



Insight

Kenya's elimination of sleeping sickness highlights the impact of sustained investments in surveillance, early detection, and community-based public health systems.

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“This milestone reflects years of coordinated public health action and Kenya's commitment to eliminating neglected tropical diseases.” — CS Aden Duale

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Kenya Receives WHO Recognition for Eliminating Sleeping Sickness

Kenya has received global recognition at the 79th World Health Assembly after the World Health Organization officially acknowledged the country's elimination of Human African Trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness), a disease that had remained a major public health threat for more than a century.

Health Cabinet Secretary Hon. Aden Duale received the WHO certificate in Geneva, where WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus commended Kenya's sustained leadership, commitment, and collaborative public health efforts that led to the milestone.

The recognition follows WHO validation granted in June 2025 after Kenya sustained zero indigenous sleeping sickness cases since 2009. The disease had historically affected counties including Busia, Bungoma, Siaya, Homa Bay, Migori, and Narok.

Speaking after receiving the recognition, CS Duale said the achievement reflects decades of coordinated action involving communities, frontline health workers, researchers, county governments, and national technical experts. He noted that strengthened surveillance systems, early diagnosis, vector control measures, and community participation played a critical role in interrupting transmission and sustaining elimination efforts.





Insights

Kenya's push for equitable access to future TB vaccines reflects growing efforts to strengthen regional manufacturing, improve preparedness, and accelerate the fight against one of the country's leading infectious diseases.

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“Equitable access to future TB vaccines will be critical in accelerating global efforts to end tuberculosis, particularly in high-burden countries.” —
PS Mary Muthoni

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Integrated Primary Healthcare Reforms Take Centre Stage at WHA79

Kenya has called for equitable and timely access to future tuberculosis (TB) vaccines for high-burden countries, increased inclusion of African populations in clinical trials, sustainable financing, and strengthened regional manufacturing capacity to support affordable vaccine access.

Speaking during the Fourth High-Level Strategic Roundtable Discussion of the TB Vaccine Accelerator Council, Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards Mary Muthoni said Kenya is preparing for future TB vaccine introduction through strengthened regulatory systems, vaccine deployment planning, and exploration of local manufacturing opportunities.



The PS noted that Kenya has reduced TB incidence by 45 percent and TB-related deaths by 58 percent since 2015 through expanded diagnostic services, improved treatment access, and integrated TB-HIV programmes. However, she cautioned that TB remains a major public health challenge, with nearly one in five cases still going undetected.

Kenya reaffirmed its commitment to ending TB through strengthened prevention, early diagnosis, expanded treatment access, innovation, and accelerated access to safe and effective TB vaccines.





Insights

The ongoing Ebola outbreaks have renewed calls for equitable global health responses, stronger regional manufacturing, and sustainable financing to strengthen preparedness and health security in Africa.

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“Health emergencies affecting African countries must receive the same urgency, financing, scientific attention, and coordinated international support seen in crises elsewhere globally.” — CS Hon. Aden Duale

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CS Health Calls for Fair and Urgent Global Response to Ebola Outbreaks

Health Cabinet Secretary Hon. Aden Duale has called for fairness, urgency, and equal global solidarity in responding to the ongoing Ebola outbreaks in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda during the 79th World Health Assembly in Geneva.

Delivering Kenya’s national statement, the Cabinet Secretary said health emergencies affecting African countries must receive the same urgency, financing, scientific attention, and coordinated international support often seen in crises elsewhere globally.

Hon. Duale reaffirmed commitment to ongoing negotiations on the Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing (PABS) Annex, emphasizing the need for countries sharing biological samples and outbreak data to receive fair access to vaccines, therapeutics, and related benefits.



The CS further called for stronger regional pharmaceutical manufacturing, sustainable financing, and strengthened multilateral cooperation to build resilient and self-reliant health systems.

He also emphasized the importance of strengthening institutions such as the World Health Organization and Africa CDC to enhance coordinated global health action and preparedness for future emergencies.

The Cabinet Secretary was accompanied by Kenya’s Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva H.E. Dr. Fancy Too, Director-General for Health Dr. Patrick Amoth, Digital Health Agency CEO Eng. Anthony Lenaiyara, and Director of Family Health Dr. Bashir Issak.





Insights

Strengthening community health systems and investing in Community Health Promoters is improving preventive healthcare, early disease detection, and access to household-level health services under Taifa Care reforms.

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“Strong community health systems are essential in advancing Primary Health Care and achieving Universal Health Coverage.” — PS Mary Muthoni

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Community Health Investments Highlighted at WHA79

Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards Mary Muthoni has highlighted ongoing efforts to strengthen community health services and Primary Health Care as a key pillar of Universal Health Coverage through investments in professional Community Health Promoters, digital health systems, and preventive healthcare.

Speaking during a high-level session on financing and institutionalising professional Community Health Workers on the sidelines of #WHA79 in Geneva, the PS said Taifa Care reforms are advancing fully institutionalised, paid, equipped, skilled, and digitalised community health services.

She noted that more than 107,000 Community Health Promoters are currently being supported with monthly stipends, digital devices, and medical kits to strengthen disease prevention, early detection, referrals, and household-level healthcare delivery across the country.

The PS also called for stronger partnerships and sustainable investments to advance the global community health agenda and strengthen Primary Health Care systems.





Insights

Demand-driven innovation partnerships are becoming increasingly important in strengthening resilient, digital, and locally driven health systems that support Universal Health Coverage.

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“We need affordable, scalable, and context-driven innovations that respond to the realities of frontline healthcare systems.” — PS Mary Muthoni

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Kenya Highlights Priority Areas for Health Innovation Partnerships

Strengthening the health workforce, expanding digital interoperability, enhancing disease surveillance, advancing climate-resilient health systems, and promoting local manufacturing have been identified as key priority areas requiring demand-driven innovation partnerships to accelerate Universal Health Coverage.



Speaking during the “Reverse Pitch” session on the margins of the World Health Assembly in Geneva, Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards Mary Muthoni emphasized the need for affordable, scalable, interoperable, and context-driven innovations that respond to frontline healthcare needs.



The PS further called for stronger collaboration among governments, innovators, investors, academic institutions, and development partners to support sustainable health innovations and accelerate the transition from fragmented pilot projects to long-term health systems transformation.





MINISTRY OF HEALTH



INTERNATIONAL DAY TO
END
Obstetric Fistula
COMMEMORATION



22ND



KNH GROUNDS

Together, **National Government,**
Counties, communities, and partners
can **end obstetric fistula** in Kenya.



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