



# Weekly Newsletter

March Issue 1

## *Announcement*

- World TB Day: : 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021

## *Inside This Issue*

**PG. 2**

**GAVI/HSS Learning and Feedback meeting**

**PG 3**

**KANCO Visioning 2021/25**

**PG. 6**

**Global Fund Strategy Development**

**PG.6**

**Global Fund Strategy Development**

## GAVI/HSS Learning and Feedback Meeting



Immunization Teams from the 17 GAVI/HSS implementing counties holding a plenary discussion during the meeting

KANCO held a 5 days reflective meeting with EPI and Data managers from the 17 implementing counties to discuss the impact of the three year GAVI/HSS grant, lessons learnt and make recommendations for sustainability of gains made.

The project was a tripartite agreement between running between 2018 and 2020 between GAVI, the Government of Kenya, KANCO and UNICEF. The implementing counties included: Bomet, Nairobi, Nandi, Tanariver, Garisa, Bomet, Baringo, Homa Bay, Kakamega, Mandera, Isiolo, Meru, Kitui, Wajir, Bungoma, Nakuru and Laikipia.

The GAVI CSOs activities -in the implementation of Kenya's Health Systems Strengthening (HSS) focused on two objectives: accelerating strong political engagement, improving governance and financial sustainability for immunization outcomes in line with devolution by 2019 and to achieve equitable access to and utilization of routine immunization services in 16 focus counties and in special populations in Nairobi County by 2019'

The overall sentiments from the counties implementing the grant were that the grant has contributed greatly to the uptake of immunization in all the counties and in creating pathways to the creation of sustainable immunization financing through policy advocacy towards achieving immunization equity and Universal Health Coverage.

### Major Notable changes in the last 3 years implementing GAVI/HSS project

- Increased financial and legislative commitments for immunization (7 counties have community Health services bills in place)
- All 17 counties have had numerous engagements with Elected leaders and members of the county assembly
- Increased number of CSOs engaging in immunization advocacy across all the counties
- Increased immunization defaulter tracing across the counties, increased uptake of immunization and awareness

Addressing the Meeting Dr. Tabu NVIP, noted The GAVI/HSS project implemented by has placed us on a futuristic pedestal, which we must build on. We have seen significant improvement in equity and political goodwill for immunization with the budget allocation having doubled for the program from 7.56M to 1.4 Billion for the program

Allan Ragi the Executive Director KANCO appreciated working with all the stakeholders including; policy makers. NVIP, counties and all the stakeholders noting' We are a people centered organization and the success we are celebrating today is because of our shared goal of a healthier nation and better future'

## KANCO Visioning 2021/25



KANCO Executive Director and team of delegates discussing the KANCO strategic plan during the stakeholders strategic visioning forum

KANCO is in the process of developing their strategic plan 2021/25. On the 19<sup>th</sup> of February 2021, KANCO held a stakeholders consultative forum to support in the visioning of the consortium for the next five years. This is partly routine, where the consortium reviews its strategic plan every five years, and also in recognition of the major changes taking place in the health environment.

Addressing the meeting the Board Chairman Fr. Firminus Shirma reiterated **'This roadmap is critical to effectively respond to the health needs of the people. Going forward KANCO is keen to work with all stakeholders to effectively deliver on our mandate'**

Making his remarks, the KANCO Executive Director Mr. Allan Ragi, reiterated KANCO's centeredness on the people and the commitment to deliver of integrated people centered services **' We are intentional on remaining Small, Smart and Strategic in our work towards realization of Healthy People and Empowered Communities. We remain strong on partnerships as we continue to grow together''**

