

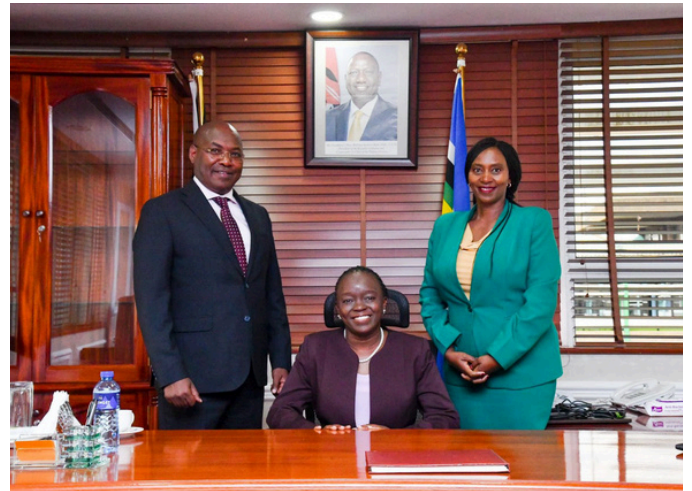


NEWSLETTER

STATE DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL SERVICES

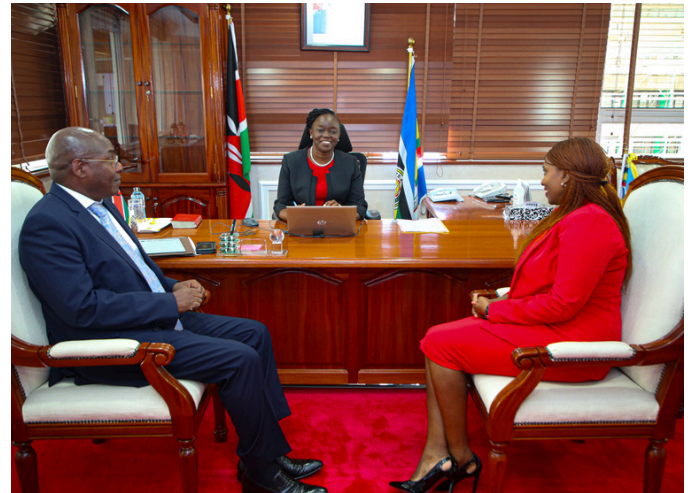


Transition of Leadership at the Ministry of Health



Former CS for Health, Nakhumicha S. Wafula, handed over her duties to the new CS, Dr. Deborah M. Barasa, at Afya House. Dr. Barasa praised Nakhumicha's leadership and committed to advancing Universal Health Coverage by strengthening primary healthcare and enhancing the CHPs program.

Cabinet Secretary for Health Urges Unified Effort Towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC)



At an all-staff meeting on 14th August 2024, Health CS Dr. Debora Mlongo Barasa urged Ministry staff to collaborate towards achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC).



Dr. Deborah Mlongo emphasised stakeholder engagement, active public communication and collective responsibility in ensuring affordable, accessible and quality healthcare for all Kenyans.

SHA Roll-out Preparations

Health Leadership Discusses Key Implementation Areas

Cabinet Secretary for Health Dr. Deborah Mulongo, Principal Secretary Mr. Harry Kimtai, and Director General Dr. Patrick Amoth met on 23rd August, 2024 to finalise preparations for the SHA roll-out on October 1st, 2024.



Dr. Deborah Mlongo
Cabinet Secretary for Health

The focus was on membership registration and contributions, the introduction of the new benefit package and SHA's readiness to deliver. Implementing SHA is a critical step toward achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in Kenya and is set to bring significant transformation to our healthcare system.





Kenya's Digital Health Superhighway Progress at Africa eHealth Forum

Health digitisation is on track, says PS Harry Kimtai. Kenya's Digital Health Superhighway is 70% complete, driving progress towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC).



Mr. Harry Kimtai
Principal Secretary

SHA | Social Health Authority
Bima Bora, Afya Nyumbani

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The Social Health Authority (SHA) is the organization that will manage social health insurance in Kenya.

