



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND PROFESSIONAL
STANDARDS

STATUS OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE IN KENYA AND PCN BEST PRACTICES

Press Release

For Immediate Release:

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The Ministry of Health, State Department of Public Health and Professional Standards is pleased to provide an update on the status of Primary Health Care Networks (PCNs) establishment in Kenya, highlighting significant progress. The establishment of these networks has been a vital component of our healthcare strategy, aimed at improving the delivery of primary healthcare services across all counties.

Primary Health Care (PHC) is not just the first level of contact with the health system but also the foundation for a healthy society, addressing the majority of an individual's health needs throughout their life. It is the cornerstone of the healthcare system, providing essential health services that are universally accessible to individuals and families in the community. PHC enables the provision of person-centered care in a holistic way. Therefore, PHC plays a crucial role in achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by delivering services when and where needed.

The establishment and operationalization of Primary Health Care Networks (PCNs) exemplify Kenya's commitment to enhancing PHC. These networks integrate various levels of healthcare delivery and coordinate multidisciplinary health teams to ensure comprehensive and coordinated care.

To date, 160 PCNs have been successfully set up, and 41 are in progress, marking a significant step towards our goal. This means that currently, 87 percent counties have at least one operational PCN. Functional PCNs have demonstrated significant success in delivering quality primary healthcare services, with increased outreach, disease screening, improved patient referrals, and better coordination among health workers.

The achievements of PCNs include increased coverage and access, such as in Garissa and Vihiga Counties where Family Planning Integration Coverage increased from 66% in 2019 to 87% in 2022, and skilled deliveries rose from 77% to 98% in Garissa County. In West Pokot County, the Kacheliba PCN has been equipped with a functional theatre and increased human resources for health, greatly enhancing service delivery. In Lamu County, referral to the newly established hubs has reduced referrals to the County Referral Hospital, streamlining healthcare access.

Training and capacity building efforts have been significant, with 248 Master Trainers trained to support the counties in setting up their PCNs. These trainers play a crucial role in disseminating best practices and ensuring the effective functioning of PCNs.

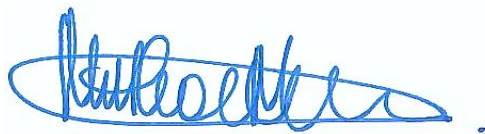
Innovative approaches have been adopted, such as in Kisumu County where the use of drones for commodity distribution has improved the timely delivery of medical supplies to remote areas, and in Kwale County where household obstetric ultrasound assessments have been implemented, enhancing prenatal care and early detection of complications.

Monitoring and evaluation are essential components of this initiative. Baseline assessments have been conducted in all established PCNs using standardized tools, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the primary healthcare landscape. The creation of a National PCN observatory allows for real-time tracking and monitoring of PCN establishment across counties, ensuring transparency and accountability.

The Ministry of Health has developed an electronic community health information system (e-CHIS) to improve real-time data availability and the accuracy of community health data. This system supports better decision-making and resource allocation.

Primary health care is rooted in its potential to address fundamental health needs and improve overall health outcomes through a holistic and community-oriented approach. It emphasizes integrated, comprehensive, continuous, and coordinated care, focusing on health promotion, disease prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care.

Investing in PHC is not merely a healthcare strategy but an imperative for national development and societal well-being. Through PHC, Kenya will build a resilient healthcare system that promotes health equity, strengthens economic productivity, and secures a prosperous future for all its citizens. Let us seize this opportunity to build a healthier, more resilient Kenya by ensuring we register with the Social Health Authority and actively participate in our primary health care initiatives.



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