



Maiden News Letter Edition

Advancing Hope, Delivering Precision Cancer Care

This maiden edition of the Kano Cancer Treatment Centre (KCTC) Newsletter highlights the Centre's commitment to delivering world-class oncology services through innovation, advanced technology, compassionate care, and professional excellence.



It is with great pride and commitment to service that we present the maiden edition of the Kano Cancer Treatment Centre (KCTC) Newsletter.

This publication marks a milestone in our journey as a leading cancer care facility dedicated to providing advanced, accessible, and patient-centred oncology services in Nigeria and beyond.

At KCTC, our mission remains clear: to deliver world-class cancer treatment using modern technology, skilled professionals, and compassionate care.

KCTC remains committed to expanding services, improving patient outcomes, and embracing innovation in cancer

innovation in cancer treatment.

We envision a future where quality cancer care is accessible to all regardless of location or background.

We thank our patients, partners, and dedicated healthcare professionals for their trust and collaboration.

Together, we continue to build a stronger, healthier future free from the burden of cancer.

Editorial Team

Kano Cancer Treatment Centre (KCTC)

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Welcome Message



DR NAFISA ABDU CEO KCTC

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the maiden edition of the Kano Cancer Treatment Center (KCTC) Newsletter.

This newsletter is more than just an update platform; it reflects our vision of building a stronger connection between our patients, staff, partners, stakeholders, and the wider community as we work together toward a healthier future..

At KCTC, we understand that healthcare is not only about machines, buildings, or treatment protocols. Above all, it is about people. It is about the mother battling cancer while striving to remain strong for her children. It is about the father searching for hope after a difficult diagnosis. It is about the healthcare worker who shows up every day, determined to save lives despite numerous challenges. Most importantly, it is about building a healthcare system where compassion, professionalism, dignity, and excellence coexist.

Over the past months, KCTC has continued to evolve and strengthen its services, systems, and operations with the goal of becoming one of the leading cancer and specialist healthcare institutions in the region.

We have remained focused on improving patient access to quality care, strengthening operational systems, enhancing accountability, supporting our healthcare workforce, and building a more efficient and patient-centered institution.

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- Some of the key areas of progress and focus include:
- Strengthening clinical and operational systems across the Center
- Improving coordination of patient care and service delivery
- Expanding partnerships and stakeholder engagement
- Strengthening financial and operational sustainability
- Improving institutional structure and accountability systems
- Supporting staff coordination, teamwork, and professionalism Expanding awareness and community engagement initiatives
- Continuing efforts toward growth in oncology and supportive healthcare services

Beyond treatment, we are deeply passionate about awareness, prevention, education, and community impact. Through our outreach activities, awareness programs, blood drive campaigns, breast cancer awareness initiatives, and HPV sensitization efforts, we continue to engage communities and encourage early healthcare-seeking behavior. To our patients and their families, I want to say this clearly: you are at the heart of everything we do. Your courage inspires us every day, and we remain committed to continuously improving the quality, safety, and compassion of the care we provide.

To our healthcare workers and staff, thank you for your sacrifice, resilience, and unwavering dedication. Healthcare can be emotionally, mentally, and physically demanding, yet your work continues to change lives every single day. Building a great institution is only possible because of people who consistently show up with commitment and purpose.

To our partners and stakeholders, thank you for believing in the vision of KCTC and supporting our journey of growth and transformation.

As we move forward, our goal remains clear: to build a stronger institution, improve access to quality cancer care, strengthen systems and professionalism, and continue creating a Center that patients, staff, and the community can trust and be proud of. Through this newsletter, we hope to share our journey, celebrate milestones, highlight impactful stories, recognize our staff, educate the community, and keep everyone connected to the progress and achievements of KCTC.

Thank you for being part of this journey with us.
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Kano Cancer Treatment Center



About Kano Cancer Treatment Centre (KCTC)

The Kano Cancer Treatment Centre is a state-of-the-art oncology facility designed to bridge the gap in cancer care delivery in Northern Nigeria.

The Centre provides comprehensive services including radiotherapy, chemotherapy coordination, brachytherapy, diagnostics, and palliative care.

