

## Background

Kenya AIDS NGOs Consortium (KANCO) is a national membership network of NGOs, CBOs and Faith Based Organizations involved or that have interest in HIV & AIDS activities in Kenya.

In the late 1980s, CSOs who had begun responding to HIV&AIDS felt the need to work together and share learning. Spearheaded by 7 key NGOs, these consultations culminated in the establishment of KANCO as a formal networking system for CSOs in Kenya 1990. To date, the membership has grown to over 840 CSOs.

## Vision

A Kenyan society free of HIV&AIDS and its impacts

## Mission Statement

KANCO aims to be a premier organization

committed to providing and promoting leadership, collaboration and enhancing capacity among Civil Society Organizations for collective action towards effective responses to HIV&AIDS and its impact.

## Core Values

KANCO is committed to upholding the following values in preventing further HIV infection and improvement of the quality of life of infected and affected:

- Solidarity and collective action in responding to HIV&AIDS and its impact.
- Genuine representation of members' needs irrespective of their status, size or religious affiliation.
- Active participation and involvement of members, government and other stakeholders.
- Quality and equitable provision of HIV&AIDS services to our members and other stakeholders.



- Ensuring and maintaining credibility, reliability, integrity, accountability and transparency in all operations.
- Ensure gender mainstreaming in all activities.
- Greater Involvement and Participation of People living with HIV&AIDS (GIPPA).

## **KANCO's Strategic Goals**

- Promote and enhance access to practical and up-to-date HIV & AIDS information to members and other stakeholders
- Enhance capacity of members and other stakeholders to effectively respond to HIV & AIDS and its impact
- Enhance greater participation of members and other stakeholders to advocate for development and implementation of HIV & AIDS policies
- Increase access to resources by members through mobilisation, grant making and management

## **Membership**

KANCO Membership is open to all legally registered NGOs, CBOs and Faith Based Organisations in Kenya who have an interest in HIV&AIDS and STI activities. Affiliate membership is available for individuals as Resource Centre users.

## Membership requirements

1. A copy of the organization's registration certificate with relevant government ministry or department.
2. Two reference letters from any two of the following entities from the area you are based in:
  - District Medical Officer of Health (MOH)
  - District Development Officer (DDO)
  - District Commissioner (DC) or District Officer (DO)
  - District AIDS &STDs Coordinator (DASCO).
  - District Social Development Officer (DSDO).
  - A recognized NGO.
3. The last progress report of the organisation if the organisation has been in operation or its profile if its newly registered.
4. Payment of KShs. 1000.00 annual subscription fee.

**The registration forms should be obtained from KANCO offices, or downloaded from the KANCO website: [www.kanco.org](http://www.kanco.org).**



## **KANCO's Programmes**

### **Membership Engagement in KANCO programmes**

KANCO believes in the full engagement and participation of members in its activities so as to realise ownership and continuity of the issues at hand. Therefore the process of engagement of members is key in its programmes. They are engaged in:

- Identification and prioritisation of issues
- Identification of relevant members who are key in taking a lead in the process
- Development of agreed upon work-plans and activity schedules
- Documentation of the activities and lessons learnt
- Dissemination and sharing of the outcomes of the process

### **KANCO's Programmes**

KANCO manages diverse programmes aimed at supporting the achievement of its strategic goals. These programme activities target CSOs in order to scale up their capacity to respond to the HIV&AIDS related needs among Kenyan communities. KANCO's Programmes are guided by the Kenya National HIV&AIDS Strategic Plan.

