

MOH DAILY NEWS BRIEF



Key Highlights

- Low-cost Bili Ruler improving early jaundice detection at JOOTRH
- Non-invasive alternative to blood-based testing
- Supports screening in lower-level facilities
- Improved accuracy using Monk Skin Tone scale

Low-cost Bili Ruler strengthens neonatal jaundice detection



Bili Ruler is improving early detection of neonatal jaundice at Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital, enabling timely screening and referral in facilities with limited access to laboratory diagnostics.

Implemented under the Pregnancy Risk, Infant Surveillance and Measurement Alliance (PRISMA) study, the device provides a non-invasive alternative to Total Serum Bilirubin (TSB) testing, which is often unavailable in lower-level facilities. It uses colour indicators applied to the infant's nose, supported by the Monk Skin Tone scale to improve accuracy across diverse skin tones.

Neonatal jaundice remains among the leading causes of newborn morbidity and mortality globally, with higher risk when not detected early.

The intervention is being implemented across six facilities in Kisumu and Siaya counties, with infants screened within 24 hours of birth, at three days and at one week. Cases above 15 mg/dL are referred for specialised care, including phototherapy.

At approximately KSh 1,200, the Bili Ruler offers a cost-effective, scalable solution for use in lower-level facilities and community settings, strengthening early detection, referral and management of neonatal jaundice.

Since rollout on 13 January 2025, the PRISMA platform has enrolled 2,703 participants, including 930 infants in the Bili Ruler sub-study, with zero jaundice-related deaths recorded among identified cases following early detection and referral.



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Rangwe residents access consultations and cancer screening through outreach

Medical outreach services reached residents of Rangwe Constituency, Homa Bay County, with hundreds accessing care at Bondo Primary School.

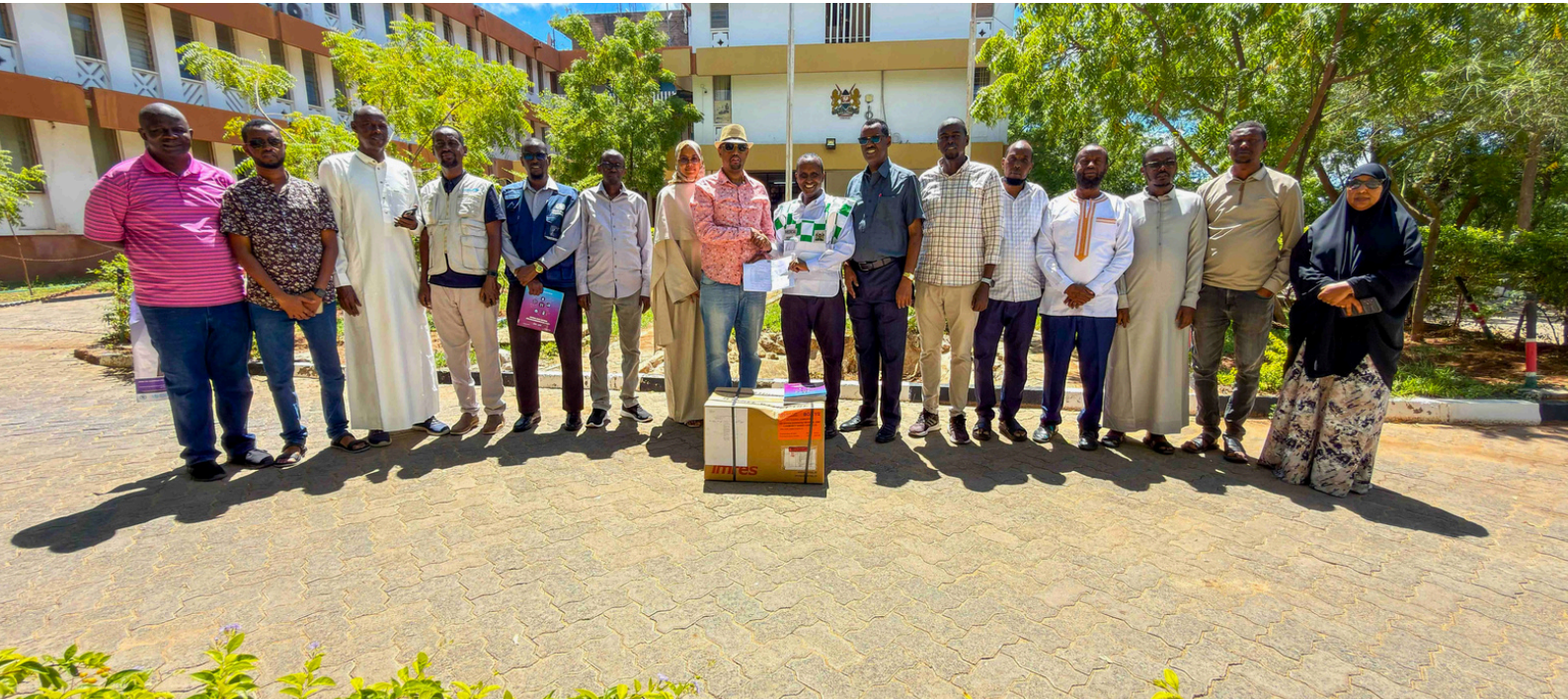
Principal Secretary for Medical Services Dr. Ouma Oluga led the exercise, organised by Bondo Seventh-day Adventist Church in partnership with the National Cancer Institute and the County Government of Homa Bay.

The outreach provided general consultations and cancer screening, supporting efforts to strengthen preventive care and expand access to services at the community level.

National Cancer Institute Chief Executive Officer Dr. Elias Nelly and other health officials participated.



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Garissa strengthens cholera response with WHO-supported supplies handover

Cholera response efforts in Garissa County have been strengthened following the handover of essential supplies by a national rapid assessment team.

The team, dispatched by Health Cabinet Secretary Hon. Aden Duale, delivered the supplies—donated by the World Health Organization—to County Executive Committee Member for Health, Hon. Ahmed Nadhir, to reinforce county-level outbreak response capacity.

The handover brought together national and county health officials and development partners, underscoring the importance of coordinated action in managing public health emergencies. Those present included Dr Ahmed Fidhow, Head of the Disease Surveillance and Response Unit (DSRU); Dr Abagira from UNICEF; Chief Officer for Public Health Ms Abdia; County Director of Health Aden Hussein; and Dr Adam Haji from WHO, among others.

The donated supplies, including cholera investigation kits, are critical for rapid detection, response and containment of the disease. The support is expected to strengthen surveillance, enhance case management and support timely interventions to prevent further spread and protect communities at risk.





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• World TB Day:

World **Bipolar Day**

• Digital business marketing development

30 March 2026

• Strategies to increase digital business profits

Bipolar disorder is a health condition.
Early care, support, and awareness can change lives.



Support



Early Care



Awareness