Our multidisciplinary team works collaboratively to ensure each patient receives personalised and effective treatment.

- Oncology
 - Imaging & Radiology
 - Chemoradiation Services
 - Palliative Care Support
 - Intensive care & Surgical Services
- KCTC is equipped with modern oncology technology
- Our Impact So Far
- Treated over patients successfully
 - Reduced need for overseas and inter-state referrals
 - Improved access to cancer care in Northern Nigeria
- Built strong clinical and technical capacity

Patient Care and Support Services



- Radiotherapy
- Brachytherapy



KCTC provides holistic care through oncology nursing support, nutrition and dietetics counselling, psychological support services, physiotherapy, rehabilitation, patient education, and weekly counselling sessions.

Training and Capacity Building

KCTC is actively involved in training postgraduate students, resident doctors, and visiting oncology professionals, strengthening Nigeria's capacity in cancer management.

Community Awareness

The Centre continues to promote cancer prevention and early detection through radio programs and jingles,,community outreach programmes, health education campaigns, and awareness materials.

Advancing Cancer Care Through Modern Radiotherapy at KCTC

The Kano Cancer Treatment Centre (KCTC) continues to strengthen its role as a leading hub for comprehensive cancer care in Nigeria and the wider sub-Saharan African region, delivering advanced radiotherapy services, multidisciplinary treatment, and patient-centred support.

At the heart of the Centre's operations is its Radiotherapy Unit, which provides a full spectrum of diagnostic support, treatment modalities, and follow-up care designed to improve cancer outcomes and enhance quality of life for patients.

Advanced Radiotherapy Services



According to the lead Radiation Therapist Peter Emmanuel Mshelia, KCTC offers external beam radiotherapy (teletherapy), a cornerstone of cancer treatment where high-energy radiation is directed externally to target cancer cells. This is delivered using cutting-edge techniques such as:

- 3D Conformal Radiotherapy (3D-CRT)
- Intensity-Modulated Radiotherapy (IMRT)
- Volumetric Modulated Arc Therapy (VMAT)
- Image-Guided Radiotherapy (IGRT)
- Intensity-Modulated Radiotherapy (IMRT)
- Volumetric Modulated Arc Therapy (VMAT)
- Image-Guided Radiotherapy (IGRT)

These technologies ensure precise tumour targeting while minimising exposure to surrounding healthy tissues.

The Centre also provides palliative radiotherapy, aimed at relieving symptoms such as pain, bleeding, and neurological complications caused by advanced cancers.

Brachytherapy Services



KCTC is among the select centres in the region offering High Dose Rate (HDR) brachytherapy and image-guided adaptive brachytherapy. This treatment involves placing radioactive sources directly within or near tumours, commonly used for:

- Cervical cancer
- Endometrial cancer
- Prostate cancer
- Breast cancer

The procedure is supported by detailed imaging and simulation to ensure accurate tumour localisation and patient comfort through customised immobilisation devices.

Precision Treatment Planning



Treatment at KCTC is driven by a highly skilled multidisciplinary team. The process begins with contouring by radiation oncologists, who define tumour boundaries and identify critical organs.

Medical physicists then design and optimize treatment plans by calculating precise radiation doses to ensure maximum tumour control while protecting healthy tissues.

Image-Guided Accuracy and Safety

To ensure treatment precision, KCTC utilises advanced verification systems such as:

- Cone Beam CT (CBCT)
- Portal imaging
- Surface-guided radiotherapy

These technologies confirm correct patient positioning before each treatment session, reducing the risk of error and improving safety.

Multidisciplinary Oncology Care

The Centre provides comprehensive oncology services, including:

Cancer diagnosis and consultation

Treatment planning and recommendations

- Chemoradiation (combined chemotherapy and radiotherapy)
- Management of treatment side effects
- Long-term follow-up care

This integrated approach involves radiation oncologists, medical oncologists, medical physicists, pharmacists, oncology nurses, nutritionists, psychologists, and physiotherapists working together under one roof.