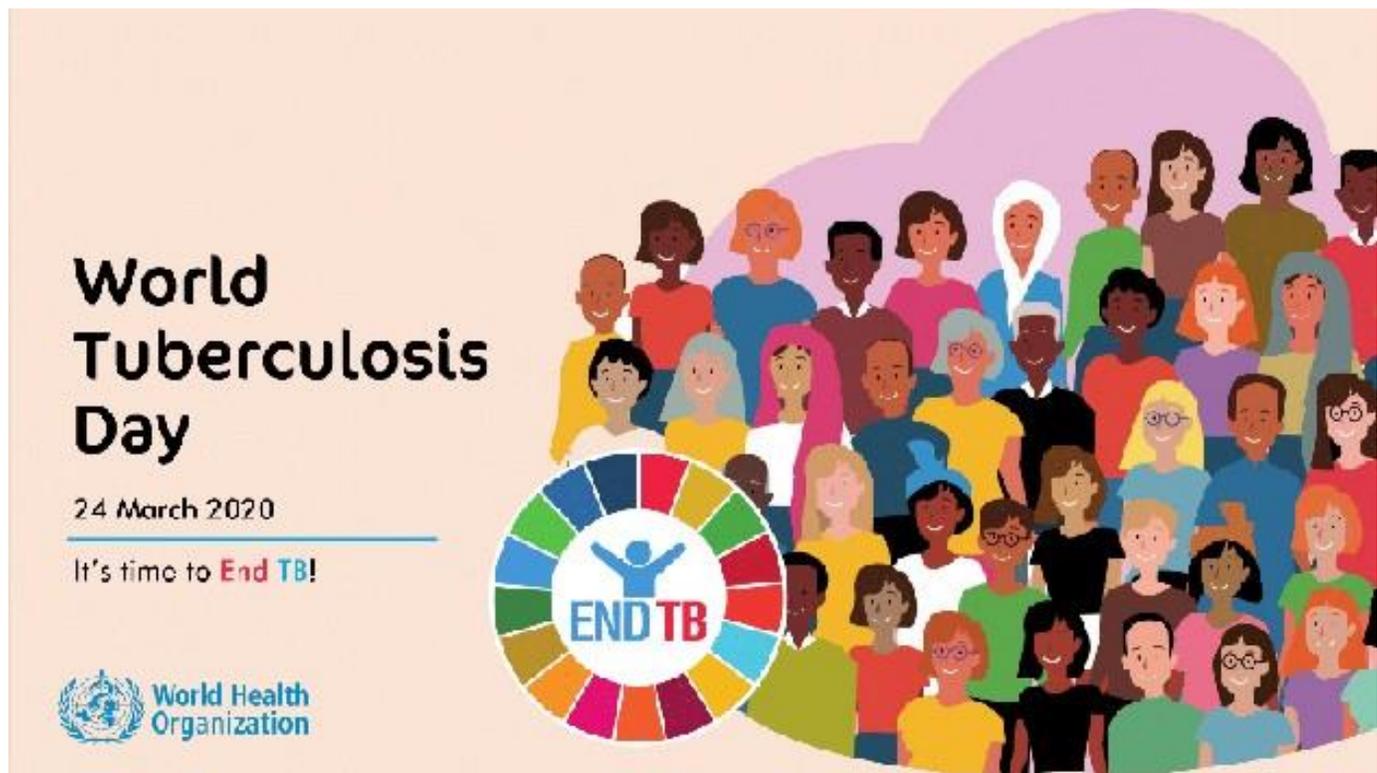
The stakeholders were taken through KANCO's journey and had an opportunity to input to the strategic plan under development, a process that will be followed by further review of the document by a team of consultants, factoring the stakeholders input, followed by further virtual review and validation by stakeholders.

Commending KANCO for embarking on the strategic plan review process, United Nations representative Ludfine Bwinde, expressed her interest to keep supporting the process towards developing a strategy that is responsive to the current health challenges.

Appreciating the involvement of the youth in the strategy development, Mutua, a Youth representative at the forum, thanked KANCO for involving the youth noting that this would help develop a strategy that is representative of the youth and the challenges they are facing exacerbated by the pandemic.

Going forward, KANCO will be reviewing other strategic document that are anchored on the strategic plan to help operationalize the strategy

## *Joint Ministerial Statement on Priority Actions for Effective TB Response and Impact Recovery in African Region*



On 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020, a high level meeting focusing on the TB response in the Africa Region in light of the unprecedented challenges posed by the pandemic was held.

According to a recent Global TB report, the unprecedented global health emergency posed by Covid-19, jeopardizes the results achieved in saving millions of lives and providing access to essential TB care and prevention. In spite of all efforts, health systems resources are overstretched due to COVID-19 response, leading to serious disruptions in the functioning and access to TB diagnosis, treatment and prevention services. Globally, these disruptions could result in an additional 6.3 million people developing tuberculosis and 1.4 million deaths between 2020 and 2025. It further threatens the achievement of the 2020 UNHLM targets

The meeting saw the signing of a [joint ministerial statement on priority actions for effective TB Response and impact recovery in Africa](#) by the 14 participating African

countries including Cameroon, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

The statements made commitments towards maintaining and increasing domestic financing for TB, Mobilizing new resources for TB to bridge long term funding gaps in the TB response as a result of Covid-19 and associated financing needs and mitigating Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on TB Services and Program Management through tailored actions that are response to countries contexts.

