



Weekly Newsletter

September 2020, Issue 3

Announcement

- Lung Union Conference October 21, 2020

Inside This Issue

PG. 2

Nutrition Symposium 2020

PG 4

Launch of a Million Kitchen Gardens

PG.5

***KANCO Supports Development of
Community Health Bill in Tanariver County***

Nutrition Symposium Conference 2020

KANCO participated in the 3rd Nutrition Symposium conference held between the 23rd and 24th September 2020. The conference brought together both national and county governments, government agencies, CSOs, private sector, academia and development partners to discuss nutrition under the theme **'Accelerating investment and multi-sectorial efforts towards elimination of malnutrition in Kenya.'**

The conference culminated to the launch of a number of nutrition strategies and documents including the [Kenya Nutrition Action Plan \(KNAP\) 2018-2022](#), seeking to improve nutrition outcomes at all stages in the country through a coordinated multi-stakeholder approach.

Other documents launched included: **The implementation framework for securing a breastfeeding friendly environment at workplaces (2020-2024); The Kenya Agri-Nutrition Strategy (2020 to 2024); The Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Business Network Kenya Strategy (2019 to 2023); The Kenya Nutrition Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (2018 to 2022)** and the **National Nutrition Fact Sheet, Programmatic Guidelines and Policies on Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition.**

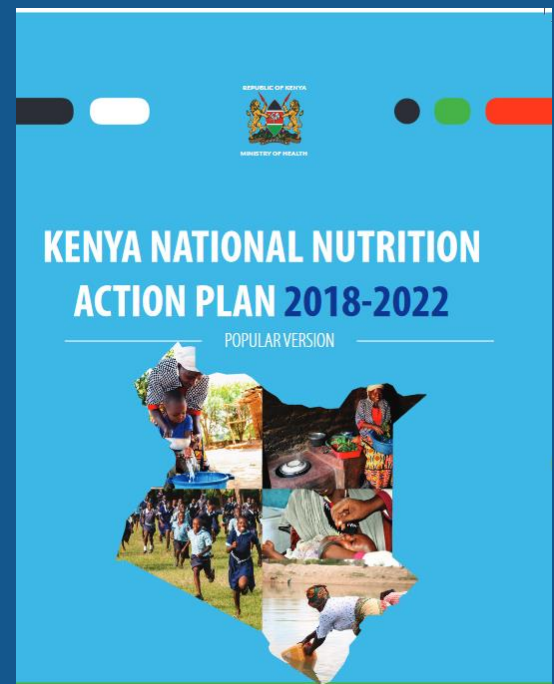
Kenya continues to face the triple burden of malnutrition. The Kenya Cost of Hunger Study (2019) shows that this has a huge economic cost, with the country losing 6.9 percent of its Gross Domestic Product due to undernutrition in 2014. Further, the Kenya Demographic and Health Survey indicates, about 26 percent of children under the age of five are stunted, with some counties such as kitui and pokot recording as high as 46% stunting. This has both short and long term implications that makes the child not achieve their full potential. 1% of children are underweight and 4% wasted.

In a speech read on behalf of the CS health Mutahi Kagwe, he noted, **"Good nutrition at every stage of life is part of the foundation of a prosperous society."** He commended the multi stakeholder efforts noting **'For the first time, five Ministries and the Council of Governors are working hand in hand with a range of partners on a Multi-sectoral Nutrition Action Plan to stamp out malnutrition in Kenya once and for all.'**

UNICEF Representative to Kenya Maniza Zaman, speaking at the forum impressed **"When we talk about a prosperous nation,**



CAS Health Dr, Mercy Mwangangi delivering the CS Health Mutahi Kagwe's speech during the conference



, we have to talk about investing in nurturing human capital. This starts with children. Only if a child is well nourished can he or she develop and grow well, stay healthy, learn well and be able to reach his or her full potential'

Martha Nyagaya, Director Nutrition international and SUN-CSA chairperson stated **"For the first time we have a costed KNAP, that's works as a resource mobilization framework at all levels as well as giving guidance on implementation"**

For far, 18 counties have also formulated their own County Nutrition Action Plans (CNAPs), with KANCO supporting a number of counties to develop them

Launch of a Million Kitchen Gardens for the 47 counties



The CAS Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries and during the launch of the 1 Million Kitchen Gardens

Ahead of the nutrition symposium 2020, KANCO participated in the Launch of 1 million kitchen garden initiative for 47 counties officiated by the Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and fisheries Anne Nyaga.

Through the project the government intends to provide kitchen garden starter kits to vulnerable households across the 47 counties to boost steady food supply, lifestyle change and the adoption of healthy diets.

The kits comprise seed inputs of five types of vegetables (kale, spinach, black nightshade (manage), amaranthus (terere) and cowpeas seeds and solar driers to enhance the preservation of vegetables.



Sample Kitchen Garden

KANCO Supports development of Community Health Bill, Tanariver County



Tanariver County Members of the County Assembly

KANCO hosted a Members of the County Assembly (MCAs) meeting in Tanariver County, one of the counties where KANCO has been implementing the GAVI/HSS project that seeks to improve immunization outcomes across 17 counties. The meeting sought to support the development of a **community health services bill** to support health service delivery at the community level by Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) in the county.

