



Results of a global  
civil-society led  
Survey

## Virtual Launch The Impact of COVID-19 on the TB Epidemic:

A Community perspective- Kenya Report

8<sup>th</sup> October 2020  
11.00AM-1PM EAT

Meeting ID 884 4647 2159  
Password: 886654

Register here <https://bit.ly/3iBsJHz>



# Weekly Newsletter

October 2020\_ Issue 2

## *Announcement*

- World Mental Health Day 2020

## *Inside This Issue*

**PG. 2**

*The Impact of Covid-19 on the TB epidemic: A community Perspective Kenya Report*

**PG 3.**

*2020 SUN Jointed Assessment Meeting*

**PG.4**

*MCA's sensitization on Immunization in Baringo County*

## *'The Impact of Covid-19 on the TB epidemic: a Community Perspective- Kenya report*

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of October 2020, KANCO hosted a webinar to launch [The Impact of COVID-19 on the TB Epidemic: A Community Perspective](#) Kenya report findings. Participating in the launch was WHO, Nairobi Metropolitan service, Civil Society Organization, TB partners from the region, the media and representatives from across the 47 counties.

According to the Global TB report 2019, TB accounts for approximately 10 million people falling ill and 1.5 million death from TB occur very year. Drug resistant TB accounts for 450,000 people, with only 150,000 people diagnosed. With the advent of the pandemic, families seeking care continue to incur catastrophic costs and plunging into poverty due to disease. Further, WHO shares that the global TB case detection decreased by an average of 25% while, TB related deaths increased by 13% during a 3 month period in 2020, near the global level of TB mortality of the year 2015.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the negative impacts on people affected and infected by TB as well as TB programs around the world. To understand the impact 10 diverse global networks including KANCO involved in the Tuberculosis (TB) response carried out a survey collecting voices from the ground affected by TB (including people with TB, healthcare workers, policy makers, civil societies and researchers) and launched the report dubbed ***'The Impact of COVID-19 on the TB Epidemic:*** The report findings highlighted substantial disruptions in TB care during the pandemic increasing mortality from the disease. The findings involving about 1000 respondents indicated more than 70% decrease in the number of people coming to health facilities for TB testing and significant drops in tuberculosis notification: up to 88% in Global Fund supported countries, 68% in the USA.

In Kenya, 50% of people with TB reported having trouble finding transport, while 70% of respondents reported not receiving enough support amid the pandemic. The report further highlighted the rise of fear of contracting COVID-19 during a healthcare visit. People also reported increased stigma linked to public coughing and other

### SDG Global commitment to end AIDS and TB epidemics by 2030



respiratory symptoms. The reports also highlighted major gaps in the health systems, citing the need for increased investment for health.

Addressing the participants in the virtual launch, the Executive Director KANCO, Mr. Allan Ragi stated that the report was timely as it provided data and incites that can help inform decisions, innovations and new adaptations for better impact. He noted that despite the scarcity in resources, there is an opportunity to maximize efficiency, partnerships and liaison in addressing TB and health as a whole, towards realization of integrated and people centered and services.

Dr. Ruth Ameso WHO, congratulated KANCO and the partners for the initiative, saying it was commendable that we have the first impact report as we embark on achieving the global and national targets and commitment to end TB including the UNHLM target, the End TB strategy, and SDG 3.3 goals. For continued TB service during the pandemic, she proposed continued high level commitments and investments, innovations and continued monitoring and assessment of the impact of COVID 19.

Elizabeth Mueni, Nairobi Metropolitan services sharing on the county experiences impressed on the need to relook at the health care systems for enhanced TB and Covid-19 control by testing for both for all presenting patients. She also noted on the need for increased investment for TB control to sustain the gains made so far as well as continued innovations.

Idd Likhala a TB patient expressed facing financial challenges and stigma due to the similarity in the symptoms of TB and Covid-19.



SUN members during the annual assessment forum

KANCO a member of the SUN CSA in Kenya and the Chairperson of the Policy, Advocacy and Communication sub-committee participated in an annual event meeting that was hosted the annual assessment event hosted by SUN-CSA and Nutrition International.

