



## Insight

Africa's push for local pharmaceutical manufacturing is critical in strengthening health security and reducing dependence on external supply chains.

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“Africa possesses the scientific talent, workforce, market potential, and political goodwill necessary to build a resilient and self-sustaining health ecosystem.” — H.E. William Ruto

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## President Ruto Calls for Accelerated Action on Africa's Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Agenda

H.E. President William Ruto today reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to advancing Africa's health sovereignty and pharmaceutical manufacturing agenda during the high-level African Initiative for Medical Access and Manufacturing (AIM2030) breakfast meeting held on the sidelines of the Africa Forward Summit in Nairobi.

The meeting brought together Government leaders, development partners, private sector executives, and global health stakeholders to discuss strengthening Africa's pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity, medical innovation, and resilient healthcare systems.

President Ruto noted that despite Africa bearing nearly 25 per cent of the global disease burden, the continent produces less than 6 per cent of its medical supplies, exposing it to major supply chain vulnerabilities.



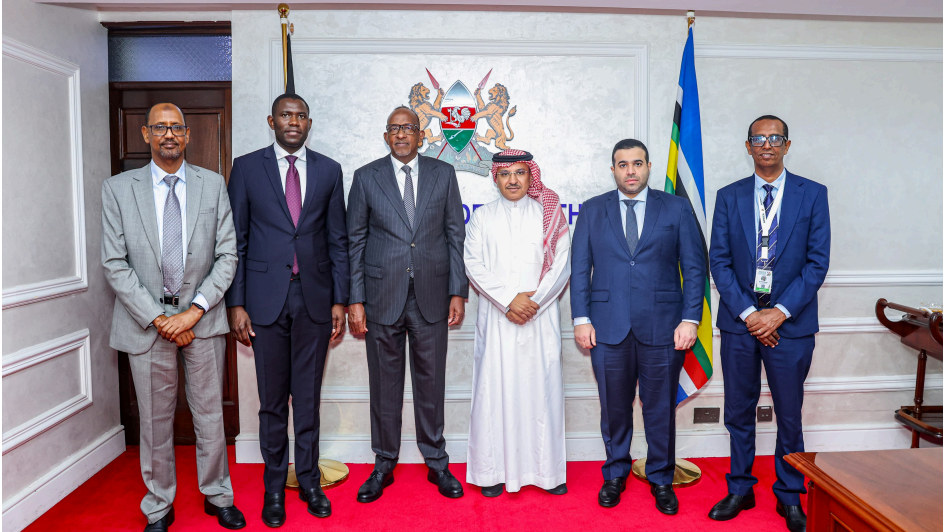
He called for accelerated implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), operationalisation of the African Medicines Agency (AMA), and coordinated investment strategies to support local manufacturing, harmonise regulation, and attract sustainable private sector investment.

The President reiterated Kenya's commitment to positioning itself as a regional hub for pharmaceutical manufacturing, health innovation, and medical supply chains through strategic investments, regulatory reforms, and infrastructure development.

He further urged governments, development partners, and private sector actors to invest in scalable and bankable projects capable of transforming Africa's healthcare landscape.

Through AIM2030, President Ruto affirmed that Africa is taking deliberate steps towards building a healthcare future designed, manufactured, and sustained by Africans for Africa.





**Insights**

The engagement reflects growing international partnerships focused on strengthening health security, local manufacturing, and healthcare innovation across the region.



“Kenya remains committed to strategic partnerships anchored on mutual benefit, innovation, and long-term impact in advancing healthcare transformation.”  
— Hon. Aden Duale



## Kenya, Saudi Arabia Deepen Health Cooperation and Investment Partnership

Cabinet Secretary for Health Hon. Aden Duale today hosted H.E. Saad bin Abdullah Alnofaia, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Kenya, at Afya House for a strategic bilateral dialogue aimed at strengthening cooperation in health sector development and investment between the two countries.

The meeting reaffirmed the strong and longstanding relations between Kenya and Saudi Arabia and explored opportunities for deeper collaboration in healthcare systems strengthening, specialist training, skills transfer, technology exchange, and investment in resilient healthcare systems. The Cabinet Secretary highlighted Kenya’s ongoing reforms under the Universal Health Coverage agenda, particularly implementation of the Social Health Authority (SHA), aimed at expanding equitable access to affordable and quality healthcare services.

