

ICW-K BULLETIN



A) THE JOURNEY IS BETTER BUT ITS NOT OVER! THE INTERNATIONAL CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL 2022

by ICW-K

The International Candlelight Memorial is marked on the third Sunday of May every year to appreciate the efforts of those who have dedicated their lives to the fight to help the people affected by HIV but to also remember the people who have lost their lives in the fight.

On 22nd May 2022, various partners and stakeholders who have been at the forefront in mobilizing resources for the fight against HIV in Kenya came together in solidarity to commemorate this day. Participants assembled at Kencom bus station for the flag off procession from Kencom to Nyayo Stadium which was led by the Salvation Army Band and PLHIV.

“SALOME WANYOIKE SAID, “ICW-KENYA HAS COME THIS FAR BECAUSE OF OUR FIRST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, INVIOлата; AN AGGRESSIVE FIGHTER AND LIONESS ALL IN THE INTEREST OF THE COMMUNITY OF PERSONS LIVING WITH HIV IN KENYA.”

There were speeches from NEPHAK CEO, Nelson Otwoma who openly acknowledged the effort and hardwork of the different organizations working in the community as we fight for the rights of PLHIVs and to end stigma and discrimination. ICW-Kenya board member, Salome Wanyoike spoke highly on adherence to treatment and said it is a choice to not be on treatment. They both acknowledged the accomplishments of those who have come before us by mentioning former ICW-Kenya Executive Director, Inviolata Mbwavi and the late Joe Muriuki.

ICW-Kenya Executive Director Lucy Ghati spoke thereafter and encouraged everyone to keep on fighting the fight against HIV stigma and discrimination in Kenya.



ICW-K ED, Lucy Ghati during the candlelight memorial. PHOTO: ICW-K/ Doreen Koech

Keynote speaker of the day was Mr. Reuben Musundi from National AIDS Control Council (NACC). He highlighted that stigma is still high in our country despite the strategies put in place. He also stated that the government is celebrating the innovations that are occurring in the HIV world such as the introduction of injectable ARV treatment.

Women Fighting Against AIDS in Kenya Executive Director, Dorothy Onyango led the signing of the quilt and a candle-lighting event was done in the shape of the HIV/AIDS ribbon in commemoration of the event.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT FINANCING

Written by ICW-K



Kingdom Bank representative, Abraham. PHOTO: ICW-K/ Doreen Koeh

Kingdom Bank awarded members of the P-Champions community self-help group with Ksh. 20,000 to finance their Income Generating Activities (IGA). The activity which was held at Kiahuria Catholic Church, Wangige on 20TH May, 2022 started at 10 am.

The self-help group was formed as a result of a ICW-Kenya & African Women Development fund (AWDF) partnership to train TOTs on financial management and Income Generation Activities (IGAs). A representative from Kingdom Bank advised the participants on financial management and saving in chamas and some of the benefits they can get by choosing to bank with them.

This is one among the many self-help groups that have been formed after the training by the TOTs. Most of the self help groups consist of PLHIVs, peer champions and young women.

LEGAL AID CLINIC

Written by ICW-K



Lawyer Ted Wandera conducting a Q&A session. PHOTO: ICW-K/ Doreen Koeh

In the same forum, ICW-Kenya and AWDF partnered to have a legal aid clinic in Wangige. We engaged lawyer, Ted Wandera who facilitated a legal rights session and to also help those who needed HIV related Legal issues.

He also conducted a Question & Answer session where participants raised any HIV and community-based legal rights questions and issues they had. After the session, the lawyer had individual sessions with those who wanted a private consultation from him.

D) WORLD MENSTRUAL HYGIENE DAY 2022;

Written by ICW-K



Hygiene packs beneficiaries in Wangige. PHOTO: ICW-K/ Doreen Koeh

ICW-K has been distributing hygiene packs in various informal settlements and forums with adolescent girls and young women in Nairobi and Kiambu Counties as pre-activities for the World Menstrual Hygiene Day which is celebrated every year on 28th May.

In an activity which was held at Kiahuria Catholic Church, Wangige on 20TH May, 2022 started at 10 am we distributed 432 pieces of hygiene packs to 57 participants.

We also joined Positive Young Women Voices (PYWV) in Dandora as they distributed hygiene packs to adolescent girls and young women in their support group meetings where we distributed 48 pieces of hygiene packs to 20 participants






Hygiene packs beneficiaries from Dandora. PHOTO: ICW-K/ Doreen Koech

This year's theme for the World Menstrual Hygiene Day was 'Making menstrual Hygiene a normal fact of life by 2030'

To this date, millions of women and girls around the world are still stigmatized, excluded and discriminated against simply because they menstruate. UNAIDS through ICW-Kenya have distributed hygiene packs to over 4000 adolescent girls and young women in Nairobi, Migori, Busia, Kisumu, Homabay and Siaya counties collectively. We stand firm to work with other stakeholders and partners to end stigma and discrimination among adolescent girls and young women.

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International Community of
Women Living With HIV



ICW-Kenya Chapter



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