

MOH DAILY NEWS BRIEF



Highlights

- Health CS engages nurses on workforce priorities
- Eye health conference preparations underway
- Dengue surveillance and response strengthened
- Kenya marks World Health Day 2026 virtually

CS Duale Engages Nurses on Workforce Priorities and Quality Care

Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale today held discussions with the National Nurses Association of Kenya delegation led by Chairperson Collins Otieno Ojwang, focusing on key priorities shaping nursing practice and healthcare delivery.

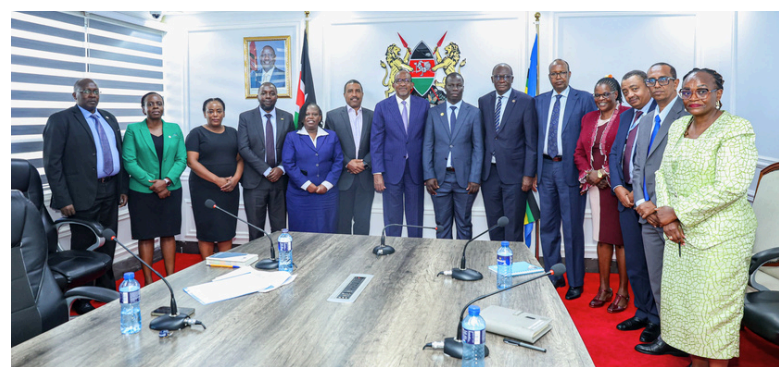
Nurses, who make up nearly 70 per cent of the health workforce, remain central to the delivery of services and the realisation of Universal Health Coverage. The meeting emphasised the need for sustained collaboration to strengthen frontline care and improve patient outcomes.

Key discussions centred on practical steps to enhance quality of care, including scaling up training in antenatal care (ANC) to support better maternal and newborn health outcomes.

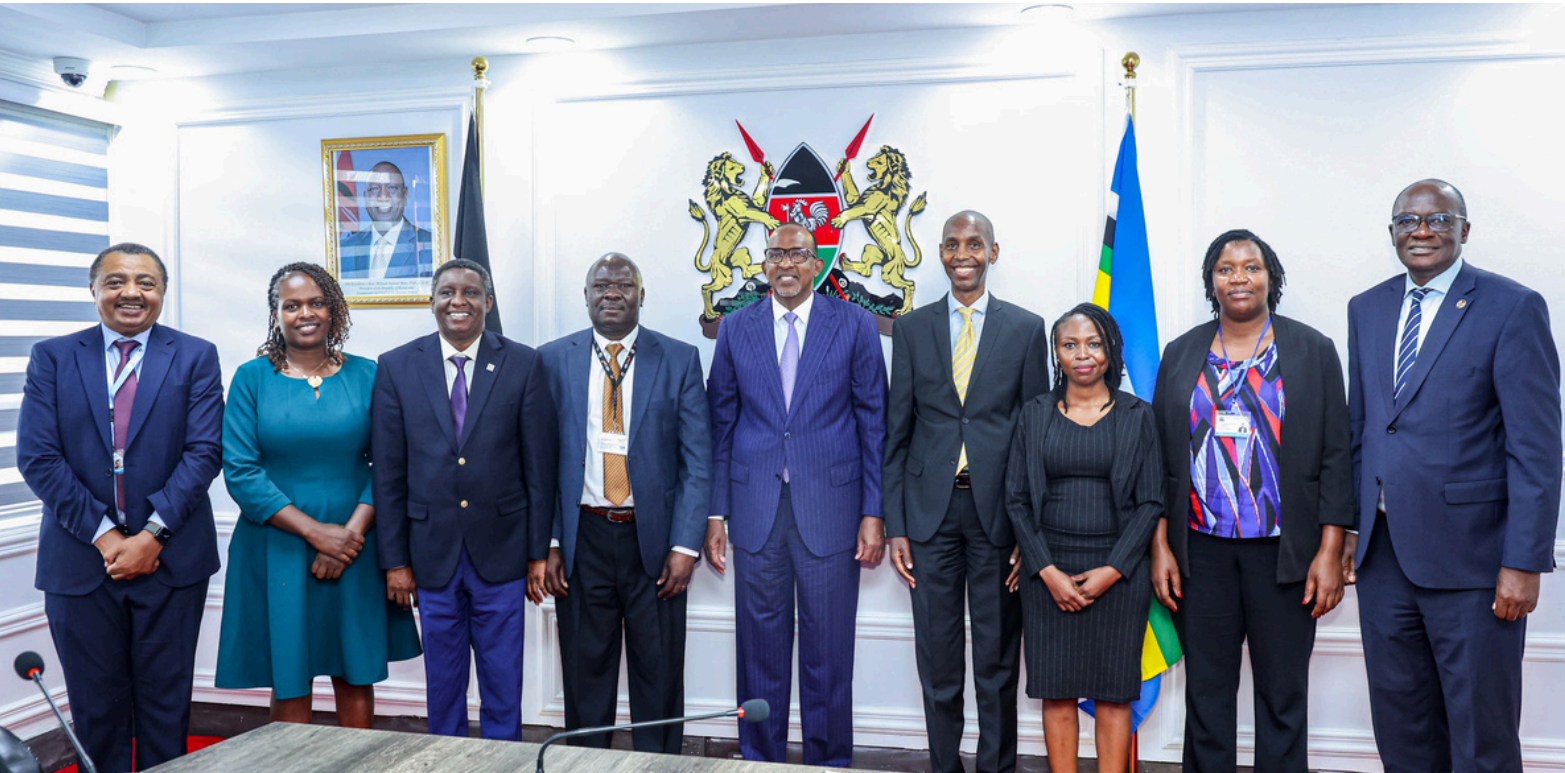
Preparations for International Nurses Day 2026 were also reviewed, with planned activities aimed at supporting community-based programmes and recognising the contribution of nurses across all levels of care.