Discussions focused on key areas of collaboration including digital health solutions, health financing reforms, integrated health data systems, artificial intelligence in diagnostics, and development of modern healthcare infrastructure. The two sides also explored opportunities for joint investment in local pharmaceutical production, vaccine manufacturing, medical technologies, and healthcare supply chain systems to strengthen health security and position Kenya as a regional hub for health innovation and manufacturing.



The dialogue further covered collaboration in oncology and non-communicable diseases, including strengthening cancer treatment capacity, specialist training, research partnerships, and knowledge exchange. Broader cooperation was also explored in epidemic preparedness, laboratory systems, genomic surveillance, and climate-responsive health systems.

The engagement reflects Kenya’s continued commitment to strengthening strategic international partnerships anchored on mutual benefit, innovation, and long-term impact in advancing healthcare transformation.

**Key Highlight**

Kenya and Saudi Arabia explored collaboration in pharmaceutical manufacturing, digital health, and healthcare innovation.



## Ministry of Health Seeks Increased Financing to Strengthen UHC Reforms

The Government has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening Kenya's healthcare system through sustained reforms, strategic financing, and enhanced collaboration between the national and county governments.

This was highlighted during presentation of the 2026/2027 Financial Year Estimates for the State Department for Medical Services before the National Assembly Departmental Committee on Health at Bunge Towers, Nairobi, led by Cabinet Secretary for Health Hon. Aden Duale.

The discussions focused on accelerating Universal Health Coverage (UHC) through investments in health systems strengthening, workforce support, digital transformation, and improved healthcare service delivery.

Among the priorities presented were expansion of local manufacturing of medical products and technologies, modernization of healthcare systems through digitization, strengthening primary healthcare services, and improving accountability mechanisms across the sector.

Hon. Duale emphasized the critical role of Community Health Promoters (CHPs) in strengthening grassroots healthcare delivery and highlighted plans to transition 107,000 CHPs into the Social Health Authority (SHA) comprehensive medical scheme through collaboration between the national and county governments.

### Insights

The Government is strengthening investments in primary healthcare, digital health systems, and workforce support to accelerate Universal Health Coverage reforms.

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“Strengthening primary healthcare and supporting frontline health workers remains critical in advancing Universal Health Coverage across the country.” — Hon. Aden Duale

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The Ministry also appealed for increased financing towards priority programmes including the Primary Healthcare Fund, Emergency, Chronic and Critical Illness Fund, Kenya National Blood Transfusion Services, national referral hospitals, and operationalisation of the East Africa Centre for Excellence in Urology and Nephrology.

The Ministry further confirmed extension of contracts for UHC healthcare workers up to 30th June 2026 to facilitate a smooth transition process as county governments prepare for their absorption on permanent and pensionable terms.



### Insights

Strengthening and investing in the nursing workforce remains critical in advancing Universal Health Coverage and improving access to quality healthcare services across the country.

## CS Duale Launches New Nursing and Midwifery Frameworks During International Nurses Week Finale

Health Cabinet Secretary Hon. Aden Duale today presided over the grand finale of the International Nurses Week celebrations in Nairobi, where he launched key policy and strategic frameworks aimed at strengthening nursing and midwifery practice in Kenya.

The event also marked the unveiling of the Nurses and Midwives Recognition and Awards Scheme, an initiative designed to recognize outstanding service, promote professionalism, and inspire excellence within the nursing workforce.

Held under the theme “Our Nurses, Our Future – Empowered Nurses Save Lives,” the celebrations brought together health leaders, practitioners, and partners to recognize the critical role nurses and midwives continue to play in strengthening Kenya’s healthcare system and advancing Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

Hon. Duale reaffirmed the Government’s commitment to investing in the nursing workforce through strategic deployment to underserved areas, strengthening professional training and continuous learning, and enhancing collaboration with county governments to improve staffing, welfare, and career progression.

The Cabinet Secretary emphasized that nurses and midwives remain central to delivery of accessible, quality, and people-centered healthcare services across the country, while applauding them for their resilience, compassion, and dedication in serving communities.