Palliative and Supportive Care

KCTC is committed to improving quality of life through palliative radiotherapy, particularly for patients with:

- Bone metastasis
- Spinal cord compression
- Brain metastasis
- Bleeding tumours

Support services also include counselling, nutrition guidance, skin care education, and rehabilitation where necessary.

Quality Assurance and Patient Safety

The Centre maintains strict quality assurance and dosimetry protocols, ensuring that all equipment and radiation doses meet international safety standards. Regular machine calibration and treatment verification are conducted to guarantee accuracy and patient safety.

Patient Education and Follow-Up



- E**very Friday, KCTC conducts structured patient education sessions focusing on:
- Treatment understanding
 - Side effects management
 - Nutrition and wellness
 - Appointment adherence
- The Kano Cancer Treatment Centre remains committed to advancing cancer care through innovation, precision technology, and compassionate service delivery. With its growing capacity, skilled professionals, and patient-focused approach, KCTC continues to set new standards in radiotherapy and oncology care in Nigeria and beyond.

After treatment, patients are followed up regularly to monitor recovery, detect recurrenceeeeeeee, and manage long-term side effects.

State-of-the-Art Equipment

The Kano Cancer Treatment Centre (KCTC) is equipped with modern medical technologies designed to ensure accurate diagnosis and precision-driven cancer treatment.

Impact and Achievements

Since its establishment, KCTC has:

- Become one of the largest cancer treatment centres in Nigeria
- Reduced the need for patients to travel long distances for radiotherapy
- Shortened treatment waiting times to one to two weeks
- Provided training for postgraduate students and oncology professionals
- Strengthened cancer awareness through outreach and public education
- The Centre has also contributed significantly to national capacity building in oncology through clinical training, residency rotations, and multidisciplinary education programmes.

KCTC Launches First 3D Brachytherapy Service in Northern Nigeria



The Kano Cancer Treatment Centre (KCTC) has achieved another significant milestone in advancing cancer care delivery with the commencement of 3D brachytherapy services, becoming the first centre in Northern Nigeria to provide the specialised treatment technology.

The development marks a major step toward improving access to advanced oncology services and reducing the burden faced by cancer patients seeking treatment outside the region.

The Chief Executive Officer of KCTC, Dr. Nafisa Abdul, described brachytherapy as a specialised form of radiation therapy that delivers high doses of radiation directly to cancer cells while protecting surrounding healthy tissues and organs.

According to her, the introduction of 3D brachytherapy reflects KCTC's continued commitment to providing affordable, high-quality, and patient-centred cancer treatment services.

“We are proud of this milestone, as it is the first 3D brachytherapy equipment in Northern Nigeria. We are unique and niche,”

Dr. Nafisa further commended the Kano State Government for its sustained investment in modern oncology infrastructure and equipment, which has enabled the Centre to deliver highly subsidised cancer treatment services to patients across the country.

She also encouraged members of the public to embrace early cancer screening and seek timely medical attention to improve treatment outcomes.

Improving Access for Patients

Consultant Radiation Oncologist at KCTC, Dr. Aminu Liman, explained that brachytherapy is an essential component in the treatment of cancers such as cervical cancer, noting that patients typically undergo two sessions weekly to complete the required radiation dose.

He highlighted that the availability of the service within Kano would significantly

reduce the financial and emotional burden previously experienced by patients who travelled long distances for treatment.

“Before now, patients had to travel and spend heavily, but this service is now available at their doorstep,” he said.

A Medical Physicist at the Centre, Abbas Umar Faruk, noted that KCTC utilises advanced treatment technologies aimed at minimising side effects and improving treatment precision.

He explained that the Centre's CT simulator scans patients and transmits images directly to the treatment planning unit for accurate diagnosis and therapy planning.

