

Facts on immunization and the #COVID19 Pandemic:

- ❖ *It is safe to vaccinate children during the Pandemic*
- ❖ *Vaccination does not increase a child's risk of contracting #COVID19*
- ❖ *Vaccines are critical in protecting against Vaccine Preventable Diseases*
- ❖ *Immunization sessions: are conducted in facilities with adequate infection prevention measures that minimizes any potential risk of children getting COVID-19.*



Weekly # vaccinesWork # ImmuniseEveryChild

Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1, June 2020

Announcement

- *World Breastfeeding: First week, August 2020*

Inside This Issue

PG. 2

Engagement and Mobilizing Communities for Immunization duration and Post the Pandemic

PG. 3

Marking the World Hepatitis Day 2020

PG. 4

Mobilizing Grassroots Leadership to Support Immunization

Engaging and Mobilizing Communities for Immunization during and pots the Pandemic

KANCO in partnership with the National Vaccine Immunization Program (NVIP), on July 31, 2020, hosted an immunization webinar dubbed, **‘Community Engagement and Community Mobilization: Immunization beyond and during Covid-19.’** This was the second webinar in a series of bi-weekly forums addressing immunization.

Addressing the forum, Allan Ragi Executive Director KANCO, observed *'For immunization to be accessible, we need every stakeholder on board. We must be deliberate on investing in immunization through accelerated budget execution and release and enhance a community led response'*

Mr. Samson Thuo Lead Advocacy Communication and Social Mobilization, NVIP, noted that the pandemic has generally created interruptions in healthcare delivery including immunization, saying it's critical to ensure that no child is left out. He shared the facts around immunization and Covid-19 to allay fears that have been circulated around immunization saying *"It is safe to vaccinate children during the Pandemic; Vaccination does not increase a child's risk of contracting COVID19. Vaccines are critical in protecting against Vaccine Preventable Diseases and Immunization sessions are conducted in facilities with adequate infection prevention measures that minimizes any potential risk of children getting COVID-19'.*

Dr, Jalang'o NVIP, shared that there are sufficient vaccines and clarified that children are not expected to wear mask as they access services except the children coming for the HPV vaccine. Speaking on the importance of Community Health

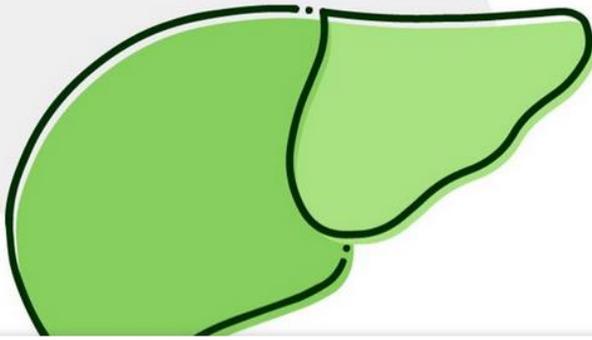
The banner features a blue and green color scheme with a wavy border. At the top right, it states 'Friday: July 31, 2020' and 'Time: 12-1.30 PM'. Below this, it says 'Free Webinar' and 'Register here: <https://bit.ly/30Fd1o0>'. The main title is 'Community Engagement and Social Mobilization: Immunization During and Beyond COVID 19'. A moderator is listed as 'Moderator: Elizabeth Muchoki, Health Systems Strengthening Manager, KANCO'. Five speakers are shown in circular portraits with their names and titles: Allan Ragi (Executive Director, KANCO), Dr. Rose Jalango (National Vaccines Immunization Programme, NVIP), Samson Thuo (Head Advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilization-NVIP), Christine Wangeci (Health Promotion Officer, NVIP), and Isabella Ndwiga (Programme Officer, Division of Health Promotion). Logos for KANCO and Gavi are at the bottom.

workers, as frontline health workers at the community level, Christine Wangeci, Health Promotion officer, observed they play a critical role in educating, screening, and referring and reporting health issues at the community level. She noted that *"It's important that we think about protecting our children while responding to COVID19"* she underscored on the need for proper facilitation for CHVs to ensure the safety to facilitate the effectively carry our work during the pandemic. She impressed on the need to protect yourself, the ones you love and the community.

Discussing the myths and misconception on routine immunization, Ms. Isabela Ndwiga, Program Officer, NVIP, impressed on the need to address the present and emerging myths saying that they destroy well-meaning programs like immunization and exacerbate the risk of diseases.

