

MOH WEEKLY BULLETIN



Kenya and U.S. Deepen Collaboration on Health Systems and Commodity Security

The Cabinet Secretary for Health, Dr. Deborah Mlongo Barasa, hosted a U.S. Congressional Delegation at the Kenya Medical Supplies Authority (KEMSA) to strengthen bilateral collaboration in health systems, commodity procurement, and public health response.

During the meeting held on 19th at Kems, Dr. Barasa reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to achieving self-reliance in health commodity security through local pharmaceutical manufacturing.

She underscored ongoing government efforts to reduce reliance on imports by boosting local production, enhancing regulatory oversight, and encouraging private-sector investment in the health supply chain.

The Cabinet Secretary welcomed U.S. support in areas such as technology transfer, supply chain efficiency, regulatory reforms, and capacity building. She emphasized the need to expand market access for Kenyan-made health products, noting that strategic partnerships will be key in strengthening Kenya's position as a regional pharmaceutical hub.

KEMSA Board Chair Mr. Samuel Tunai and CEO Dr. Waqo Ejersa also participated in the engagement, providing updates on reforms aimed at enhancing efficiency, transparency, and reliability in medical supply management.

The visit reaffirmed a shared commitment to deepening Kenya–U.S. health cooperation and advancing sustainable solutions for resilient health systems.



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Senate Committee Engages Health Ministry on Draft Digital Health Regulations

On 18th March 2025, Principal Secretary for the State Department for Medical Services, Mr. Harry Kimtai, appeared before the Senate Committee on Delegated Legislation, chaired by Senator Mwenda Gataya, for a pre-publication review of two key regulatory frameworks: The Digital Health - Health Information Management Procedures Regulations 2025 and The Data Exchange Component Regulations 2025.

The session focused on aligning the proposed regulations with national priorities in digital health transformation, data security, and interoperability.

Mr. Kimtai expressed appreciation for the committee's insightful feedback and commitment to strengthening digital health governance, noting that the collaborative engagement is instrumental in advancing Kenya's digital health agenda.

These regulations aim to provide a strong legal foundation for health data management and exchange, ensuring efficiency, privacy, and accountability within the health sector.

Ministry of Health Engages Senate Committee on Health to Advance Budget Policy Priorities

On 18th March 2025, the Cabinet Secretary for Health, Dr. Deborah Mlongo Barasa, together with Principal Secretaries Mr. Harry Kimtai and Ms. Mary Muthoni, Director General for Health Dr. Patrick Amoth, and other senior officials, appeared before the Senate Committee on Health, chaired by Senator Jackson Mandago.

The engagement focused on the Budget Policy Statement (BPS), a critical framework guiding resource allocation in the health sector. The Ministry outlined its strategic priorities aimed at strengthening healthcare systems, advancing universal health coverage, and ensuring inclusive and equitable health service delivery across the country.

The session highlighted the importance of sustained investment in public health, workforce development, infrastructure, and essential commodities to enhance the resilience and responsiveness of Kenya's health system.

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Kenya Hosts Regional Health Promotion Conference to Advance Inclusive Universal Health Coverage

Kenya hosted the Regional Health Promotion Conference (RHPC 2025) from 18th to 19th March under the theme “Empowering Communities for Inclusive Universal Health Coverage through an Intersectional Approach.” The two-day conference brought together regional health experts, policymakers, and development partners to position health promotion as a central strategy in achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

While officially opening the conference, Principal Secretary for the State Department for Public Health and Professional Standards, Ms. Mary Muthoni, emphasized the importance of preventive care in reducing disease burden and improving public health outcomes.



She outlined the government's shift from curative to preventive health, highlighted by the deployment of 107,831 Community Health Promoters across all 47 counties and the establishment of Primary Care Networks to strengthen grassroots access to care.

“Health promotion is not just a strategy; it is the foundation of Universal Health Coverage. By investing in community-driven healthcare solutions, Kenya is empowering individuals and families to take charge of their health,” said PS Muthoni. She also underscored the role of multi-sectoral collaboration, digital health innovations, and sustainable financing in expanding access to inclusive, affordable healthcare.