Kenya Strengthens Mpox Preparedness



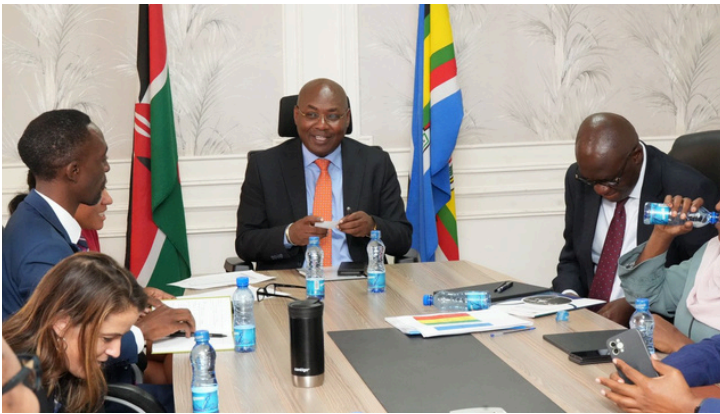
Dr. Patrick Amoth

Director General

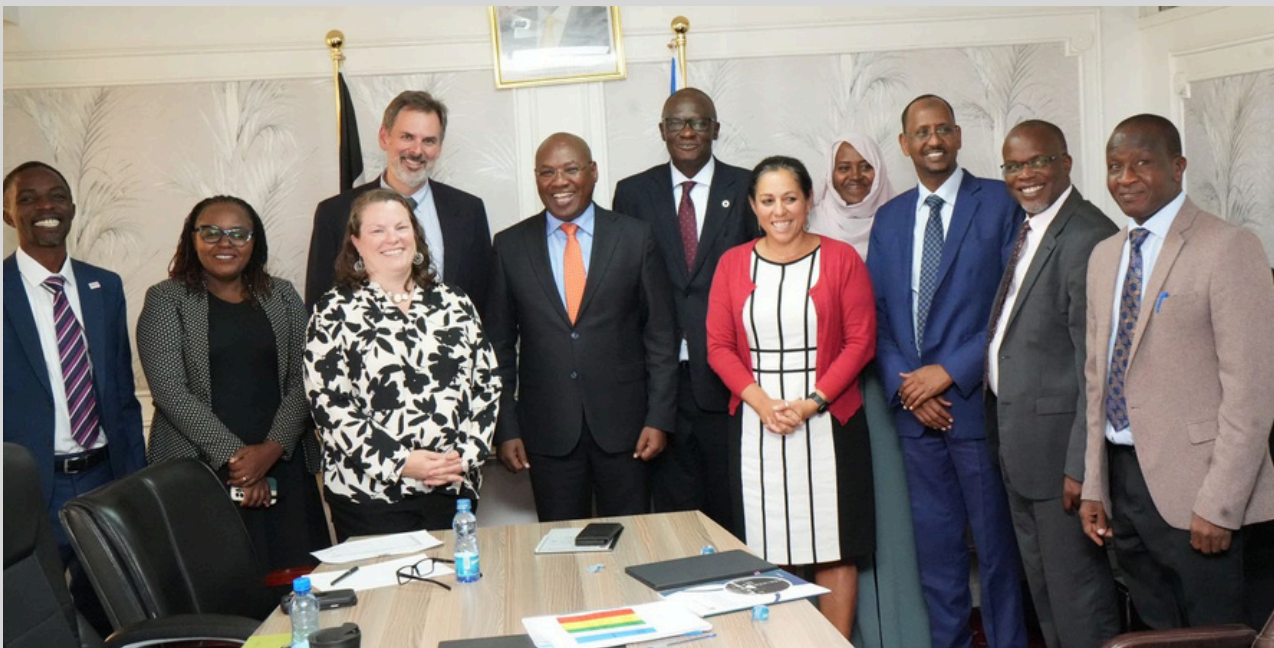
Kenya is intensifying its Mpox preparedness, with Director General of Health, Dr. Patrick Amoth, stressing the importance of early intervention and partnerships to prevent an outbreak. Despite only one confirmed case, rising cases across Africa have heightened vigilance.

At a stakeholder meeting on 12th August 2024, Dr. Amoth highlighted measures such as rapid testing, community engagement, and monitoring points of entry. Health officials, including Dr. Sultan Matendebero and Dr. Grace Ikahu, emphasised coordination and communication to protect public health and economic stability.

PS Medical Services and USAID Leadership Meet



On 15th August 2024, Principal Secretary Harry Kimtai and Director General Dr. Patrick Amoth met with USAID to introduce new Health Director Bradley Cronk. They discussed advancing Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and securing funding for key health programmes.



Ministry signs first Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Kenya National Union of Nurses and Midwives



On 6th August 2024, the Ministry of Health and the Kenya National Union of Nurses and Midwives (KNUNM) signed their first Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA), effective from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2025.

The agreement, signed by Principal Secretaries Ms. Mary Muthoni and Mr. Harry Kimtai, enhances nurses' rights, working conditions, and benefits, contributing to improved public health service delivery and advancing Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in Kenya.



Partnership to Boost Healthcare Delivery



On 2nd August 2024, Principal Secretary for Medical Services, Mr Harry Kimtai, met with Dr Ndirangu Wanjuki of Amref Health Africa to discuss improving healthcare delivery in Kenya.

