introduced in the 3rd EALA assembly by Hon. Dr. Odette Nyiramilimo. While drafting the Bill, she enlisted technical support and collaboration from the EAC Secretariat, United Nations Population Fund UNFPA-ESARO, World Bank, UNESCO- Eastern Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO), IPPF ARO and EANNASO.

The Bill is premised on Article 118 of the Treaty for the Establishment of East African Community, which provides for cooperation in health and promoting the management of health delivery systems and better planning mechanisms to enhance efficiency of health care services, harmonization of national health polices and regulation in order to achieve quality health in the Community and cooperating in the development of specialized health training, health research, reproductive health, pharmaceutical products and preventive medicine.

The pre EALA CSOs meetings, convened by EANNASO provided CSOs with an opportunity to voice SHRHR the issues across the region and ensure that CSOs voices were captured ahead of the members of the Legislative assembly engagement.

EANNASO Board Chairperson addressing the forum stated ‘Adolescents Girls and Young Women are 3 times more likely to get HIV compared to boys, systems and policies that don’t address needs of young people make it difficult to get service.’ He stated that the bill sought to promote better planned mechanisms and harmonization of health policies to achieve quality health outcomes. He reiterated that it’s an opportunity to make history together and finish what they had started.

On the 24th & 25th of January 2020, following the sensitization of the EALA representatives, they adopted the bill with amendments under the general purpose committee, to be followed by country deliberations after which it will be reviewed by the general purpose committee.
KANCO held a three days reflection and planning workshop for 2020 (28th-31st January 2020), drawing key lessons from 2019 and planning what to take forward in line with the four organizational strategic objectives: Improving Access to Health, Health Policy and Advocacy, Strengthening the Consortium Membership and Research, Learning and Innovation.

The last day also saw the GAVI-HSS project implementing partners come together for a joint planning and review of the projects.
Upcoming Events:

- Training on Story telling on Immunization and Child Health by Moth - 2nd-5th February 2020
- World Tuberculosis (TB) Day - 24th March 2020
- CHREAD 2020 AGM - 4th-5th February 2020
- High Level Engagements on CAPR reporting - 5th February 2020

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