

MOH DAILY NEWS BRIEF



Govt moves to ease access to care for civil servants under POMSF

Cabinet Secretary for Health, Hon. Aden Duale, today chaired the signing of a Joint Communiqué outlining immediate measures to improve access to healthcare services for civil servants under the Public Officers Medical Scheme Fund.

The agreement removes the tariff locking mechanism within the Social Health Authority system and bars all contracted facilities from charging out-of-pocket fees, pending nationwide tariff negotiations set to begin on 28 April 2026.

A Joint Rapid Response Desk will be established to handle urgent cases, including the release of detained patients and review of unauthorised charges for refunds.

Under the revised framework, the “walk-in, walk-out” principle will apply strictly, with no co-payments allowed. Only contracted facilities will provide services, with enforcement action, including de-contracting, for non-compliance.

The Social Health Authority will strengthen oversight, maintain an updated list of approved facilities, and enhance communication to beneficiaries.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary for Medical Services Dr Ouma Oluga, Union of Kenya Civil Servants Secretary General Lawrence Nyaguti, Social Health Authority CEO Dr Mercy Mwangangi, Digital Health Agency CEO Eng. Anthony Lenayara, and officials from the Ministry of Health and the Union.





Kenya records progress in malaria fight ahead of World Malaria Day

Kenya continues to make measurable progress in the fight against malaria, with incidence declining by 5 per cent between 2023 and 2025, prevalence reducing from 8 per cent to 6 per cent over the past decade, and mortality falling by 32 per cent during the previous strategy cycle.

The Ministry of Health convened a media breakfast briefing ahead of the 2026 World Malaria Day national commemoration to review progress, highlight ongoing interventions, and reinforce the role of the media in driving public awareness and community action.



Presiding over the briefing, Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards, Mary Muthoni, underscored the media's role in shaping public understanding, strengthening accountability, and promoting behaviour change. She called for sustained collaboration under the national slogan Ziro Malaria – Kaunti Zetu. Jamii Zetu. Wakati Wetu.

She noted that while Kenya has the tools and systems required to eliminate malaria, the priority remains consistent and effective implementation across all levels of care.

The Ministry also launched key policy instruments to strengthen the response, including updated guidelines for malaria diagnosis and treatment, biosafety protocols for community-level rapid diagnostic testing, a clinical mentorship toolkit, an implementation framework for malaria RDTs, and an online entomological surveillance database.





Govt resolves teachers' medical scheme challenges under POMSF

Cabinet Secretary for Health, Hon. Aden Duale, today chaired a high-level consultative meeting bringing together the Ministry of Health, the Social Health Authority (SHA), and the Kenya Union of Post Primary Education Teachers (KUPPET) to address operational challenges affecting the transition of the Mwalimu Cover to the Public Officers Medical Scheme Fund.

The meeting reached a Joint Communiqué outlining binding resolutions to restore seamless service delivery and safeguard access to care for teachers.

