



# Weekly Newsletter

March 2020\_Issue 2

## Upcoming....

### 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> March 2020:

- *Country Dialogue on Pediatric Health to inform Kenya's Funding Request to the Global Fund*
- *World TB Day 2020*
- *UPR Convener's 3<sup>rd</sup> Cycle, UPR Inception Meeting*
- *Launch of IFR for Treatment of Drug Resistant TB and LTBI Treatment Initiative Meeting*

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## KANCO at the Beyond Zero Half Marathon 2020

KANCO participated in the 5th Edition of the Beyond Zero Half Marathon, an initiative led by H.E the First Lady of Kenya Margaret Kenyatta under the Beyond Zero campaign. The initiative aims to mobilize and provide leadership towards ending new HIV infection and reducing the number of deaths among women and children in Kenya.

Speaking during the Marathon which was graced by H.E the president H.E Uhuru Kenyatta. The First Lady in her speech stated that the Marathon was towards zero maternal deaths, zero FGM and Obstetrician fistula and stopping early marriages.

She added that the marathon contributes to the health care reforms by complimenting the efforts of the national and county governments, highlighting some of the reforms that the campaign had brought into place including: Introduction of free services for women through the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF), introduction of the Linda Mama Project, increased ART coverage for HIV positive mothers, awareness for stigma reduction, increased immunization coverage, screening for reproductive health cancers among other health services.

She stated that in 2020, the focus is on adolescents and young people, towards creating momentum, mobilizing leadership and commitment for better results in HIV control, through working together on awareness for better health choices. She added that the beyond zeros Campaign will host 4 more medical safaris, upgrade of 4 medical facilities across the country and support training of health care workers.



H.E the First Lady Margate Kenyatta Flagging off the Marathon



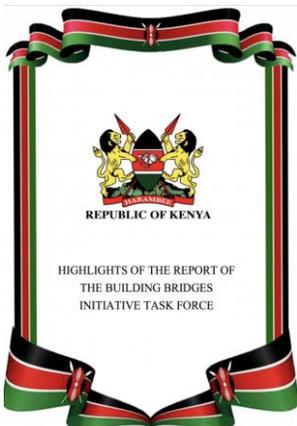
Part of the KANCO team during the 10KMs corporate race

## Health CSOs Voices in the Building Bridges Initiative (BBI)

KANCO joined health CSOs under the Health NGOs Network (HENNET), in a meeting where they held discussion on the implications of the Building Bridge Initiative (BBI) Report on health sector and access to health for Kenyans. The meeting which was held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March 2020, sought to make recommendations to the BBI report to effectively address the health challenges in the country towards realization of Universal Health Coverage.

In a statement read to the media, the network recommended the establishment of a strong health service commission to effectively manage human resources for health and support the overall coordination of the health functions. The statement read by the network CEO Dr. Mercy Onsando, on the proposed commission stated it would help in managing human resources for health for improved access and quality delivery of health care. Read more:

<https://www.lolwe.tv/health-csos-want-a-strong-health-service-commission-by-eddy-nyadwa/>



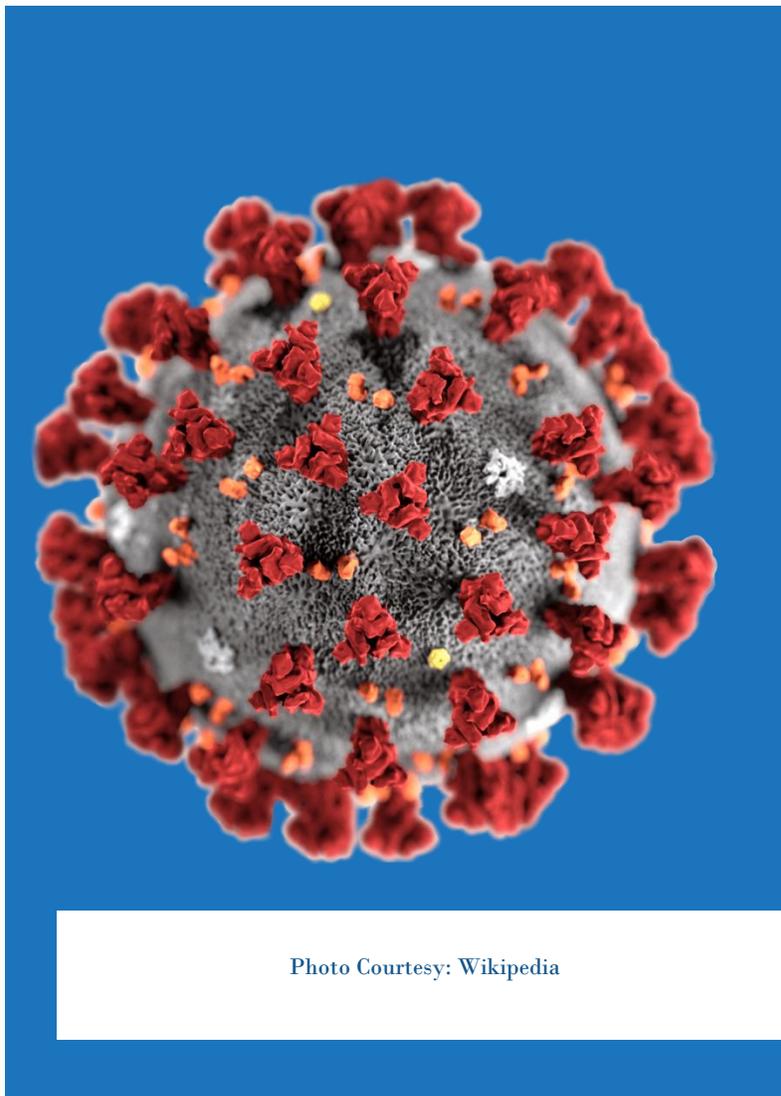
## WHO Declares Corona Virus a Global Pandemic

On March 11 the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic, pointing to the over 118,000 cases of the coronavirus illness in over 110 countries and territories around the world and the sustained risk of further global spread.

