



PRESS RELEASE

NEW KENYA AIDS PORTAL LAUNCHED – SYSTEM IMPROVES COMMUNICATIONS AND ENABLES KENYAN ORGANISATIONS TO SHARE EXPERIENCES OF WHAT WORKS IN THE RESPONSE TO HIV AND AIDS

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There are now over 4800 registered civil society organisations (CSOs) in Kenya. Many of these, along with an increasing number of private companies, are helping to tackle HIV and AIDS epidemic. The growing number of organisations makes it a challenge to coordinate effectively and share experiences of what works in the fight against AIDS.

Launched at a workshop in Nairobi on April 19, 2007, a new web portal offers some answers to this growing challenge. The Kenya AIDSPortal (www.aidsportal.org) is a partnership between the Kenya AIDS NGOs Consortium (KANCO) and a UK based organisation, the UK Consortium on AIDS & International Development.

The Kenya AIDSPortal takes advantage of new technology, using an interactive website to help organisations communicate and share experiences. Simple, easy to use tools help practitioners and health workers notify others of new

training opportunities, meetings, important documentation or useful web resources. They can also create a profile to share contact information and participate in online discussions to learn about new issues.

Mr. Allan Ragi, Executive Director of KANCO, said that *“through partnerships and networking, people are able to create more impact, narrow the gaps between players, learn from the successes of others and cultivate solidarity in the HIV and AIDS response in Kenya”*.

“Obtaining and managing knowledge is a huge problem for NGO’s. The Kenya AIDSPortal allows CSOs who work with communities affected by AIDS to share information directly between each other, as well as policy makers and global organisations.” added Ragi.

The growing global contacts directory also allows workers to network and share their experience and knowledge with other people who are working on similar projects and issues in different countries.

Also present at the launch workshop, Mr. Peter Mutie, Head of Communication for the National AIDS Control Council (NACC) noted that a *“major communication breakthrough will be achieved if people are trained to use the AIDSPortal”*. He added that *“AIDSPortal should be domesticated as a communication tool in Kenya to improve information and knowledge sharing. Information not shared is power under-utilized”*. Mr. Mutie emphasized the potential for AIDSPortal to strengthen networks and facilitate communication across different regions within Kenya.

For more information visit <http://www.aidsportal.org/help.aspx>

To join the AIDSPortal log on to www.aidsportal.org

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1. For more information, please contact Elizaphan Ogechi at the Kenya AIDS NGOs Consortium on +254 20 271 5008 or eogechi@kanco.org
2. 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, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) who had begun responding to HIV&AIDS felt the need to work together and share learning experiences. Spearheaded by 7 key NGOs, these consultations culminated in the establishment of KANCO in 1990 as a formal networking system for CSOs in Kenya. To date, the membership has grown to over 870 CSOs.
3. The UK Consortium on AIDS and International Development is a group of more than 80 UK based organisations which work together to understand and develop effective approaches to the problems created by the HIV epidemic in developing countries. It enables each agency to bring its own experience to be shared and used to help all the members improve their responses to the epidemic, through: information exchange – networking – advocacy – and campaigning.
4. The figure of 4800 registered civil society organisations is taken from data collected by the Kenyan Non-Governmental Organisations Coordination Board. They are about to update this data and the number is likely to increase, particularly when smaller community based organisations are taken into account. See <http://www.ngobureau.or.ke/#ngoref1> for more information.