The Principal Secretary reaffirmed the government's commitment to deepening partnerships in health promotion and urged stakeholders to leverage technology and innovation to scale up community-based health interventions across the region.

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PS Harry Kimtai Leads Launch and Presentation of Digitization Devices in Embu County

Principal Secretary for Medical Services, Mr. Harry Kimtai, led the official launch and presentation of digitization devices in Embu County, marking a key milestone in the county's rollout of the Taifa Care programme. Embu becomes the second county to implement healthcare digitization as part of the broader national health reforms.

The event held on 17th March 2025 was attended by Embu County Deputy Governor H.E. Kinyua Mugo, Hon. Moses Kuria, Senior Advisor at the Council of Economic Advisors (State House), Dr. Daniel Mwai, Dr. Thurania Kaugiria, Acting CEO of the Digital Health Agency Anthony Lenaiyara, and Acting CEO of the Social Health Authority Robert Ingasira, among other key officials.

PS Kimtai reaffirmed the operational status of the Social Health Authority (SHA), noting that some of the concerns raised about its effectiveness stem from deviations from prescribed guidelines. He emphasized that recent improvements in the benefits package and revenue collection demonstrate positive progress under the new health model.

"We are here to take you through the new Primary Healthcare Model, including the capitation framework and benefits package. Every health facility should clearly display this package to promote transparency and awareness among patients," said PS Kimtai.

He urged healthcare administrators in Embu to fully integrate the new digitization tools into service delivery, stressing their role in enhancing efficiency, accountability, and patient care. The event also highlighted the rollout of the Health Management Information System (HMIS), including its implementation strategy and upcoming training for healthcare staff.

The engagement provided a platform for county teams to share their feedback and experiences with SHA and DHA, reaffirming the Ministry's commitment to a coordinated, data-driven healthcare system across the country.



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Kenya to Host Global Healthcare Expo in October 2025

Kenya will host the inaugural World Health Conference and Expo by Informa Markets this October in Nairobi—the first global healthcare expo in East Africa.

The event will showcase Kenya's leadership in healthcare innovation, local manufacturing, and medical technologies, bringing together global and regional experts to discuss disease trends, knowledge exchange, and partnerships.

Aligned with Kenya's Universal Health Coverage (UHC) goals, the Expo reinforces the country's role as a regional health hub. Principal Secretary Mary Muthoni recently met with Informa Markets' Tom Coleman to discuss Kenya's readiness.

The Ministry of Health looks forward to welcoming global health leaders and investors.



PS Mary Muthoni Highlights Healthcare Reforms on Inooro FM

Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards, Mary Muthoni, joined Inooro FM's KEERA Show to discuss the Ministry of Health's ongoing efforts to enhance healthcare access and quality for all Kenyans.

PS Muthoni highlighted key reforms, including the rollout of the Social Health Authority (SHA) to advance Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by making healthcare more affordable and accessible.

She emphasized the Ministry's focus on strengthening the health workforce to ensure quality services nationwide.

The discussion also covered digital health innovations like telemedicine to improve efficiency and expand access, especially in underserved areas. On mental health, she stressed the need to scale up awareness, care access, and supportive policies.

She also reiterated the Ministry's commitment to emergency preparedness and resilient health systems. Throughout, she reaffirmed the importance of community engagement in driving inclusive, people-centered health reforms.

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Kenya, Gates Foundation Deepen Partnership to Safeguard Health Gains



Cabinet Secretary for Health, Dr. Deborah Mlongo Barasa on 19th March 2025, met with a delegation from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to discuss ongoing collaboration aimed at strengthening Kenya's health systems and sustaining key public health achievements.

The delegation was led by Dr. Paulin Basinga, Africa Director, accompanied by Dr. Boniface Ngenga, Deputy Director for Health Delivery & Systems, and the Foundation's East Africa Regional Representative.

Discussions centered on addressing the challenges of declining health sector funding, the importance of preventing future public health crises, and the need to enhance governance and financing mechanisms to support resilient and equitable healthcare delivery.

Dr. Barasa commended the Gates Foundation for its continued support in critical areas including HIV/AIDS, malaria, maternal and child health, and primary healthcare, noting that its investment in research and innovation has been instrumental in advancing Kenya's health agenda.