## 1. Information Access and Documentation

The activities within the strategy are domiciled in the resource centre which provides support and technical backup to KANCO secretariat and the membership in promoting and enhancing access to practical and up-to-date HIV & AIDS information. KANCO has engaged in the following:

- Decentralization of resource centres to the regional level: Currently KANCO operates 3 regional resource centres in Coast, Rift Valley and Western Provinces and the National Resource centre based in Nairobi.
- Provision of up-to-date HIV&AIDS information through reference and referral services
- Maintenance of the AIDS Information System Database which contains profiles of KANCO members and collaborators. This information is published on a biennial basis and acts as a key reference document in referral for HIV&AIDS services.
- Promotion of access to and use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) through:
  - Installation of high band width internet services through VSAT technology,
  - Upgrading of the Secretariat's computer system
  - Facilitating CSOs to access cheap ICT equipment



Children accessing HIV/AIDS comic books during an exhibition

- Promoting email networking through information sharing and updates via email to the members and other partners
- Provision of online information access to members by installing user computers at the KANCO resource centres
- Promotion of use of CD-ROMs for information searches through supporting establishment of the Community Health Information Centres at the KANCO resource centres and among member organisations
- Establishment of the Knowledge Network Centre on Children's issues at the national resource centre
- Redesigning of the KANCO website to be more interactive
- Strengthening documentation through:
  - Capacity building of members in documentation through training and mentoring processes
  - Production of thematic information packages, documentation of lessons learnt and production of newsletters
- Strengthening networking through provision of technical support in setting and maintaining regional networks, thematic networks and networks of people living with HIV&AIDS (PLWHAs) such as the CSOs



KANCO members participating in an ICTs training workshop

networks in Coast, Rift Valley and Western regions, formation of Vaccine Support Networks in Coast, Rift Valley Nairobi, Nyanza and Western provinces.

- Enhancing media relations to promote information dissemination to the public through providing updates to media professionals as well as facilitating media linkages with CSOs.
- These initiatives are supported by FHI/IMPACT project and the HIV&AIDS and Health Communication projects.

## 2. Capacity Building for Members and Other Stakeholders

The dynamic nature of the HIV&AIDS epidemic demands continuous capacity building for CSOs involved in responding to the epidemic. KANCO has put in place various initiatives to address this need among the members. It undertakes the following to meet the capacity needs of its members:

- Training the members in specific issues including care and support for PLWHAs and orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), linking prevention and treatment, gender mainstreaming through involvement of men and promotion of rights of women and the girl child, involvement of youth, legal, ethical and human rights issues relating to HIV&AIDS, emerging prevention technologies including vaccines and microbicides, and community leadership in HIV&AIDS.
- Mentoring of CSOs and networks of PLWHAs through provision of technical support in programme management and institutional development
- Facilitation of learning exchange visits for CSOs to community projects with best practices for replication.

- Establishment and strengthening of a national resource team comprising of community development, public health, legal and research experts among others to provide technical support to CSOs programmes
- Facilitating cross-pollination of ideas and sharing of updates through creation of linkages both locally and internationally with link-minded organisations. This is achieved through implementing projects that incorporate Kenyan CSOs and international implementing agencies such as the International Memory Project (IMP), Regional Psycho-Social Support Initiative (REPSSI) and the Child-to-Child Project (C-t-C) addressing the participation, care and support for OVCs. Also the Action-Learning on Community Based Workers as a Mechanism for Pro-poor Service Delivery project that draws learning from countries across Africa for replication in Kenya.
- Facilitating updates for CSOs on developments in HIV&AIDS through participation of the secretariat staff and members in international HIV&AIDS forums and conferences such as the International AIDS Conference and the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA). For example, in 2003, KANCO chaired and coordinated the community forum for the ICASA held in Nairobi where various CSOs from all over Africa participated.