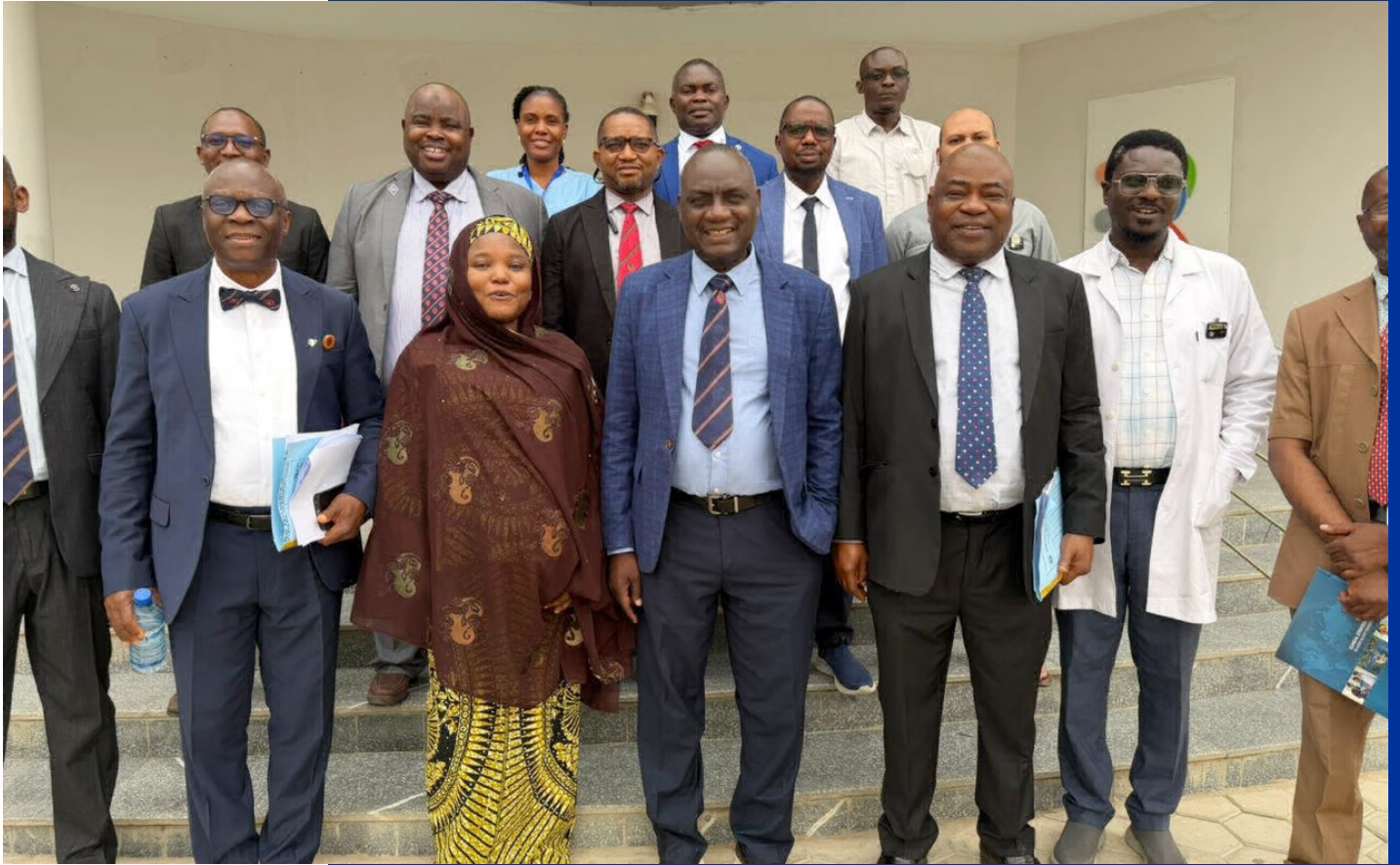
Similarly, the Lead Radiation Therapist at KCTC, Peter Emmanuel Mshelia, stated that advanced treatment techniques, including image-guided radiotherapy, help reduce toxicity while improving patient recovery and treatment accuracy.

He further disclosed that the Centre operates round-the-clock services and emphasised the importance of uninterrupted electricity supply in sustaining efficient cancer care delivery.

The commencement of 3D brachytherapy services further positions KCTC as a leading oncology centre in Nigeria, reinforcing its mission to provide accessible, modern, and comprehensive cancer treatment services for patients across Northern Nigeria and beyond.

