

HOW AFFECTED WAS IMMUNIZATIONS ?

2019-2020 immunization achievements comparison



Weekly Newsletter

August 2020, Issue 3

Announcement

World Overdose Day: August 31, 2020; Register [here](#)

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Immunization in the Informal Settlements of Nairobi, during and beyond Covid-19

KANCO in partnership with the Nairobi Metropolitan Services (NMS), held a webinar on *Immunization services in the informal settlements of Nairobi during and beyond COVID-19*, that brought together immunization stakeholders from across Kenya to share and learn.

Making opening remarks during the forum, the Executive Director KANCO, Allan Ragi, stated 'We believe that unless we pull together, we cannot deliver on health and immunization and that is why we are deliberate on engagement with different stakeholders'. He impressed that we must be able to press on with the understanding that Covid-19 is not a passing wind to ensure that the goal for universal access to health is achieved. He shared that the goal of the meeting was to see how to increase the demand for immunization services and devise workable solutions that can be supported by stakeholders to ensure that every child is immunized.

Speaking on the state of immunization in the Nairobi Metropolitan services, the Deputy Director, Preventive and Promotive Health Services NMS Dr. Thomas Ogaro noted, "The pandemic has negatively impacted immunization coverage leading to a drop of 15%-20% in the county. This calls for increased stakeholders collaborations to strengthen community engagement.' He further observed that these percentages represented too many children with most of them being from the informal settlements and further adversely affected by the pandemic.

The EPI Logistician NMS, Ms. Florence Kabuga, sharing on the impact of covid-19 on immunization shared that, there are 482 health facilities in Nairobi County, with 476 offering immunization services. She added that children in the informal settlements continue to be disproportionately affected by many challenges that have been further acerbated by the pandemic including disasters, insecurity, demolitions, movements etc., that make them easily miss out on immunization. She reiterated 'The Nairobi Metropolitan services is working to restore and sustain immunization services, because it wouldn't be right for the fight against one disease to come at the expense of Long term progress in the fight against other communicable diseases.'

She further shared that fear by both communities and health care workers, the Covid-19 directives such as the stay home order,



inadequate PPEs, perception of immunization as low risk services, increased waiting time, stigma on infected health care worker, as some of the issues that have challenged immunization under the pandemic leading to over 18% of the children being unvaccinated by June 2020.

Speaking on community engagements towards reaching every child with immunizations services, The County Strategic Focal Person Ms. Judy Wairiuko impressed on the need for increased community engagements, terming it as the continued, active participation of all stakeholders for an effective immunization response.

The County Health Promotion Coordinator Ms. Lilian Mutua impressed on the need to educate communities to increase the demand for immunization. She stated that health promotion is critical in achieving health equity, to inform, as well as device strategies that are effective in health service delivery. She added that health promotion is key to building public health policy, create a supportive environment, develop personal skills, reorient health services and address immunization barriers.

Making closing remarks, Mr. Ragi, challenged Nairobi stakeholders to remember that they are pace setters in health and thus must provide leadership for other counties. He noted that 15-20% of missed immunization opportunities are too many children, who were at risk of not achieving their full potential, thus the need to act now.

TB stakeholders Engagement on Global Fund Process



Tb stakeholders holding discussion during the meeting

KANCO hosted a TB stakeholders forum at the Panafric Hotel on 12th of August 2020 for a consultative meeting to review and discuss TB interventions and funding for TB modules ahead of the [Global Fund funding request](#).

The specific objectives of the meeting was to review, discuss and agree on community interventions and funding for state and non-state across the TB modules. The meeting came in ahead of the joint Inter agency coordinating Committee (ICC) meeting to be held next week, to be followed by the Kenya Coordinating Mechanism, (KCM) endorsement prior to submission.

The meeting facilitated discussion on TB activities around the TB modules and budgets for an effective TB response, making suggestions around care and prevention, Drug Resistant TB and HIV and TB.

Speaking at the forum, the TB representative at KCM, Mr. Philip Nywakwana, thanked KANCO for the support,

appreciating the opportunity to harmonize stakeholder's voices on the funding request documents for better representation at the ICC. He challenged that *'If we don't do it right we will be held accountable*.

The Technical Advisor TB, MOH, Dr Macharia, reiterated that the open discussions and consultations were important in ensuring that the community needs are well represented appreciating that we all come from the community. He noted that given the resources limitations, stakeholders will have further consultations to identify areas of efficiency to accommodate emerging issues.

The Global Fund Manager Dr. Caroline Asim stated that the discussions were critical to ensuring that stakeholders had consensus on the documents for ownership going forward.

The International Youth Day 2020



Image Courtesy: Collegent

KANCO joined the globe to mark the International Youth Day 2020 under the theme, *Youth Engagement for Global Action*, towards highlighting engagement of young people at all levels is enriching while seeking to see how their engagement in formal institutional politics can be significantly enhanced. This is in recognition of the youth as a pillar in economic growth.

According to KNBS data of the 35.7 million Kenyans, 75.1 percent are below 35 years, thus Kenya is generally a youthful country, who continue to bear the brunt of challenges including unemployment and health challenges further exacerbated by the pandemic.

Upcoming Event: Register for the international Overdose Webinar Event

Free Webinar

Overdose: The Pandemic within a Pandemic



Moderator: Sylvia Ayon, Key Populations Programs Manager



Allan Ragi, Executive Director, KANCO



Hon. Wamuchomba, MamaCare, Kiambu County



Dr. Michael J. Katende, East Africa Community Secretariat



John Ryan, Convenor, International Overdose Awareness Day



Helgar Musyoki, NASCOP, Ministry of Health



John Kimani, Executive Director, KENPUD



OVERDOSE DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE.

Date: 31st August 2020; Time 10.00AM-11.30 AM

Register here <https://bit.ly/2XA6WIP>

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#Stay Safe

#Komesha Corona