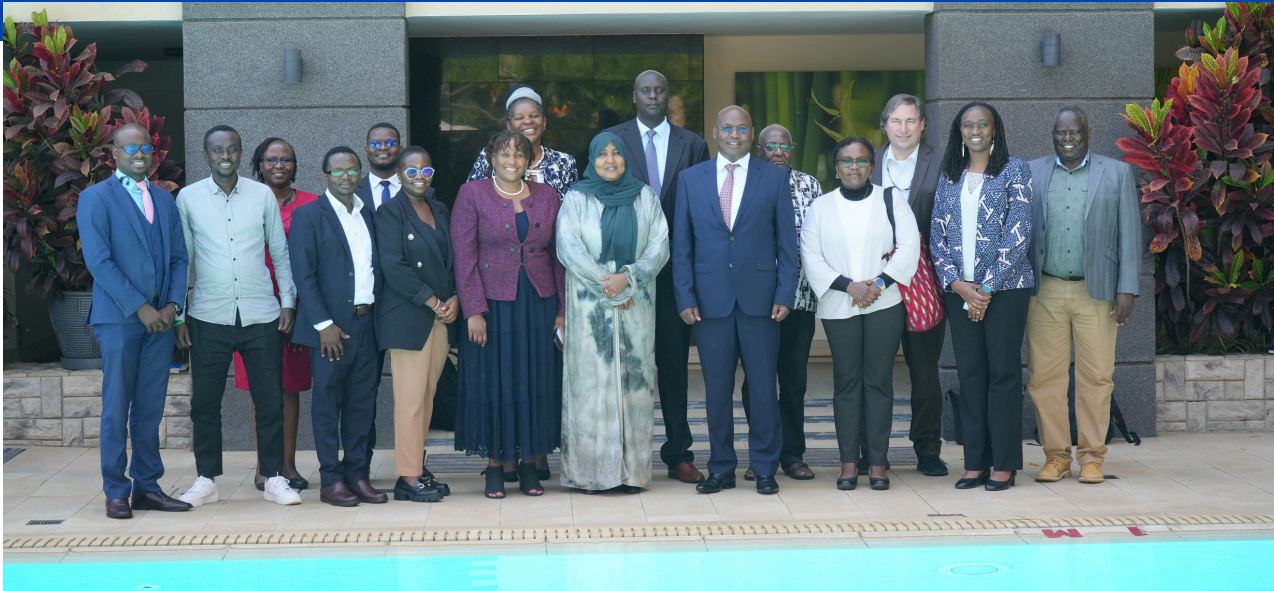
Key topics included:

- social health insurance
- neonatal health
- integrated services
- local manufacturing of health commodities

Mr Kimtai emphasised the importance of this partnership, a key goal of the Kenya Kwanza agenda, aiming to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality and enhance access to essential healthcare.



Kenya Achieves 68% Reduction in AIDS-Related Deaths and HIV Infections over the Past Decade



Kenya has made major strides in combating HIV/AIDS, achieving a 68% reduction in AIDS-related deaths and a sharp decline in new infections.

On 6th August 2024, Principal Secretary for Medical Services, Mr Harry Kimtai, stressed the need for a strong HIV Sustainability Operational Plan to maintain this progress. At the inaugural meeting of the steering committee, Mr Kimtai urged stakeholders to address gaps and push efforts beyond 2030, reaffirming Kenya's commitment to eliminating HIV as a health threat.