PARTNERSHIP/VISITS







Understanding Cancer - Types, Prevention & Early Detection

Cancer is a major global health concern that continues to affect millions of people each year.

The World Health Organization defines cancer as a group of diseases in which abnormal cells grow uncontrollably, invade surrounding tissues, and may spread to other parts of the body through a process known as metastasis.

These changes usually develop over time due to a combination of genetic alterations and exposure to environmental risk factors.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer plays a key role in identifying and classifying substances and infections that can cause cancer.

TYPES OF CANCER

Cancer can affect almost any organ in the body. Some of the most frequently diagnosed types include:

- **Breast cancer**- affects breast tissue and is common among women
- **Lung cancer**- strongly associated with smoking and air pollution
- **Prostate cancer** - affects men, particularly in older age
- **Cervical cancer** - mainly caused by persistent HPV infection
- **Colorectal cancer** - affects the colon and rectum, often linked to lifestyle and diet
- **Skin cancer** - caused by excessive exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation
- **Blood cancers** - including leukemia and lymphoma, affecting blood and lymph systems

PREVENTION

While not all cancers can be prevented, many risks can be reduced through healthy choices:

- Avoid all forms of tobacco use
- Maintain a balanced diet rich in fruits and vegetables
- Stay physically active and maintain a healthy weight
- Limit alcohol intake
- Protect skin from excessive sun exposure
- Get vaccinated against HPV and Hepatitis B where recommended
- Reduce exposure to harmful chemicals and pollutants

EARLY DETECTION SAVES LIVES

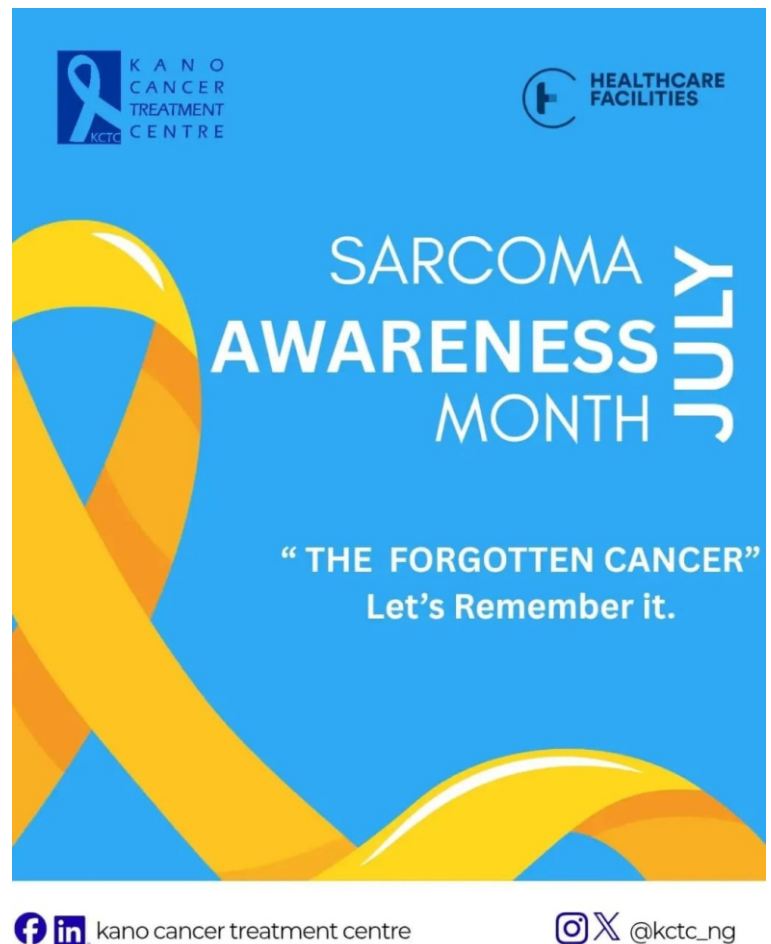
According to health professionals, detecting cancer early greatly improves treatment success. Warning signs to watch for include:

- Persistent fatigue or unexplained weight loss
- Unusual lumps or swelling
- Long-lasting cough or hoarseness
- Abnormal bleeding or discharge
- Changes in bowel or bladder habits
- Sores that do not heal

Experts say regular medical screening such as mammograms, Pap tests, and colon cancer screening remains essential, especially for individuals with higher risk factors.

