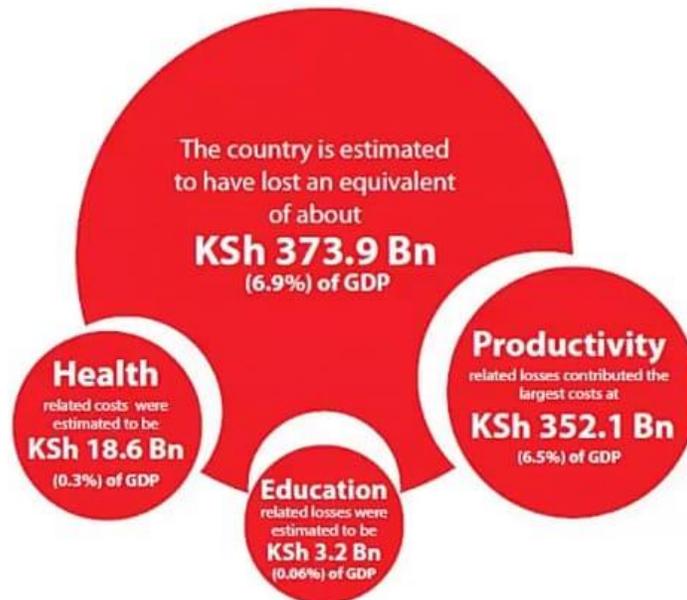


Economic Losses due to Child Undernutrition



This huge loss implies that there is need for concerted multi-sectoral efforts to address **undernutrition**

Weekly Newsletter

August 2020, Issue 4

Announcement

World Overdose Day: August 31, 2020

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Impact of Covid-19 on Child Health and Nutrition

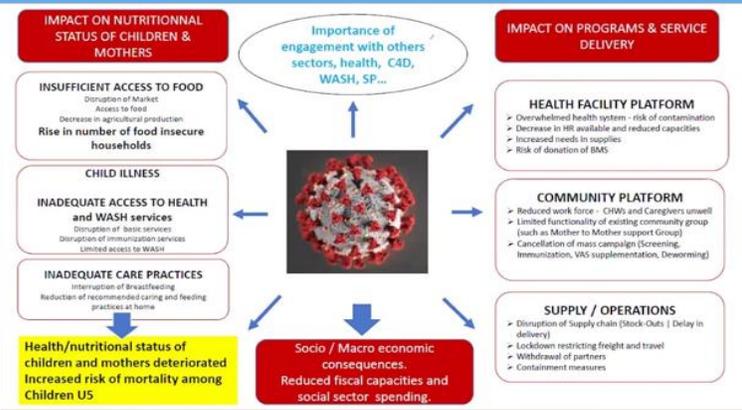
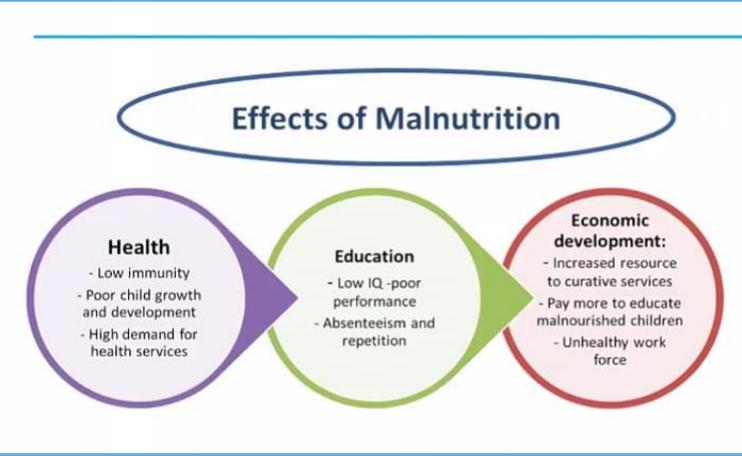
KANCO hosted a webinar that's brought together both nutrition and child health stakeholders from across Kenya to discuss the impact of the pandemic on child health and Nutrition.