Strengthening Collaboration for Effective HIV Management

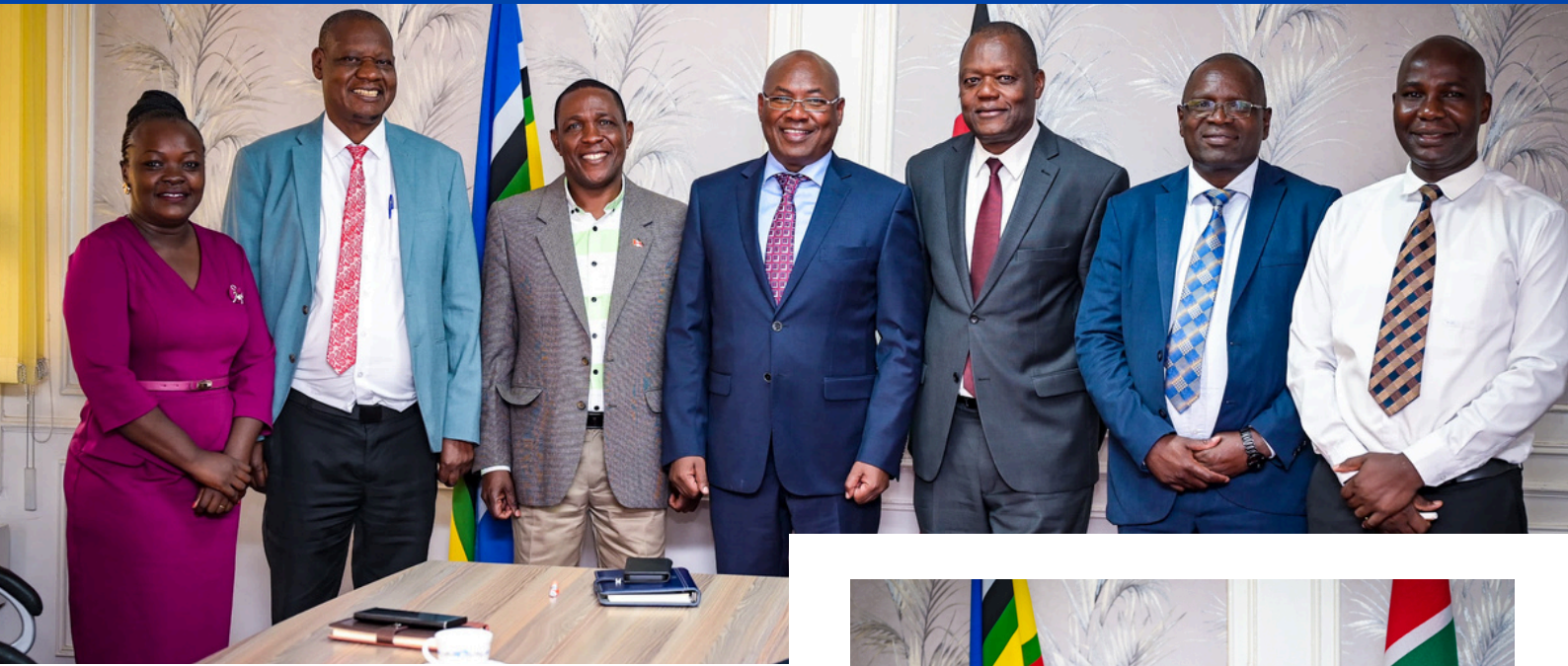


On 7th August 2024, Dr. Rose Wafula, Head of NASCOP, and Dr. Waqo Erjesa, CEO of KEMSA, met to discuss the management of HIV commodities in Kenya.



Their collaboration has been key in advancing HIV management and prevention, with over 1.3 million Kenyans on antiretroviral therapy. The meeting confirmed a steady supply of essential commodities, and KEMSA has launched a 72-hour Rapid Result Initiative (RRI) to ensure uninterrupted access across all counties. This collaboration highlights the ongoing commitment to sustaining progress in HIV management and ensuring the well-being of all Kenyans.

PS for Medical Services Meets Kakamega County Delegation to Discuss Hospital Completion



On 3rd July 2024, Principal Secretary for Medical Services, Mr Harry Kimtai, met with Kakamega County's CEC Health Services, Dr Bernard Wesonga, to discuss completing the 750-bed Kakamega County Teaching and Referral Hospital.



They focused on resource allocation and forming a technical committee to plan the hospital's handover. Dr Wesonga stressed the hospital's role in healthcare and economic growth, while Mr Kimtai reaffirmed government support, emphasizing its importance for UHC.

Health Ministry Hosts Chinese Delegation

On 19th August 2024, Dr. Patrick Amoth met a Chinese delegation and UNFPA to enhance maternal and newborn health. Discussions included leveraging innovations like Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS) for better healthcare access.



Health CS Assesses Mpox Preparedness

On 19th August 2024, Health CS Dr. Deborah Mlongo Barasa assessed Mpox preparedness, confirming that Kenya is ready to handle the outbreak. Screening efforts and negative test results for suspected cases were highlighted.

Cabinet Secretary for Health Receives Transition Committee's Report on NHIF to SHA Shift

On 15th August 2024, Health CS Dr. Deborah Mlongo received the NHIF to SHA transition report from the committee chaired by Jason Kap-Kirwok. She assured that the recommendations will be implemented. The meeting included key health leaders such as Principal Secretary Mr. Harry Kimtai and SHA Chairman Dr. Timothy Olweny.



Ministry of Health Hosts Workshop on UHC Communication Tools and Beneficiary Engagement



Dr. Elizabeth Wangia, Head of Health Financing, highlighted the importance of countering misinformation about the Social Health Authority (SHA) and engaging key groups. She also urged counties to prioritise sensitisation and noted the new digital infrastructure for the SHA roll-out.

Why Social Health Insurance is Essential for Every Kenyan

The Social Health Authority (SHA) aims to transform healthcare in Kenya by providing accessible, affordable and high-quality care through the Social Health Insurance scheme. Supported by the 2023 Social Health Insurance and Digital Health Acts, key initiatives include secure digital platforms, Primary Health Care Networks, and deploying over 107,000 Community Health Promoters. Public participation is crucial to making healthcare a right for every Kenyan.

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