Cancer is complex, but many cases are preventable, and early detection remains one of the most powerful tools in saving lives.

Awareness, healthy living, and timely medical care can significantly reduce its impact on individuals and communities.



Elderly Cancer Patient Finds Hope Through Free Treatment at KCTC



For years, Salma Ahmed lived with pain, uncertainty, and the crushing weight of medical bills she could not afford.

Today, seated quietly inside one of the offices at the imposing two-storey Kano Cancer Treatment Center, the elderly cancer patient wears a smile that reflects something she feared she might never regain hope.

That hope came through a phone call informing her that she had been selected to benefit from free cancer treatment offered by the Centre under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative.

For Salma, the intervention was nothing short of life-changing. Her health challenges, she explained, began more than two decades ago after an accident left a scar on her body. What initially appeared manageable gradually became a long and painful journey as she moved from one remedy to another in search of healing.

"I used herbal medicines for years because that was what we could afford," she recalled softly.

Eventually, doctors diagnosed her with cancer, a diagnosis that brought not only emotional distress but also severe financial hardship.

Like many Nigerians battling cancer, Salma found herself trapped between the need for life-saving treatment and the harsh reality of its cost. From chemotherapy drugs to repeated hospital visits, every stage of treatment demanded money her family struggled to raise.

"If I had the money, I would have completed my chemotherapy earlier," she said.

She remembered the painful routine that defined her treatment process before arriving at KCTC.

"I used to receive injections that made me vomit, and I was given three different drugs. Even getting the injections was difficult because we had to search everywhere before we could afford them," she said.

Cancer treatment in Nigeria remains financially overwhelming for many families. Beyond diagnosis, patients often face repeated laboratory tests, medications, chemotherapy sessions, transportation expenses, and prolonged hospital visits.

Although KCTC already offers oncology services at relatively subsidized rates compared to many cancer centres across the country, the cost of running specialized cancer care facilities remains enormous due to expensive equipment, medications, and operational demands.

To help support vulnerable patients, the Centre recently provided free treatment to about 10 cancer patients through a CSR intervention carried out in partnership with supporting organizations.

cancer care facilities remains enormous due to expensive equipment, medications, and operational demands.

To help support vulnerable patients, the Centre recently provided free treatment to about 10 cancer patients through a CSR intervention carried out in partnership with supporting organizations. For Salma, access to the programme came after her daughter approached the Centre to inquire about possible assistance.

"After submitting my test results, my daughter came here to ask if I could benefit from the free services, but she was told the programme was temporarily on hold,"

Days later, her life changed unexpectedly.

"Later, I received a phone call that completely changed my life," she said, her face brightening with emotion.

"As you can see now, I am getting better. I have already undergone several sessions, and I am expected to complete about 25 sessions."

"This opportunity has changed my life," she said.

"I pray that Allah rewards them with Jannatul Firdaus. Only God can repay them for this kindness."

Her story is one of many quiet battles fought daily by cancer patients across Nigeria battles not only against illness, but against poverty, fear, and limited access to care.

At KCTC, stories like Salma's continue to highlight the urgent need for affordable, compassionate, and accessible cancer treatment, especially for vulnerable patients who might otherwise be left behind.

PROGRAMS AND OUTREACH

Fighting Cervical Cancer Through Awareness: How KCTC is Taking Prevention to the Grassroots



A Girl Receiving HPV Vaccine during KCTC outreach at Giginyu PHC

Inside the crowded hall of Giginyu Primary Health Care Centre, women listened attentively as health professionals spoke about a disease many had heard about, but few fully understood cervical cancer.

Some came carrying babies on their backs. Others arrived with daughters beside them, eager to learn about a vaccine they had recently begun hearing about in their communities. Questions flowed freely: Is the vaccine safe? Who should take it? Can cervical cancer be prevented? What happens if it is detected late?