According to the WHO, an epidemic refers to an uptick in the spread of a disease within a specific community. Since the outbreak in China, WHO reports that the number of cases of COVID-19 outside China has increased 13-fold, and the number of affected countries has tripled.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of March, Kenya reported the first confirmed case, joining the 142 countries that have so far recorded the outbreak.

Read more: <https://time.com/5791661/who-coronavirus-pandemic-declaration/>



## Launch of TB Algorithms for Early TB Screening in Schools



Students at the Nairobi Primacy School during the TB algorithm for early screening launch procession

KANCO partnered with Nairobi County to launch the Algorithm for early TB screening in schools. These guidelines inform on the signs and symptoms of TB for ease of screening, shares important follow up actions after screening when a TB case is confirmed. It further shares on how TB is spread, who is at risk of getting TB, with emphasis on screening and treatment adherence.

The event which started with a procession from Uhuru Park to Nairobi Primary school, saw the participation of the Nairobi County CEC, Primary school pupils, TB Champions, and other TB stakeholders.

This comes a few days before the World TB day, which will be marked on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March 2020. Towards the day KANCO is partnering with National Tuberculosis And Lung Diseases (NTLD) programme, to host a number of Football matches in Meru County towards the National celebration which will be held in the County

As part of UNDP's project dubbed "**Leveraging evidence and lessons learned: Advocacy for scale up of regional key population programs**" a workshop towards converging lessons learned from regional HIV programs with Key Populations in Johannesburg, South Africa.

KANCO was among 20 participants selected to attend, based on the in-depth experience of relevant regional work with the most recent experience being, leading the implementation of *Eastern Africa HIV and Harm Reduction* project that targeted people who are injecting drugs in eight Eastern Africa Countries.

UNAIDS estimates that 54% of new HIV infections globally in 2019, were among key populations; men who have sex with men, sex workers, transgender people, people who inject drugs, prisoners and their sexual partners.

A significant percentage of new HIV infections are among key populations and their partners; Africa 95% , Middle East/North Africa 64% in West and Central Africa 25% in Eastern and Southern Africa.

Programming for these populations continue to be compounded by; resource limitations with most of key populations programming being donor funded; Lack of political will to work with marginalized groups and/or Lack of technical capacity making structural and social barriers that make traditional prevention and care approaches less effective.

Further, despite the potential role of regional initiatives to strengthen HIV responses with and for key populations, many international funders either under-invest in such approaches or decline to fund multi-country or regional work at all. Notably, the Global Fund in 2018 to ceased funding regional key population projects in Sub-Saharan Africa (while continuing to fund such work in other regions), justifying their decision by pointing to the increasing amount of key population focused funding within country-specific Global Fund projects. Similarly, the United States Government (USG) has dramatically reduced funding for regional work in Africa under its PEPFAR programme. Informal conversations with representatives of these institutions have highlighted widespread scepticism about the relevance and efficacy of regional (as opposed to country specific) work.

With this background, the UNDP workshop managed to: Identify key lessons, challenges and insights from previous regional and multi-country work related to key populations in Africa region; Advocacy and communication strategies that could increase support for such work among potential donors was discussed and developed. Further recommendations made for current and future managers and implementers of similar work, including an anticipated forthcoming Sida-funded UNDP-convened initiative intended to promote rights and inclusion of sexual and gender minorities in Sub-Saharan Africa.



End term Evaluation of the Eastern Africa HIV and Harm Reduction Project

Implemented in Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritius, Seychelles, Tanzania, Uganda and Zanzibar

## Launch of Lactation Stations at the workplace

Kenya is committed to achieve global, regional and national targets for nutrition, including the sustainable development goal (SDG 2) on nutrition (end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture) and SDG 3 (ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages). The Kenya Constitution article 53 (1c) guarantees children the right to nutrition as a fundamental human right. Further, Kenya Vision 2030, the country's development blueprint covering the period 2008 to 2030 aims to transform Kenya into a newly industrialized, "middle-income country providing a high-quality life to all citizens by the year 2030." The vision for health in Kenya is to provide "equitable and affordable health care of the highest attainable standard" to her citizens. Good health and nutrition is expected to play an important role in boosting economic growth, poverty reduction and the realization of social goals.



There is demonstrated evidence on the impact feeding practices have on the nutritional status, growth, development, health, and survival of infants and young children. Breastfeeding is recommended for protection of the child through strengthened immunity. Exclusive breastfeeding should be for six months with continued breastfeeding for up to two years of age or beyond. Breastfeeding is also beneficial to the mother as it promotes weight management.

Having a nursing room can help ease the transition period for new mothers who are returning to work after their maternity leave. In addition, having a mother's room helps keep employees happy, which means they are more likely to stay at the company.

In order to support lactation, the Ministry of Health through the Nutrition department launched a model lactation station at the workplace. Further with collaboration with the ministry of health, Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) has set up 24 lactation stations among its members, efforts commended by Dr. Pacifica Onyancha, Head Prevention and Promotive Services, MoH saying as they'll go a long way in supporting breastfeeding efforts. Despite these efforts. There is more to be done to ensure that all employers support the breastfeed initiative.



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