

**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.**

ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTHENING FOR CANCER CIVIL SOCIETY & CANCER FORUM

Nairobi 18th June 2019.

Grassroots cancer education awareness, patient support and advocacy across the country are driven by cancer civil society and survivors led community-based organizations most of who are part of the 30+ organizations that make the Kenyan Network of Cancer Organizations (KENCO).

Nine organizations have successfully completed a 3-year organization strengthening program under the American Cancer Society -SOURCE (Strengthening Organizations for a United Response to the Cancer Epidemic) Program. A further ten organizations are in the final year of the program. This multi-year engagement has equipped the staff and volunteers of local cancer organizations with the needed skills and knowledge to build solid foundations and critical systems within their organizations. As a result, they are well-positioned to effectively and sustainably implement cancer programs and interventions over the long-term, working closely with national and local governments and other partners in the fight against cancer.

According to Christine Mugo Sitati – Executive Director of KENCO, “This is the very first such institutional strengthening program to be offered to cancer civil society in Sub-Saharan Africa”. The graduation and recognition event will also feature a multi-sectoral panel discussion - Mounting a comprehensive response to the cancer epidemic in Kenya. The forum will focus on the state of the cancer response and will aim to address the key actions that are still needed and the role of different actors and sectors in the response.

This event which will take place on Thursday, 20th June 2019 at Crowne Plaza Hotel starting 3.40pm and will be graced by cancer control officials at the Ministry of Health, private sector, development partners and American Cancer Society.

“A Kenyan dies every 15 minutes from cancer. We need strong institutions and organizations to reverse this sad narrative” says David Makumi, Chairman, Kenyan Network of Cancer Organizations.

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Notes for Editors.

*Media Contact: Christine Mugo Sitati christine@kenconetwork.org 0721319460.

*KENCO is the national umbrella body of over 30 cancer civil society organizations spread across the country that are active in different aspects of cancer control and committed to a unified approach.

*The American Cancer Society is a nationwide, community-based voluntary health organization in the United States dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem. The mission of the American Cancer Society is to save lives, celebrate lives, and lead the fight for a world without cancer.