The CS reaffirmed the role of nurses as the backbone of the health system, working alongside Community Health Promoters to deliver essential services, and highlighted ongoing reforms to strengthen primary healthcare, expand access, and improve quality outcomes.

The meeting was attended by Director General for Health Patrick Amoth, Nursing Council Registrar Lister Onsongo, Andrew Toro, representatives from Johnson & Johnson, and Ministry technical teams.



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Kenya Advances Eye Health Agenda Ahead of 2030 In Sight Live Conference

Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale today engaged international eye care partners, led by Moses Chege, to assess progress and align preparations for the 2030 In Sight Live Conference set for 4–6 June 2026 in Kenya.

The conference, convened by the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness, will bring together global stakeholders to accelerate action towards eliminating avoidable blindness by 2030, while informing discussions ahead of the Global Summit for Eye Health later this year in Antigua and Barbuda.

Discussions emphasised the importance of multi-sector collaboration in advancing eye health, bringing together development partners, professional bodies, civil society, faith-based organisations and private sector actors.

Kenya's progress in eye health was noted, with blindness prevalence declining from 0.7% in 1990 to 0.37% in 2023. This has been driven by expanded cataract surgical services, wider specialist coverage across 40 counties, strengthened school-based programmes, and elimination of trachoma in several regions.

Despite these gains, gaps remain, particularly in workforce distribution, with underserved and ASAL areas facing shortages of skilled personnel. Financial and geographical barriers to access also continue to affect service uptake. Eye care services are covered under the Social Health Authority (SHA), with optical and specialised packages under review.

Kenya reiterated its commitment to achieving World Health Organization 2030 targets, including increasing effective cataract surgical coverage by 30% and expanding refractive error coverage by 40%, supported by strengthened systems, sustainable financing and enhanced partnerships.



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• World TB Day:

Kenya Steps Up Dengue Surveillance and Preparedness

Kenya is strengthening surveillance and early warning systems, scaling up community-based vector control, expanding laboratory capacity through the Kenya Medical Research Institute, and enhancing multi-sectoral coordination under the One Health approach to address dengue and other emerging public health threats.