For many of the women gathered from the Badawa and Giginyu communities, the outreach was more than a health awareness programme. It was an opportunity to better understand a disease that continues to claim the lives of thousands of women across Nigeria.

The sensitisation and Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination mobilisation outreach was organised by the Kano Cancer Treatment Center in collaboration with the Kano State Ministry of Health as part of efforts to promote cervical cancer prevention through awareness creation, early detection, and vaccination.

At the centre of the conversation was a growing concern: the rising burden of cervical cancer among women.

Speaking during the outreach, the Chief Executive Officer of KCTC, Dr. Nafisa Abdu, revealed that nearly 60 per cent of cancer cases managed at the Centre are cervical cancer cases.

The figure, she explained, highlights the urgent need for stronger prevention strategies and wider community education.

“This is a major step towards preventing cervical cancer,” Dr. Nafisa said while addressing participants.

“The government has made the vaccine accessible and free for young girls, and we are keying into this opportunity provided by existing health policies.”

According to her, the outreach was specifically designed to encourage mothers to present their daughters for the HPV vaccination exercise scheduled for the following Saturday.

Health experts say the HPV vaccine is most effective when administered to girls between the ages of 9 and 14 before first sexual contact. For older women, regular screening remains critical for early detection and treatment.

For many participants, the session helped dispel misconceptions surrounding cervical cancer and the HPV vaccine.

Lead Radiation Therapist at KCTC, Peter Emmanuel Mshelia, educated the women on common symptoms associated with cervical cancer, including abnormal bleeding and foul-smelling vaginal discharge.

He also warned that untreated pelvic inflammatory diseases could increase the risk of developing cervical cancer if not properly managed.

The outreach quickly transformed into an interactive conversation as women openly discussed fears, cultural beliefs, and concerns surrounding the disease.

Facilitating the session, Hajiya Nafisa Murtala of Express Radio encouraged participants to ask questions freely, particularly regarding HPV transmission, vaccination, and cancer management within polygamous homes.

Among the participants were Halima Muhammad and Zainab Abubakar, who sought clarification on vaccine safety and treatment options.

Health professionals reassured the women that proper screening and early medical intervention remain essential in preventing severe complications.

Perhaps the most emotional moment of the outreach came during an experience-sharing session by cervical cancer survivor Halisa Muhammad.

Standing before the women, Halisa shared her personal journey with the disease and urged participants not to ignore symptoms or delay seeking medical help.

Her testimony resonated deeply with many in attendance, reinforcing the importance of prevention, early diagnosis, and access to accurate information.

For officials of the Kano State Ministry of Health, the outreach forms part of broader efforts to reduce the impact of cervical cancer across the state.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Bashir Yusuf Yunusa explained that the sensitisation was organised as part of activities marking World Cancer Day, alongside a one-day HPV vaccination exercise for eligible girls.

He reaffirmed the state government's commitment to implementing policies and programmes aimed at increasing awareness and ensuring that eligible girls receive the HPV vaccine.

Beyond awareness, however, the outreach also highlighted a larger challenge, access to affordable cancer treatment for vulnerable patients.

act of cervical cancer in communities across Kano State.

Dr. Nafisa called on philanthropists and well-meaning individuals to support indigent cancer patients who cannot afford treatment, stressing that fighting cervical cancer requires collective action from government, healthcare institutions, communities, and development partners.

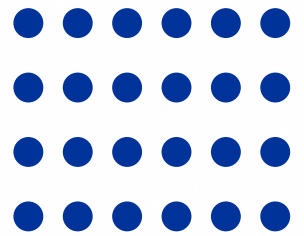
As the programme came to an end, women slowly gathered around health workers for additional consultations, while others discussed plans to bring their daughters for vaccination.

For many, the outreach was not just another public health event. It was the beginning of conversations capable of saving lives, protecting future generations, and reducing the devastating impact of cervical cancer in communities across Kano State.



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*Follow us on our social media platforms for updates,
health tips, and upcoming events.*

"Together Against Cancer, Together for Life."

