



Insight

African countries are increasingly prioritising self-reliance, integrated health systems and domestic financing as key pillars for building resilient healthcare systems capable of responding to future health challenges.

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“Community Health Promoters remain at the heart of equitable primary healthcare delivery,” said CS Health Hon. Aden Duale.

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Kenya Joins High-Level African Dialogue on the Future of Health Systems

Cabinet Secretary for Health Hon. Aden Duale joined African health ministers and regional leaders in a high-level strategic dialogue in 17 May 2026 ahead of the 79th World Health Assembly aimed at shaping the continent’s health future under the WHO African Region framework, “A New Era of Health for Africa: United Action for Vision 2035.”

The meeting, convened by WHO Regional Director for Africa Dr. Mohammed Janabi, focused on strengthening resilient, self-sustaining and integrated health systems capable of responding to Africa’s evolving health challenges and priorities.

During the engagement, CS Duale reaffirmed Kenya’s commitment to sustainable health financing through increased domestic resource mobilisation to reduce dependency on donor support. He also highlighted the central role of Community Health Promoters in strengthening primary healthcare and expanding equitable access to essential health services across the country.

The dialogue brought together health ministers, senior government officials and policy leaders from across Africa to advance coordinated action towards achieving a healthier continent by 2035.





Insights

Kenya is strengthening integrated primary healthcare systems through reforms that promote coordinated service delivery, community-based care and sustainable health financing.

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“Integrated primary healthcare is essential in building resilient, equitable and people-centred health systems,” said PS Medical Services Dr Ouma Oluga.

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Integrated Primary Healthcare Reforms Take Centre Stage at WHA79

Kenya has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening resilient and people-centred health systems through integrated primary healthcare reforms during a high-level side event held on the sidelines of the 79th World Health Assembly in Geneva.

Speaking during the session on “Financing and Integrated Care as Pathways to People-Centered Universal Health Coverage,” Principal Secretary for Medical Services Dr Ouma Oluga said Kenya is shifting from fragmented disease-specific programmes towards integrated service delivery models within primary healthcare platforms.



He highlighted Primary Care Networks and Community Health Promoters as key pillars in improving continuity of care, referrals, disease prevention, treatment adherence and access to essential health services at the community level.

Dr Oluga also underscored the role of pooled financing, strategic purchasing and digital health investments in strengthening integrated healthcare delivery, accountability and continuity of care.

The side event brought together policymakers, health leaders and development partners to discuss sustainable pathways towards resilient and equitable Universal Health Coverage.





Kenya Highlights Progress in Food Fortification at WHA79 Side Event

Kenya has strengthened compliance in maize and wheat fortification through strong government leadership, strategic partnerships, collaboration with industry and investments in quality assurance systems aimed at addressing malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies.

Speaking during the High-Level Panel and Launch of the Learning Exchange Platform on Large-Scale Food Fortification held on the sidelines of the 79th World Health Assembly in Geneva, Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards Mary Muthoni reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to advancing harmonised regional food fortification standards to expand access to safe and nutritious foods.



Insights

Strengthening food fortification systems remains a key public health strategy in reducing micronutrient deficiencies and improving nutrition outcomes across Africa.

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“Food fortification is critical in expanding access to safe and nutritious foods for our populations,” said PS Mary Muthoni.

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The PS noted that Kenya continues to champion regional and global collaboration, knowledge exchange and shared learning to accelerate nutrition outcomes and strengthen food systems across Africa.

The forum brought together health leaders and representatives from Kenya, Indonesia, Egypt, Mozambique and Sri Lanka to share experiences and best practices in scaling up large-scale food fortification programmes.



Insights

Strengthening nursing and midwifery leadership is critical in building resilient, people-centred and sustainable health systems.

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“Nurses and midwives are not only caregivers, but key leaders in shaping stronger health systems,” said PS Mary Muthoni.

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Nurses and Midwives Critical in Building Stronger Health Systems

The Ministry of Health is strengthening the role of nurses and midwives in health policy, governance and decision-making as part of ongoing efforts to accelerate progress towards Universal Health Coverage.

Speaking during a high-level session on “Strategic Leadership for Nurses and Midwives: A Policy Pathway to Stronger Health Systems” held on the sidelines of the 79th World Health Assembly in Geneva, Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards Mary Muthoni said nurses and midwives remain central to healthcare delivery and play a critical role in shaping responsive health systems.

The PS emphasized the need to empower nurses and midwives not only as caregivers, but also as leaders, policy influencers and managers capable of driving health reforms and improving service delivery.



She further highlighted ongoing efforts to strengthen nursing and midwifery leadership through dedicated government structures, inclusion of nursing leaders in key policy platforms and promotion of leadership pathways at national, county and facility levels.

The session, hosted by the International Council of Nurses, brought together global health leaders, policymakers and development partners to advance nursing and midwifery leadership as a key pillar in building resilient and sustainable health systems.





Insights

Legal, financing and digital health reforms are strengthening primary healthcare delivery and expanding access to equitable healthcare services across the country.

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“Strong primary healthcare systems are central to achieving Universal Health Coverage,” said PS Mary Muthoni.

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Reforms Strengthen Primary Healthcare Financing and UHC Delivery

The Ministry of Health is implementing key legal and policy reforms aimed at accelerating Universal Health Coverage through a more preventive, people-centred and equitable health system.

Speaking during a side event on sustainable financing for Primary Health Care on the sidelines of the World Health Assembly in Geneva, Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards Mary Muthoni said the Social Health Insurance Act, Primary Health Care Act, Digital Health Act and Facility Improvement Fund Act are strengthening financing for more than 11,800 Level 2 and 3 health facilities while expanding financial protection and access to essential healthcare services.

The PS further noted that the government is investing in over 107,000 Community Health Promoters through stipends, digital gadgets and medical kits to strengthen disease prevention, referrals and household-level healthcare services under Taifa Care and the Social Health Authority reforms.





Insights

Digital health investments and Artificial Intelligence are increasingly strengthening disease surveillance, healthcare delivery and epidemic preparedness across health systems.

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“Digital innovation is transforming how we deliver and manage healthcare services,” said PS Mary Muthoni.

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Digital Health Investments Strengthen Kenya’s Public Health Systems

Kenya’s Digital Superhighway agenda and ongoing Universal Health Coverage reforms are strengthening the country’s position as an emerging leader in digital public health innovation across Africa.

Speaking during the high-level side event on “The Future of Health Security and the Role of the WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence” on the sidelines of the World Health Assembly in Geneva, Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards Mary Muthoni said Kenya is integrating Artificial Intelligence into healthcare delivery, disease surveillance, epidemic preparedness and health financing systems to improve efficiency, early outbreak detection, clinical decision-making and access to quality healthcare services.

The discussions also highlighted investments in digital health platforms, including the electronic Community Health Information System, Kenya Health Information System/District Health Information Software 2, electronic medical records and broader data governance systems that are supporting the responsible and scalable adoption of Artificial Intelligence in healthcare.





MENTAL HEALTH
AWARENESS MONTH
MAY



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

It's okay to ask *for help.*

This May, let's prioritise **mental wellbeing**, support one another, and advocate for better access to **mental health services** for all.



Talk about it.



Support one another.



Your mind matters.



Seek help. You are not alone.



Better access. Better lives.



#MentalHealthAwarenessMonth

Let's build a culture of care and understanding.