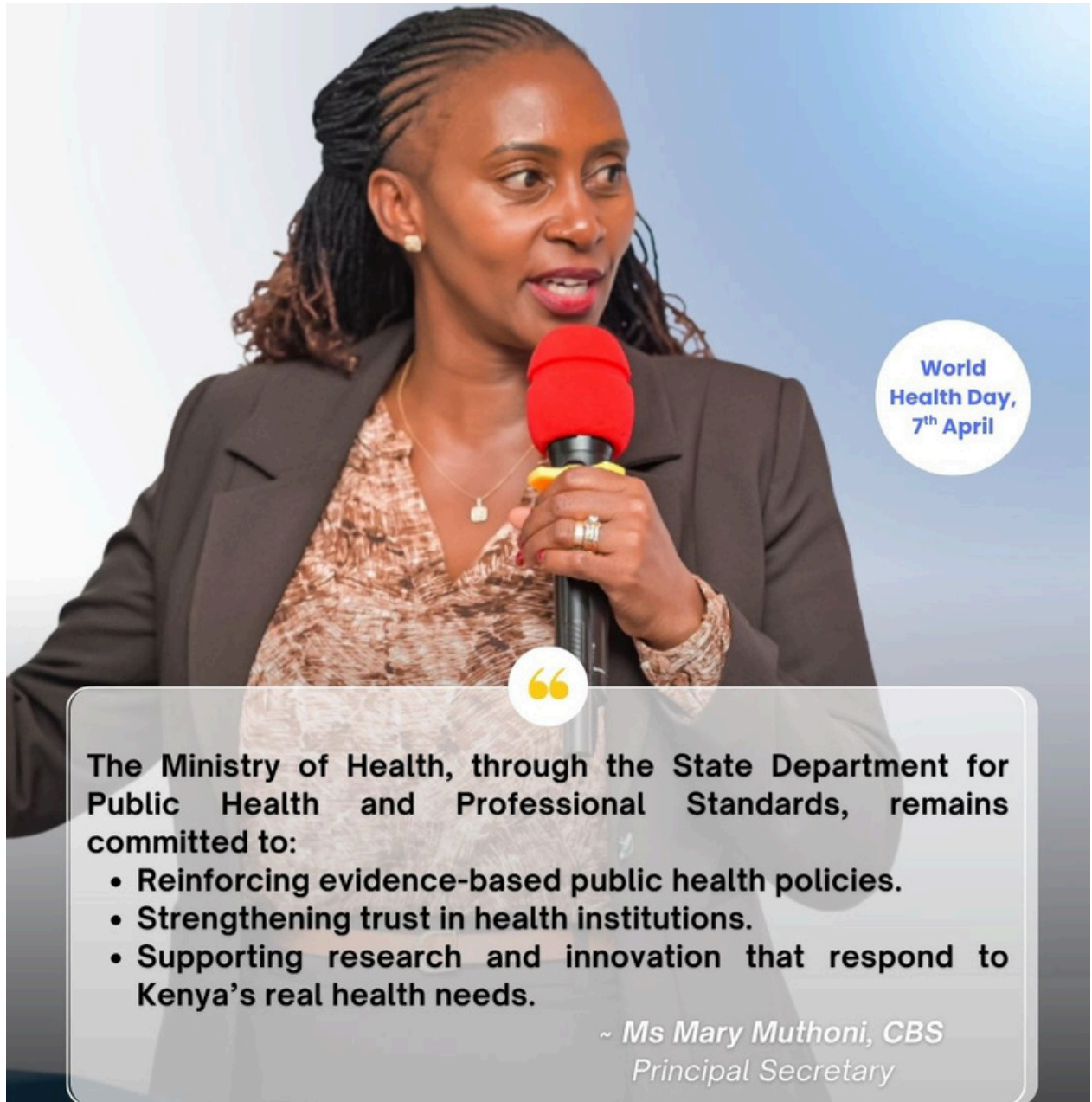
The progress was highlighted by Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards Mary Muthoni during a high-level roundtable on dengue and arboviral diseases at the One Health Summit in Lyon.

She called for stronger global collaboration to improve access to diagnostics, treatments and vaccines, reaffirming Kenya's commitment to building resilient, climate-responsive health systems.

The session brought together global leaders, including Budi Gunadi Sadikin, Ibrahima Sy, Jarbas Barbosa, and Rebecca Grais, alongside policymakers, scientists and development partners.



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Kenya Marks World Health Day 2026 Virtually

Kenya today joined the global community in virtually marking World Health Day 2026 under the theme “Together for health. Stand with science.”, highlighting the role of science and collaboration in protecting and improving health outcomes.

The observance underscored the importance of evidence-driven action, innovation and partnerships in addressing current and emerging health challenges, while strengthening resilient and responsive health systems.

Kenya reaffirmed its commitment to advancing Universal Health Coverage through sustained investments in primary healthcare, disease prevention and strengthened systems to ensure equitable access to quality services.