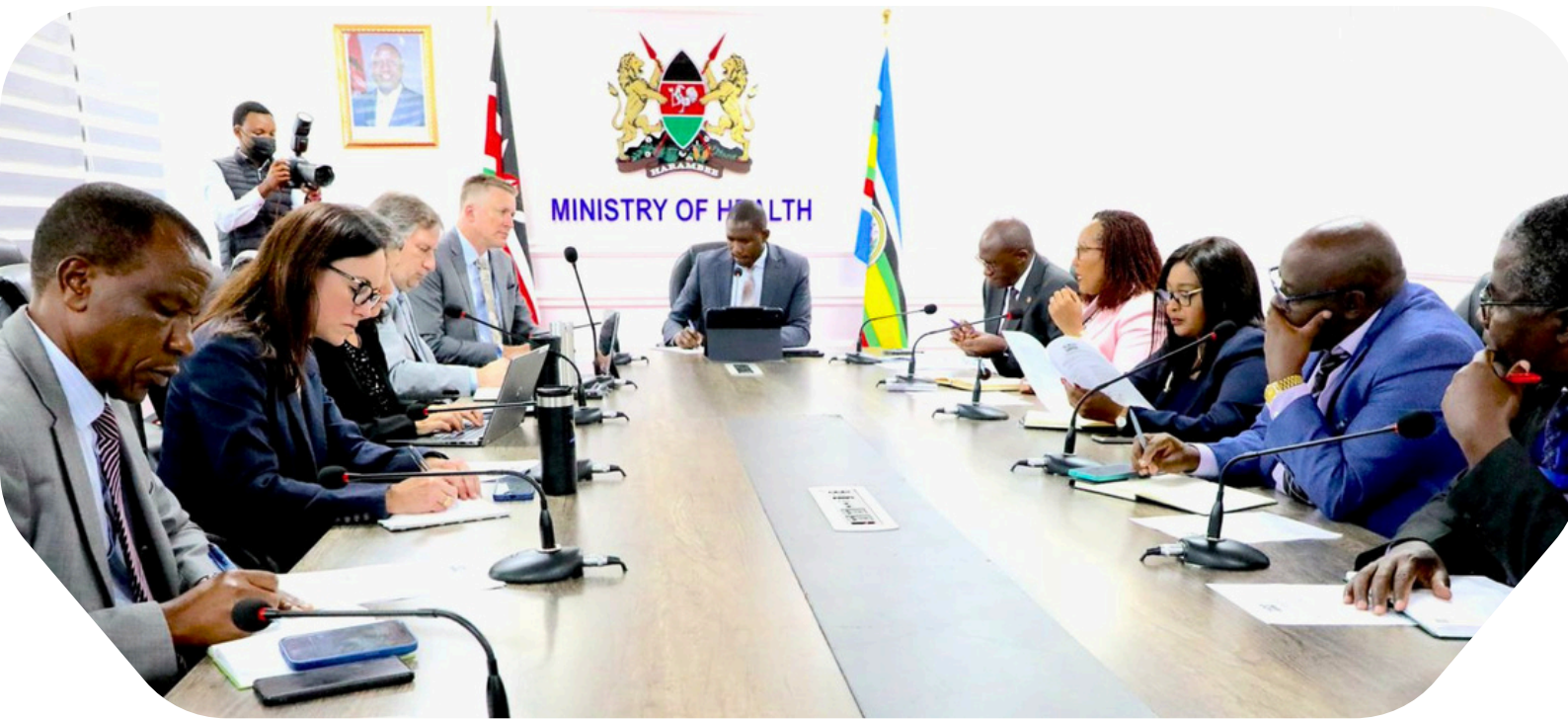
Key benefit administration issues were resolved, including the confirmation of a KES 300,000 Last Expense Benefit, with 160 claims already processed and payments to beneficiaries set for release from 29 April 2026. An Ex-Gratia Management Framework has also been operationalised to support teachers facing catastrophic health costs, while SHA has contracted specialised overseas facilities in Turkey, India, and Saudi Arabia to expand access to advanced care.

The scheme will also provide access to In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) services through contracted facilities as part of efforts to strengthen comprehensive reproductive health support.

To ease access challenges, SHA will immediately withdraw the tariff locking mechanism within the system. In the interim, all contracted facilities are strictly prohibited from charging teachers any out-of-pocket fees or co-payments, in line with contractual obligations, pending the conclusion of nationwide tariff negotiations.

The parties reaffirmed their commitment to protecting the health, dignity, and well-being of teachers, while strengthening accountability and service delivery under the scheme.





Kenya, US advance health cooperation implementation plan

The Joint Steering Committee overseeing the Kenya–US Government Health Cooperation Framework Implementation Plan 2026–2030 convened today under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary for Medical Services, Dr Ouma Oluga, with the participation of Director-General for Health, Dr Patrick Amoth.

The meeting reviewed progress in translating the bilateral framework into an actionable roadmap to guide shared health sector priorities over the next five years.

The session brought together senior representatives from the Ministry of Health, the Council of Governors led by Chair Mary Mwiti, and the United States Government led by Acting Deputy Chief of Mission Christopher Newton, reaffirming commitment to advancing joint health objectives.

Deliberations focused on ensuring the implementation plan supports transition, sustainability, and long-term impact of critical health investments, while strengthening the partnership between the two countries.





Govt scales up mental health services, expands community care



The Government is intensifying efforts to strengthen mental health services nationwide, with a focus on community-level integration and expanded access to treatment and rehabilitation.

Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards, Mary Muthoni, said plans are underway to establish cessation centres in 10 counties to tackle drug and substance abuse, a key driver of mental health conditions. She noted that one in four Kenyans seeking care for other services are diagnosed with a mental health condition, underscoring the growing burden.

She added that under Universal Health Coverage, mental health screening and care are provided free of charge at primary healthcare facilities, improving access and enabling early intervention.

Speaking in Nanyuki, Laikipia County, during the opening of the 27th Annual Mental Health Nurses' Scientific Conference, the Principal Secretary called for innovative, inclusive and integrated approaches to mental healthcare, while reaffirming the Government's commitment to strengthening service delivery and supporting the mental health workforce.

The event was attended by Laikipia Governor H.E Joshua Irungu, Deputy Governor H.E Reuben Kamuri, County Commissioner Duncan Muyesu, and National Nurses Association of Kenya Vice Chairperson Dennis Mbithi.





MINISTRY OF HEALTH
State Department for Public Health
and Professional Standards

“As we commemorate World Malaria Day 2026, we celebrate the power of Seasonal Malaria Chemoprevention (SMC) in protecting our children. By administering intermittent antimalarial medicine during the malaria season, we are securing a healthier future, regardless of whether a child is already infected.”



**Mary Muthoni, CBS
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY**