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Ministry of Health and Yale School of Nursing Explore Collaboration on Advanced Nurse Training

The Ministry of Health is exploring collaboration in advanced nursing education following a meeting between Director General Dr. Patrick Amoth and Yale School of Nursing Dean Dr. Azita Emami on 17th March 2025.

Discussions focused on strengthening nursing education to advance UHC, with Yale expressing interest in supporting Advanced Nurse Practitioner and doctoral-level training in Leadership and Management. Dr. Emami also praised Kenya's Community Health Promoter (CHP) program as a strong primary healthcare model.

Dr. Amoth welcomed the partnership, highlighting Kenya's ongoing Nurse Practitioner training and plans to scale up. The Ministry remains committed to partnerships that enhance healthcare innovation and workforce capacity.



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Kenya Marks World Oral Health Day with Launch of Community Oral Health Department at KMTTC Mosoriot

The event was presided over by Cabinet Secretary for Health, Dr. Deborah Mlongo Barasa, alongside Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards, Mary Muthoni, and senior health officials. The launch reaffirms the government's commitment to strengthening oral health as an integral part of overall well-being and Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

Dr. Barasa emphasized that oral diseases—such as gum disease and dental caries—remain highly prevalent and are linked to major non-communicable diseases (NCDs) like diabetes and heart conditions. She called for increased investment in oral health promotion, prevention, and expanded service delivery.

Representing the Chief of Staff and Head of Public Service, Mr. Felix Koskei, the CS urged Kenyans to make oral hygiene a priority and encouraged health professionals to champion better oral health outcomes. She further called on stakeholders to support oral health as a key pillar of UHC.

The newly launched department at KMTTC Mosoriot will play a crucial role in training community oral health officers, expanding access to underserved areas, and promoting preventive care across the country.



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PS Harry Kimtai Leads Tree Planting Initiative in Elgeyo Marakwet

On 20th March 2025, PS for Medical Services Harry Kimtai and Elgeyo Marakwet Governor Wesley Rotich led a tree planting exercise at Yokot Kapteren Dam under the Presidential 15 Billion Tree Initiative.

Joined by health agency CEOs and the local community, the event promoted environmental conservation and sustainable livelihoods. PS Kimtai highlighted the link between environmental health and well-being, emphasizing fruit tree planting for climate action, food security, and economic empowerment.

He encouraged local tree nurseries, noting government support for seedlings, and urged residents to register for the Social Health Authority (SHA) to improve healthcare access



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Kenya Reaffirms Commitment to Oral Health During World Oral Health Day 2025 Celebrations in Makueni

Kenya joined the global community in commemorating World Oral Health Day with national celebrations held at Nduluku Comprehensive School in Makueni County, under the theme “A Happy Mouth Is... A Happy Mind.” The event spotlighted the importance of oral health as a pillar of overall well-being and a key component of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

Speaking on behalf of the Principal Secretary for Medical Services, Dr. Rebecca Kiptui, the Acting Director for Curative and Nursing Services, emphasized the urgency of integrating oral health into UHC due to its significant impact on mental and physical health. She pointed to findings from the 2015 National Oral Health Survey, which revealed that 98.1% of adults suffer from gum disease, 46.3% of five-year-olds have tooth decay, and 41.4% of children are affected by dental fluorosis—largely as a result of prolonged use of untreated borehole water.

Despite the widespread burden of oral diseases, only 13% of health facilities in the country currently provide dental services.

The national dentist-to-population ratio remains low at 0.27 per 10,000 people, with access particularly limited in rural and primary care settings.

In response, the Ministry of Health reaffirmed its commitment to improving oral healthcare through the Kenya National Oral Health Policy 2022–2030 and the Strategic Plan 2022–2026. County governments were encouraged to appoint County Dental Officers and to prioritize oral health in both planning and resource allocation.

In addition, the Ministry is reviewing the oral health benefits under the Social Health Authority to improve access to services through UHC. The event brought together stakeholders from across the health sector, the Kenya Defence Forces, Makueni County Government, and development partners, all united in promoting better oral health outcomes for all Kenyans.