Speaking during the meeting the Executive Director Allan Ragi stated 'Kenya continues to face a triple burden of malnutrition: Overweight, Underweight and stunting that has catastrophic impact on the mental and physical development of our children.' He noted that the trends in stunting, wasting and underweight have not changed much since 1998 and the latest available data being in 2014, calling on the need for recent data. He expressed 'just as we have eliminated Polio, are on the path to ending measles, hope to end deaths from Malaria and we can eliminate malnutrition in all its forms.' He added that the cost of children undernutrition in Kenya is Ksh.394Billion equal to 6.9%of the and every Ksh.100 invested in high nutrition interventions has a return on investment of Kshs.2200

Dr. Chege, Consultant Pediatrician and Lecturer Kenyatta University, sharing on the effects of Covid-19 on Child Health during the pandemic noted a that there was generally over 80% disruption in routine immunization outreach and 53% disruptions in management of nutrition, as well as a decline in the outpatient attendance and inpatient admissions for children with diarrhea, pneumonia among others and a general increase in neonatal deaths, She also noted that there was about 5% decline in immunization uptake. In terms of nutrition she noted that about 3.5 Million Kenyans are generally food insecure. " In light of this we must harness advocacy with cross sectoral leaders to ensure that we address the situation" she noted.

Addressing the forum Dr. Rose Jalong'o NVIP, noted that to achieve herd immunity, the aim for immunization coverage is 90% at national level, and 85% at county level. She noted however that Covid-19 has caused disruptions in the uptake of services, having an effect on the general health seeking behavior, drop in outpatient attendance including for children under 5 and reduced ANC Visits. She shared some key messages that the department is sharing with the public during the pandemic: "Immunization Protects Children from Vaccine preventable disease, is safe and can be taken during the pandemic; Immunization integrated with other childhood interventions promotes the wellbeing of children and HPV vaccine prevent cervical cancer"

Leila Onyango, Deputy Head of Nutrition, Ministry of Health, has



created interruptions of essential health and nutrition services. We are however urging mother's to continue breastfeeding even if they test positive as the benefits far outweigh the risks. She noted that out of the 7.22 million children under 5 years nearly 1.8 million are stunted, 290, 000 are wasted, 794200 are underweight and about 4% are obese, with the malnutrition burden varying per region. She added iron, iodine, vitamin A, and zic deficit remain a public health challenge with about 26.3% of preschoolers being anemic,33.9% have marginal vitamin A deficiency and 22.1% have iodine deficiency while majority of children are zinc deficient.

Making closing remarks, Mr Ragi challenged that ' We must use data to inform decisions and allocate resources, while ensuring value for money

CSO Dialogue meeting on the Global Fund Strategy and the WHO Multisectoral coordination Framework



CSOs representatives at the meeting

KANCO hosted a Civil society organizations (CSOs) dialogue meeting at the Panafric hotel on the 26th of August 2020, themed; “Achieving *Global Fund Objectives by Enhancing Community Engagement in Global Processes: Lessons Leant an Opportunities for the Future.*’ The meeting sought to capture community voices in the [Global Fund Strategy 2021-2024](#), and review and input on the [WHO multi-sectoral framework](#).

The meeting sought to review the WHO multi-sectoral coordination framework implementation and structure; Share experiences and take stock of community engagement during the 2019-22 Global Fund cycle (2021-2024) with emphasis on human rights and gender programming. Community systems strengthening an investment for key and vulnerable populations across the three disease; Support strategic community strengthening for CSOs and community groups through focused learning on the thematic areas such as human rights, gender programming and sustainability planning. The reflections culminated to the development of a position that shares on the community input and perspectives.

