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Kenya launches new health security plans



Kenya is transitioning from reactive crisis response to a forward-looking, resilient health security model anchored in preparedness, real-time intelligence and coordinated national action.

Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale today launched the Kenya National Public Health Institute Strategic Plan (2023–2027) and the National Action Plan for Health Security (2026–2030), signalling a shift toward systems that anticipate and manage health threats before they escalate.

The Kenya National Public Health Institute will anchor this transition, integrating surveillance, laboratory networks and emergency operations into a unified national response, with a strong focus on real-time data, preparedness, risk communication and a One Health approach.

Progress in Universal Health Coverage continues to reinforce this agenda, with over 30 million Kenyans now registered under the Social Health Authority, expanding access, financial protection and early detection at community level.

Key Highlights

- Clear roadmap for strengthening national health security (2023–2030)
- Real-time data systems to support faster, evidence-based decision-making
- Strengthened emergency preparedness and response capacity

Kenya is also strengthening its position as a regional health security hub, hosting the Africa CDC Eastern Africa Regional Coordinating Centre and the WHO Regional Emergency Hub in Nairobi, with sustained domestic financing identified as key to long-term resilience.

The Cabinet Secretary announced plans for the inaugural Kenya Health Security Convention to align priorities and deepen collaboration.

At the launch, he was joined by Mary Muthoni (PS, Public Health and Professional Standards); Festus K. Ng'eno (PS, Environment and Climate Change); Neema Rusibamayila Kimambo (WHO Acting Country Representative); John Kariuki (Chairperson, KNPHI Board); and



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Shift to measurable results in maternal and newborn health

Principal Secretary for Medical Services Ouma Oluga has called for a shift from commitments to measurable results in efforts to end preventable maternal and newborn deaths.

Speaking at the close of the International Maternal and Newborn Health Conference 2026 in Nairobi, the PS urged stakeholders to treat the conference theme as a shared obligation, stressing that progress must be defined by impact at the point of care.

He noted that largely preventable maternal and newborn deaths remain a key measure of health system performance, underscoring the need for sustained investment in frontline health workers and quality service delivery.

Dr. Oluga highlighted the persistent gap between policy and implementation, calling for stronger accountability frameworks to ensure resources translate into improved outcomes, and cautioned against a continued focus on reporting without corresponding results.



Amid tightening fiscal space and declining external funding, he emphasised the need for country-led solutions, sustainable financing and resilient health systems.

The PS urged participants to translate conference deliberations into concrete, time-bound actions, warning against a disconnect between plans and implementation.

The conference brought together global and regional leaders, including policymakers, health professionals, development partners, researchers and civil society, to advance practical solutions for improving maternal and newborn health and accelerating progress towards ending preventable deaths.

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Waste management prioritised as public health intervention

Waste management has been identified as a critical public health issue, with direct implications for sanitation, disease prevention and environmental safety.

Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards, Mary Muthoni, today held talks with the Green Africa Team to advance a strategic partnership under the Epuka Uchafu Initiative.

The engagement focused on strengthening structured waste collection, scaling recycling, and empowering communities and informal sector actors to drive a circular economy—turning waste into opportunity while supporting cleaner, healthier communities.



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Kenya–Italy partnership strengthens UHC and health systems

Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale participated in a high-level bilateral meeting with the Italian Development Cooperation Mission to Kenya ahead of the forthcoming State Visit to Italy. The meeting, held on 26 March 2026, was chaired by Musalia Mudavadi and attended by a delegation led by Stefano Gatti.

The engagement reaffirmed the strong Kenya–Italy partnership in advancing Universal Health Coverage, with ongoing collaboration in healthcare infrastructure development in Malindi, telemedicine, and health workforce training providing a foundation for deeper cooperation.

Priority areas identified for expanded collaboration include pharmaceutical and vaccine manufacturing, digital health, strengthening human resources for health, and advancing global health security and pandemic preparedness, alongside opportunities in research, innovation, and specialised care.

The partnership is expected to strengthen health systems, accelerate innovation, and position Kenya as a regional hub for quality, accessible healthcare.



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Call for self-reliant, domestically financed health systems

Principal Secretary for Medical Services Ouma Oluga has urged African countries to shift to self-reliant, domestically financed health systems to withstand future health and financial shocks.

Speaking at the Community of Practice on Health Sovereignty Conference in Uganda, he emphasised the need for country-owned, country-led systems amid declining external funding and emerging health threats.

Drawing lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic, he called for stronger financing frameworks, expanded local manufacturing, clear national priorities and scaling of homegrown innovations.

He cited disciplined resource use, sustained commitment and locally driven solutions as critical to advancing health sovereignty, reaffirming Kenya's investment in human and financial resources to build resilient systems.

The forum, co-hosted with the African Union Development Agency, brought together African countries to advance health sovereignty and strengthen country-led systems.

