



Insight

Kenya is advancing digital and community-led reforms to reduce preventable maternal and newborn deaths.

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“Every maternal and perinatal death is a call to strengthen our health system.” — Hon. Aden Duale

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Kenya Strengthens Digital Maternal and Newborn Death Surveillance

Kenya has intensified efforts to reduce preventable maternal and newborn deaths through strengthened surveillance systems, digital health reforms, and community-led interventions.

Speaking during a high-level side event convened by the Council of Governors on the margins of the ongoing 79th World Health Assembly in Geneva, Cabinet Secretary for Health Hon. Aden Duale said Kenya is strengthening the Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response system to improve accountability and the quality of maternal and newborn healthcare services.

The Cabinet Secretary said Kenya has adopted a “No Name, No Blame” approach to maternal and perinatal death reviews aimed at promoting learning, transparency, and continuous health system improvement while helping identify gaps such as delayed care-seeking, referral challenges, and weaknesses in quality of care.

Hon. Duale further highlighted ongoing digital reforms, noting that Kenya is transitioning to real-time electronic reporting systems across public health facilities, with clinical reviews uploaded directly to national dashboards to support faster analysis and timely decision-making.

At the community level, Community Health Promoters are using mobile technology to report deaths within 24 hours and help identify barriers affecting access to maternal healthcare services. Kenya has also rolled out the Maternal and Newborn Health Rapid Results Initiative to strengthen emergency referrals and improve access to essential maternal and newborn health commodities.

The event was hosted by Council of Governors CEO Ms. Mary Mwiti and attended by Governors H.E. Muthomi Njuki and H.E. Stephen Sang, Principal Secretary Dr. Ouma Oluga, SHA CEO Dr. Mercy Mwangangi, and senior Ministry of Health officials.





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. Kenya is advancing global health workforce collaboration focused on ethical recruitment, workforce retention, healthcare worker wellbeing, and sustainable workforce systems to support Universal Health Coverage.

Kenya Advances Africa-Europe Health Workforce Collaboration

Principal Secretary for Medical Services Dr. Ouma Oluga today held high-level talks with WHO Regional Director for Europe Dr. Hans Kluge focused on strengthening global health workforce collaboration, retention strategies, and ethical mobility frameworks for healthcare workers between Africa and Europe.

The discussions centered on advancing a Health Workforce Collaboration Framework aimed at addressing growing global workforce shortages, improving retention, promoting social inclusion, and strengthening protections for healthcare workers against violence, burnout, and mental health challenges.

Dr. Oluga highlighted Kenya's longstanding leadership in health workforce advocacy and policy reforms, including internship policy development, collective bargaining agreements, and leadership of the WHO Wellbeing Index study conducted across Kenya, Nigeria, and Ghana involving more than 3,600 health worker interviews.

The meeting also explored the proposed Africa Center for Health Workforce Initiatives, which seeks to strengthen health workforce systems across the continent through policy reforms, specialized training, migration management, and healthcare worker wellbeing.



Key issues discussed included ethical recruitment practices, implementation gaps in bilateral labour agreements, increasing migration of health professionals, curriculum harmonization, and the need for stronger co-investment models to address workforce losses linked to brain drain.

The engagement reaffirmed the importance of stronger Africa-Europe cooperation in building resilient, protected, and sustainable health workforces capable of supporting Universal Health Coverage and future global health security priorities.



Insights

Digital reporting systems and community-led surveillance are strengthening maternal and newborn health accountability and improving timely response to preventable deaths.

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“Every maternal and perinatal death review must drive learning, accountability, and health system improvement.”
— Hon. Aden Duale

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Digital Reporting Systems Transform Maternal Death Surveillance

Real-time digital reporting systems and community-based interventions are strengthening efforts to improve maternal and newborn healthcare services and reduce preventable deaths.

Speaking during a high-level side event convened by the Council of Governors on the margins of #WHA79 in Geneva, Health Cabinet Secretary Hon. Aden Duale said the country is strengthening the Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response system through reforms focused on accountability, transparency, and continuous health system improvement.

The Cabinet Secretary noted that public health facilities are transitioning from paper-based reporting to electronic reporting systems, with clinical reviews uploaded directly to national dashboards to support faster analysis, monitoring, and decision-making.



At the community level, Community Health Promoters are using mobile technology to report deaths within 24 hours, helping ensure timely reporting from remote areas while identifying barriers affecting access to maternal healthcare services.

The Maternal and Newborn Health Rapid Results Initiative is also supporting improvements in emergency referral systems and the availability of essential maternal and newborn health commodities across facilities.

The discussions highlighted the growing role of digital health systems and community healthcare networks in strengthening maternal and newborn health outcomes.



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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.





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