Making closing remarks Mr. Ragi observed *"With government leadership, political goodwill and bringing communities together we can make a lot of different."* He impressed on the need to leverage existing resources including the media to promote the right messages for immunization.

Hepatitis-free future



325

million people are living with viral hepatitis
B and C



900,000

deaths per year caused by hepatitis B virus
infection



10

% of people living with hepatitis B and 19%
living with hepatitis C know their hepatitis
status



42

% of children, globally, have access to the
birth dose of the hepatitis B vaccine

Courtesy of WHO

KANCO joined global health stakeholders to mark the world hepatitis day (WHD) 2020, in a forum convened by the WHO on the 28th July 2020 under the theme a Hepatitis-Free World. The meeting focused on the review of the progress and challenges towards prevention of mother to child transmission of hepatitis B, Service disruptions and impact on hepatitis services due to the pandemic, as well as the launch of the new WHO guidelines on the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of the hepatitis B virus.

The World Hepatitis Day is an annual event marked on the 28th of July that seeks to enhance awareness of viral hepatitis, an inflammation of the liver that causes a range of health problems, including liver cancer. Globally 325million people are living with viral hepatitis B and C, with an estimated 900,000 deaths annually attributed to hepatitis B (HBV) infection annually. Further only 10% of people living with HBV and 19% living with hepatitis C know their hepatitis status, while only 42 % of children, globally, have access to the birth dose of the hepatitis B vaccine. In addition, the gap between prevention diagnosis, treatment and cure remains wide. Further it is estimated that the global burden of Viral Hepatitis may surpass that of HIV, Malaria and TB combined.

There are five main strains of the hepatitis virus – A, B, C, D and E. Together, hepatitis B and C are the most common cause of deaths, with 1.3 million lives lost each year. This challenge has further been exacerbated by the pandemic with hepatitis continuing to claim thousands of lives every day.

The celebrations also saw the WHO launch the [new recommendations on the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of the virus](#). This is towards the global goal to reduce the prevalence of HBV to 0.1% in children 5 years of age. The recommendation calls for universal immunization of newborns against hepatitis B and other interventions to prevent of mother-to-child transmission of HBV.

Speaking at the forum the WHO Director General WHO, Dr. Tedros Adhanom impressing on the need to invest more in health and health systems as demonstrated by the pandemic he noted “Health is not a reward for development, but a foundation for development.” He commended Egypt for the leadership towards eliminating Hepatitis in line with the Universal Health Coverage.

The First Lady Egypt, H.E Amira Elfadil speaking at the forum called on the urgent need to respond to viral hepatitis saying ‘ We need to strengthen our health systems, be deliberate in resources allocation for health and develop a road map that guides our actions, to achieve not only the viral hepatitis elimination goal but also for UHC.’

The Global Fund representative at the forum reiterated on the Global Funds commitment to addressing HIV, TB and Malaria and other commodities including viral Hepatitis. She however noted that the greatest challenge is sub optimal data , inconsistency in pricing, criminalization of the targeted populations such as the people who use drugs and the missed integration opportunities.

Making the closing remarks Dr. Ren Minghui, WHO Assistant Director-General Universal Health Coverage/Communicable and Non-communicable Diseases impressed on the need for greater investment in health including elimination of viral hepatitis, leveraging political good will and leveraging the resources we have to achieve UHC.

Religious Leaders sensitization on supporting immunization



Religious Leaders in Molo County showing their support for immunization

KANCO held a religious leaders sensitization meeting on immunization in Nakuru County on July 27, 2020. The forum sought to rally their support for immunization that has been adversely affected by the pandemic. After the forum, the leaders, pledged to support immunization by helping demystify the myths and misconception at the community level and sharing factual information to promote the uptake of immunization. They further pledged to work with the Ministry of Health to help identify the unimmunized children in their areas to ensure that every child gets fully immunized. The forum was part of 11 similar forums carried just concluded in the county, seeking sensitizing religious leaders on supporting immunization.

In Loving Memory of:
Inviolata M'Mbwavi



The KANCO family wishes to express our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of our colleague, partner and friend in the HIV response Ms. Inviolata M'Mbwavi.

Her relentless passion, courage and exemplary leadership in the fight against HIV and AIDS and championing women rights in Kenya, the region and Globally will be dearly missed.



Rest in Peace Inviolata and thank you.
Your legacy Lives on



@KancoKE

KANCO

www.kanco.org

@KancoKE

#StaySafe

KomeshaCorona