Addressing the meeting the CEC health committed to ensure the draft bill is reviewed and shared with the Assembly.

KANCO further held a meeting in the county with different stakeholders including: journalist, administrative chiefs, and community groups including the mother to mother teams

The stakeholders forum focused on how generate demand for immunization services towards improving immunization coverage currently at 81% compared to 65% at the start of the year.

From the forum, it was noted that continued advocacy engagements have contributed to the improved immunization services uptake

The chief's efforts as the community gatekeepers was commended as key facilitators in the increased immunization at the county level.

Further, the mother to mother support group were hailed as having been key in the increased uptake of immunization services in the county.



Representatives of the mother-to-mother support groups

Review of Immunization Performance in Nakuru County



The County Health Management Team Meeting session held in Nakuru County

Between, 21st-23rd September, KANCO in partnership with the Department of Health services with the support of the GAVI/HSS project, hosted a meeting with the county health management teams, (CHMT) and the media to drum support for immunization. The meeting was also graced by the Chief Officer Public Health, County Nursing Officer and the County Head of Preventive and Promotive Health

The Chief Officer for Public Health, Dr. Samwel King'ori Nakuru, addressing the journalist noted that the County has achieved over 80 percent of full-cycle immunization coverage in the last year, attributing success to best health practices and strategies. He underscored that the media plays a critical role in demystifying immunization misconceptions that hinder people turning up for the various jobs.

KANCO regional coordinator Mr Stephen Ikonya called on the media to highlight immunization successes and challenges to increase coverage. Acting Director of Medical Services Dr Daniel Wainaina noted that the county is strengthening primary healthcare systems to achieve full immunization coverage

KANCO has played a key role in enhancing the immunization performance in the county by sensitizing 110 CHVs and 110 CHEWs and facility in charges and 110 religious leaders during the COVID 19 season, that helped keep up the immunization uptake during the pandemic period.

Through these continued advocacy efforts every facility has been allocated at least two health care providers with the support of the governor.

Grassroot advocacy in Kiambu County



Kiambu County Grassroot during the meeting

KANCO hosted a Kiambu Grassroots meeting which was graced by Hon. Rachel Kamweru, and Ms. Damaris Ndegwa Kiambu Sub county TB Coordinator.

The discussion was on the high rates of TB in the county and the missed TB cases among children. The CTLC indicated that there is availability of diagnostic tools for TB - Gene Xpert and the drugs are also available at no cost. One of the proposed reconditions from the meeting was to procure Trunat, a diagnostic tool to test for Isoniazid resistance from next year. This is in addition to the Gene Xpert which tests for

Rifampicin Resistance that is already being used in the country.



Hon. Rachael Kamweru making remarks during the meeting

Phase II of Engagements on the next Global Fund Strategy



The Global Fund
To Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

KANCO participated in the Global fund engagement strategy development discussion on the 25th of September 2020. The meeting sought to get stakeholders input on the global fund processes and engagements as they develop the new strategy 2023-2028. The discussions focused on the Anglophone Africa region are in lieu of Africa being the biggest beneficiary of Global Fund grants for the three diseases HIV, TB and Malaria thus the need for Africa to own the document and discussions.

The discussion focused on health financing, health management information systems, Research and surveillance, Procurement and Supply Management (PSM) and market shaping.

Some of the insights shared were that most African Countries are yet to achieve the 15% Abuja declaration target for health financing. The need to achieve health financing efficiency was underscored through developing and adoption of health financing policies and funding to enhance social enablers of health. The need for a sustained multi-sectoral synergy, financial protection for UHC including promoting health insurance to reduce out of pocket expenditure, transparency and accountability and efficiency in resource mobilization were also underscored.

The need for cross broader collaboration for health was also underscored to enhance investment in health including vaccine trial and pharmacovigilance.

A follow-up meeting will be held next week focusing on health information, governance and leadership

Quarterly Advisory Meeting

On the 22nd of September 2020, KANCO hosted the quarterly advisory meeting to discuss improvement for key population programming. The meeting attended by MOH, community leaders, and the Female Sex Workers Representatives (FSWs), focused on economic empowerment, service delivery and networking.

In terms of economic empowerment, it was proposed that the members would mobilize resources for economic empowerment for four willing female sex workers to be taken through technical training. The program was commended for its friendliness to FSWs and its contribution to the reduction of Sexually Transmitted Infections and HIV infections as well as HIV treatment defaulting in the county. It was also reported that it has eased access to essential commodities including ARVs, condom issuance as well as access to intergraded health services for the sex workers.

Information sharing on treatment, STIs, condom distribution done by the peer educators was also commended. Sex workers noted that KANCO had created a safe space for them in an environment where stigma and discrimination against SWs was still rife.

In terms of networking, the collaboration and relationship of the paralegal teams and the stakeholders such as village elders who help in dispute mediation and enhancing security was also commended.



Pictorials of the Week



Grassroots meeting on immunization demand creation in Kajiado County hosted by KANCO



Kajiado Grassroots meeting on TB and Investments during COVID 19

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