The [Joint-Assessment](#), which takes place annually, is a unique feature of the SUN Movement. In Kenya, the SUN CSA Joint-Assessment took place on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020. This exercise gives the opportunity for nutrition stakeholders in SUN countries to come together, reflect on progress, challenges and identify where support is needed to realize joint goals, at the country and sub-national level.

During the meeting, Ms. Martha Nyagaya, Country Director Nutrition International and Chairperson- SUN CSA, informed the participants that through SUN CSA support, 9 county nutrition plans had been launched

while 6 county plans had been validated and would be launched thereafter.

This comes closely after Ambassador Ukur Yattani, Cabinet Secretary for Treasury, in September announced budget allocation through a nutrition code. This is critical in helping track resources allocated for nutrition sensitive and specific interventions and also provide information for increased advocacy on domestic resource mobilization.

Additionally, SUN CSA Kenya signed a partnership agreement with Health TV Africa to engage 67 media platforms to enhance information dissemination of Nutrition activities in the country. The media station has headquarters based in Helsinki, Finland and works in 29 African countries.

Going forward, SUN CSA members will engage the media to enhance nutrition campaigns.

## Member of the County Assembly sensitization on immunization and Child health in Baringo County.



Member of the Braingo County Assembly and the KANCO team during the engagement

Kanco hosted a members of the county assembly (MCAs) meeting in Baringo county. The meeting sought to brief them on the state of immunization in the county and call them to action toward legislative actions for immunization through enactment of a community health service bill, championing immunization issues as well as increased financing for immunization. The meeting was officiated by the CEC health and saw the participation of the county health management team

Welcoming the participants the Director for Preventive and Promotive health services, Dr Boruett, underscored the importance of immunization saying the forum was critical in gauging where the county was.

The Chief Officer, Preventive and Promotive health services, Mr Cherop called on the MCAs to support resource allocation to enable the department achieve its objectives. He noted that immunizing all children will require innovations and working together to ensure that the progress made is sustained both in vaccine introduction and coverage to help save lives

The chief officer Medical services, Dr Toromo emphasized the need for increased allocation for immunization from the exchequer, as well fully equipping existing facilities to

Effective operations. The CEC health Hon. Mary Panga noted that immunization is one of the measures for prevent diseases among children thus the need to put effort to ensure all the children in the county are fully immunized. She added that it is important to discuss the counties progress and what we can do about it. She noted there has been support from GAVI to receive vaccines, noting that these efforts must be complimented by the county to ensure the services reach the intended people.

The EPI logistician, Ms. Lenah noted some challenges impending immunization noting; 197 of 253 immunizing facilities did not have fridges, insecurity, floods, lack of power in some facilities, inadequate community advocacy/demand creation, stigma, and inadequate cold chain equipment

The ask to the MCA's was to increase resources for immunization, enactment of Community Health services Bill, and Facility Improvement Funds, champion immunization to help increase demand as well as prioritizing equipment and staffing of existing facilities..

## Wajir county policy makers engagements on immunization



KANCO in partnership with the Wajir County Ministry of health through GAVI HSS project has been working to reach every child with lifesaving vaccines in Wajir County.

In line with this, KANCO has held various engagement with different stakeholders including: member of the county assembly (MCAs), the CHMT and CSOs.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of October 2020, KANCO facilitated a consultative meeting with the Wajir County Health Management Team ahead of a community health services bill workshop on Thursday 8th October and Friday 9th October 2020.

The meeting sought to discuss child health as well as access and utilization on immunization and RMNCH services in the county.

The meeting also facilitated discussion on the development of -Community Health Strategy to help incentivize Community Health Volunteers -CHVs in doing defaulter tracing for all the immunized children in the county.

Increase Immunization uptake in Wajir County through community engagement and sensitization and Increase health financing for immunization in wajir County.

Budgets and the need for increased financial allocation for immunization for immunization was discussed.



KANCO team during a courtesy call to the CEC Wajir County

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