The event was attended by Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards Ms. Mary Muthoni, Director of Global Community Impact for Sub-Saharan Africa at Johnson & Johnson Foundation Anthony Gitau, Nursing Council of Kenya CEO/Registrar Dr. Lister Onsongo, and the Ministry’s Head of Nursing and Midwifery Services Dr. Judith Awinja, alongside county and national government leaders.





### Insights

“Nurses and midwives remain central to strengthening healthcare delivery and advancing Universal Health Coverage across the country.” — Ms. Mary Muthoni

## Nurses and Midwives Central to UHC, Says PS Muthoni

Nurses and midwives remain central to strengthening healthcare delivery and advancing Universal Health Coverage across the country, Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards Ms. Mary Muthoni has said.

The PS acknowledged the critical role played by nurses and midwives in maternal and child health, immunization, emergency response, chronic disease management, mental health services, and community healthcare, noting that their contribution remains vital in building resilient and people-centered health systems.

She further commended nurses and midwives for their resilience, professionalism, and dedication in serving communities, while reaffirming the Government’s commitment to strengthening the profession through improved training, professional development, digital health integration, and supportive working environments.

Ms. Muthoni was speaking during the climax of the International Nurses and Midwives Day 2026 celebrations held in Nairobi under the theme “Our Nurses, Our Future: Empowered Nurses Save Lives.” The occasion was officiated by Cabinet Secretary for Health Hon. Aden Duale.



### Highlight:

Government reaffirmed commitment to strengthening the nursing workforce and healthcare delivery.



### Insights

The roundtable underscored growing momentum across Africa towards strengthening local pharmaceutical and vaccine manufacturing as a strategic pillar for health security, economic resilience, and reduced dependence on external supply chains.

## Kenya advances local pharmaceutical manufacturing agenda at Africa Forward Summit

Health Cabinet Secretary Hon. Aden Duale participated in the High-Level Ministerial Roundtable on Local Manufacturing held on the sidelines of the Africa Forward Summit 2026, where leaders and global health stakeholders discussed strategies for strengthening pharmaceutical and vaccine manufacturing across Africa.

The discussions focused on sustainable financing, technology transfer, regulatory harmonisation, strategic partnerships, and expanding regional market access for African manufacturers as part of efforts to strengthen the continent's health sovereignty and resilience.

Hon. Duale emphasized the need for Africa to accelerate domestic production of medicines and vaccines to reduce dependence on external supply chains exposed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Cabinet Secretary highlighted Kenya's ongoing investments through the Kenya BioVax Institute, including a USD 60.8 million fill-and-finish vaccine facility with a production capacity of 72 million doses annually, and a USD 248 million end-to-end manufacturing facility at Konza Technopolis.



He further noted that Kenya is advancing reforms aimed at strengthening regulatory systems towards attaining WHO Global Benchmarking Tool Maturity Level 3, alongside efforts to digitise supply chains and strengthen institutions such as KEMSA.

The roundtable brought together African leaders, policymakers, manufacturers, development partners, and global health institutions to explore collaborative approaches for advancing Africa's pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity and long-term health security.

Participants included President John Dramani Mahama of Ghana, WHO Regional Director for Africa Prof. Mohamed Yakub Janabi, Morocco Prime Minister Aziz Akhannouch, Tunisia Prime Minister Sara Zaafarani, Africa CDC Director General Dr. Jean Kaseya, representatives from Amref Health Africa, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and other global partners.



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## Port Health team conducts health outreach during Nurses Week celebrations

As part of the Nurses Week celebrations held at Wilson Airport, the Port Health team conducted a health outreach activity aimed at promoting preventive healthcare and strengthening public health awareness.

The outreach included screening for lifestyle diseases, with over 100 clients reached, alongside health education sessions on emerging and re-emerging diseases to enhance public awareness and preparedness.

The activity was graced by Dr. Ethel from the Langata Sub-County Ministry of Health and Dr. Clare, whose support contributed to the success of the initiative.

The outreach highlighted the continued commitment of Port Health Services to advancing health promotion, disease prevention, and community engagement at Points of Entry.





MINISTRY OF HEALTH

**3**

**Days  
to go**

**World  
Hypertension  
Day**

**Friday  
15  
May 2026**

**Kitui Stadium, Kitui County**



COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
OF KITUI



Kenya Health Promotion

**Doctors**  
for healthy living

**KNOW**  
YOUR NUMBERS  
The sugar, blood pressure