Rahab Mwaniki the Campaigns Manager KANCO took the participants through various documents and global health commitments including the WHO strategy, UNGA targets and

UNHLM and TB commitments. She explained that the WHO accountability framework was towards to accelerating progress to end the TB epidemic. She added that the UN General Assembly high level meeting on TB in September 2018, resolved that citizens should hold governments accountable for the promises made defined under the MAF-TB, a cycle for strengthening accountability that defines commitments, actions, monitoring and reporting and review.

Addressing the team Dr, Irungu Ministry of Health, stated “Ending TB requires a multi-sectoral approach, with about a quarter of the Global population having [TB](#) infection.’ He shared that for MAF in Kenya, a multi-sectoral committee had been proposed for TB and lung health, draft TORs were available, with the immediate deliverables being formation of a committee, development of an accountability framework, and implementation of the framework. He added that at the moment MAF was challenged by the lack of financial commitment but was looking forward for funding in the next cycle.

The CSOs worked in groups and made recommendations on the two documents and also got to share on what worked well or did not in the 2017-2020 funding cycle.

Pictorials for the CSOs engagement meeting



**Ms. Rahab Mwaniki Campaigns Manager KANCO
facilitating a session**

Dr. Irungu, Ministry of Health addressing the forum



**CSO representatives from across Nairobi County, discussing and giving input to the GF
strategy and the WHO Multisectoral coordination framework in groups**

Media sensitization meeting on nutrition and covid-19 in Mombasa County



Journalists attending the training

KANCO under the SUN-CSA participated in a media engagement meeting on the 24th August 2020, a forum that brought together Mombasa county officials, media and CSOs

Ms.Rita Wanjiru the regional coordinator Mombasa County, shared that KANCO is the current chair for Nutrition in Mombasa. She impressed that's it critical to carry on nutrition advocacy saying *"Nutrition cuts across all health matters and it would be good to see more positive coverage on it"*

Ms. Esha Bakari, County Nutrition Coordinator shared on the Nutrition Response towards COVID-19 Pandemic in Mombasa County saying '10 tons of fortified food branded as Tender Mercy was distributed to the six sub counties, distributed to clients attending the CCC, TB and Nutrition Clinics with a total of **1236** clients benefiting from the donation'

She added that malnutrition amongst children below five years during this Covid-19 period was alarming with the Mombasa County Covid-19 nutrition response data collected in July showing that at least 91 of 104,919 children screened were reported to be severely malnourished and at risk of contracting Covid-19 due to weak immunity.

She added that the screening exercise conducted by the Mombasa county nutrition department in all six Mombasa sub counties established that children are at risk of contracting Covid-19 as their immunity weakened due to poor diet. *"We are concerned that children have continued to suffer from malnourishment during this Covid-19 period, about 21 percent, translating to 0.4 percent of children below five years are found to be malnourished and this puts them at risk of contracting the coronavirus."*

She added that the COVID-19 Quarantine and Isolation Centers provide nutrition counselling and nutritional supplements to the patients. In addition, the department is also involved in the preparation of therapeutic feeds for COVID-19 patients in isolation centers, as well as in the preparing and monitoring of health and nutrition in both quarantine and isolation facilities.

Ms. Pauline Oginga. The incoming chief officer, I her address appreciated the role of community health workers sating, *"The county cannot work without the help of the CHW".* Sharing that they will be soon evaluating the ongoing door to door Covid-19 being chaired out with the support of the CHVs

The Weeks Engagements in Pictorials



GAVI HSS Round table feedback meeting with Garissa CHMT

SIMAHO team



GAVI HSS meeting Simaho Team, one of the Project implementing partner based in Garissa County



GAVI HSS project team engagements with Religious leaders in Garissa County



TB Quarterly review meeting in Kitu County



Nandi county CSOs meeting on immunization, from the meeting the Nandi county health civil society Network was formed with clear TOR's



CSOs sensitization on immunization in TanaRiver

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#StaySafe

#KomeshaCorona