Youth participating in a HIV&AIDS extravaganza during World AIDS Day at Ongata Rongai

### 3. Policy Development and Advocacy

Involvement of CSOs in policy dialogue is critical to ensure that policies that are developed and implemented to address community needs. KANCO aims at enhancing greater participation of members and other stakeholders to advocate for development and implementation of HIV & AIDS policies in Kenya. To achieve this, KANCO pursues the following:

- Skills building for CSOs and community leaders in policy advocacy
- Advocacy for policy development and implementation for example participation in the development of the HIV&AIDS Prevention and Control Bill and rallying CSOs to advocate for the Bill to be tabled in Parliament for enactment as a law. KANCO has lobbied members of parliament for their involvement in HIV&AIDS response.
- Representation of CSOs voices in national level policy forums. KANCO is a member of the Kenya Country Coordinating Mechanism/Joint Interagency Coordinating Committee (CCM/JICC) responsible for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM) in Kenya.
- Promoting coordination and harmonisation in the national response through membership to the National AIDS Control Council (NACC) Governing Council representing CSOs.
- Participation in policy development by acting as an advisor to the Government of Kenya. KANCO is a member to various national technical



Hon. Peter Kenneth (M.P. Gatanga)  
address Gatanga CACC members



KANCO members advocating for HIV&AIDS  
vaccine research and development



working groups and committees including the OVC technical working group and Kenya HIV&AIDS Vaccines Sub-Committee among others.

- Lobbying media on HIV&AIDS policy issues including provision of updates to media professionals on key issues in policy.

#### 4. Grant making and Grant Management

The capacity of CSOs in resource development and utilization is a critical ingredient in delivery of services to communities. KANCO has undertaken to identify potential donors and solicit funds to support its members' programmes. In order to achieve this, KANCO has been:

- Building the capacity of members in resource mobilization through training and offering technical support in proposal development and fundraising
- Provision of linkages to potential funding agencies through identification of funding opportunities and mobilizing members for joint bidding such as GFATM and President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) which support scaling up of community based interventions and prevention and care services for young people in Kenya respectively.
- Overseeing disbursement of funds to members and enhancing their capacity to manage funds for example provision of technical support to the Movement of Men Against AIDS in Kenya (MMAAK) through a grant from Norwegian Church Aid and Kenyan partners of REPSSI



Enhancing economic support for affected communities



- Overseeing the implementation of programs including monitoring and evaluation and ensuring accountability to the stakeholders
- Strengthening the internal capacity of KANCO secretariat to manage grants through putting in place a grants management system.

## ***Crosscutting Interventions***

### **Research**

KANCO aims at implementing programmes through an evidence-based approach and hence has mainstreamed research into all its programmes. This aims at providing adequate and relevant information on HIV & AIDS for members, use for advocacy and policy development.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

KANCO has put in place a five year strategic plan and developed a monitoring and evaluation framework so as to provide periodic feedback on progress for management purposes and assess outcomes likely to lead into impact and sustainability of interventions.

## **Other Collaborative Activities**

Other Collaborative initiatives include Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV&AIDS (UNGASS), New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), African Regional Capacity Building Network for HIV&AIDS Prevention, Treatment and Care (ARCAN) and Basic Rights Campaign (BRC)



## KANCO Programmes' Support

KANCO has continued to work hand in hand with the Government of Kenya and various development partners whose financial and technical support has been vital in ensuring that HIV&AIDS programmes are perpetually responsive to the needs of the communities.

KANCO works closely with, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through Family Health International (FHI), PEPFAR through Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), REPSSI, Child-to-Child Trust UK, Comic Relief, Healthlink Worldwide – UK, Action Aid, International Council for AIDS Service Organisations (ICASO) through African Council for AIDS Service Organisations (AfriCASO), International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), GFATM, International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW), Humanistic Institute for Cooperation With Developing Countries (HIVOS), United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM), Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network and African Institute for Community Capacity Development (AICCD – South Africa).

KANCO also has established linkages with various networks at the regional level and is a co-founder member of Eastern African National Networks of AIDS Service Organisations (EANNASO); member of African Council of AIDS Service Organisation (AfriCASO), and works closely with Southern African Network of AIDs Service Organisations (SANASO), Southern Africa AIDS Information Dissemination Services (SAfAIDS) and UK AIDS NGOs Consortium among other international and national networks.