Going forward, KANCO and likeminded stakeholders will be pushing for the full implementation and accountability of these commitments made in this forum alongside other commitments made towards ending TB.



# UNITED NATIONS FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT 2021

KANCO is taking lead in the United Nations Food Systems Summit 2021 in the action track 1: ***Ensuring Access to Safe and Nutritious Food for all Through Transformation of Food Systems*** and track 2 ***Shift to healthy and sustainable consumption patterns.***

The forum seeks to address unhealthy diets which have become a primary source of poor health and environment degradation around the world with glaring disparities. This is in the view that fixing food is unique and powerful opportunity to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs) by 2030 and involving people around the globe in solving some of the greatest challenges.

This comes at a time when the pandemic is greatly undermining the food security and nutrition. According to the Lancet Commission 2019, ***the pandemic has put quality***

***food related job's and remunerative livelihoods at risk in many parts of the world, highflying the degree to which our food systems are vulnerable to shocks*** According to the Nutrition Bulletin, ***'If the current consumption trends continue, SDGs relating to food security, public health and environment will not be met and multiple planetary boundaries will be transgressed'***

The engagement seeks to achieve propositions for game changing solutions to drive the transition towards healthy and sustainable consumption in a culturally appropriate manner, defining and mapping key solutions areas, indicate areas for action to consider include: Motivating and empowering consumers to make informed healthy safe and sustainable choices and improve availability and access to healthy safe and sustainable diets.

# GLOBAL FUND STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

KANCO has been part of the discussion on the development of the global fund strategy that is set start in 2023. As implementers and beneficiaries of the Global Fund Grants, the civil society voices becomes critical as the global fund develops the new strategic plan.

The Global Fund is a partnership designed to accelerate the end of HIV, TB and malaria as epidemics mobilizing and investing more than US\$4 billion a annually to support programs in more than 120 countries. The involvement of stakeholders is critical to ensure that these investments yield the most benefit in the fight against HIV, TB and malaria.

In the last strategic phase 2017-2022, the global fund has been working to maximize impact against the three diseases, build resilient and sustainable systems for health, promote and protect human rights and gender equality as well as mobilize resources .

*Among the key recommendations by CSOs for prioritization in the next strategy include:*

- *Reaffirming the primary focus on the three diseases, with consistent objectives and targets, to give effect to the Deadly Divide: TB Commitments vs. TB Realities report calls to action and to reach targets and commitments of UNHLM, END TB strategy, the Global Plan and to end the epidemics by 2030;*
- *Mobilize substantial additional financial resources to correct the disproportionately under-funded status of TB and move towards an equitable allocation of resources between the 3 diseases, increasing investment in priority TB interventions;*
- *Scale up investments in work on identifying and overcoming barriers related to health and social protection services, including those related to gender, stigma, human rights and equity as well as the meaningful engagement of and funding for affected communities and civil society especially in high burden countries;*
- *Revisit support to RSSH and tailor it to the needs of the three diseases, support Global Health Security through increased investments in TB prevention, infection control, active community based TB case finding measures and quality treatment and care that represent the foundation of pandemic control, active engagement with private health care provider systems, advance principles of equity and global health solidarity and ensure COVID-19 Investments contribute to the end of the epidemics;*
- *Develop and operationalize implementation and accountability, mechanisms that are flexible and with increased risk appetite and allow for accelerated roll out of recommended policies and guidelines and rapid delivery of innovations and impact, including for both existing and new tools for prevention including vaccine development and programmatic implementation of vaccination programmes, diagnosis and treatment, care, support to end the 3 epidemics;*
- *Foster partnerships by avoiding duplication and leveraging each other's mandate and comparative advantage to end the epidemics.*

## Weekly Pictorials



*Executive Director KANCO Allan Ragi appreciating for NVIP's support to the GAVI/HSS project working to increase the uptake of immunization across 17 counties and the political goodwill for immunization through financing and legislation during the feedback meeting*



**Participants from the counties holding discussions during the feedback forum**

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Stay Safe

Komesha Corona