



Insight

Kenya is scaling up investment in maternal and newborn health under the EWENE Acceleration Plan.

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“Every mother and every newborn deserves access to safe, quality, and dignified healthcare services regardless of where they live.”

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Kenya Launches EWENE Acceleration Plan to Reduce Maternal and Newborn Deaths

Kenya has intensified efforts to reduce preventable maternal and newborn deaths following the launch of the Every Woman Every Newborn Everywhere (EWENE) Acceleration Plan 2026–2028.

President Dr. William Ruto unveiled the national framework alongside First Lady Mama Rachel Ruto during an event attended by Cabinet Secretary for Health Hon. Aden Duale, Council of Governors Chairman Ahmed Abdullahi, Principal Secretary for Medical Services Dr. Ouma Oluga, Members of Parliament, and senior Ministry of Health officials.

The plan seeks to strengthen maternal and newborn healthcare services through targeted interventions, improved accountability, and enhanced coordination across national and county health systems, especially in high-burden counties.



As part of the implementation strategy, the Government has rolled out a six-month Maternal and Newborn Health Rapid Results Initiative running through November 2026 to accelerate action and improve health outcomes.

To support the programme, the National Treasury will allocate an additional KSh4 billion through the Social Health Authority (SHA) to expand maternal healthcare coverage for pregnant women, alongside KSh1 billion for maternal and newborn health commodities and KSh2.5 billion for family planning commodities through KEMSA.

The Government will also recruit and deploy 5,000 nurses and midwives nationwide to strengthen frontline healthcare services and improve access to quality maternal and newborn care under Taifa Care.





Ministry of Health Deploys Emergency Response Teams Following Utumishi Girls Academy Fire

The Ministry of Health has deployed emergency response teams, trauma counsellors, and psychosocial support personnel following the tragic fire incident at Utumishi Girls Academy in Nakuru County.

The teams are working closely with Nakuru County health teams, relevant Government ministries, and line agencies to coordinate response efforts and mobilise the necessary medical supplies, equipment, and human resources required during the emergency.

Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards, Mary Muthoni, CBS, visited the school to condole with affected students, families, teachers, and the entire school community, assuring them of the Government's full support during this difficult period.

The Principal Secretary reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to ensuring all affected students and families receive the necessary medical, psychosocial, and emotional support as investigations and response efforts continue.

Insight

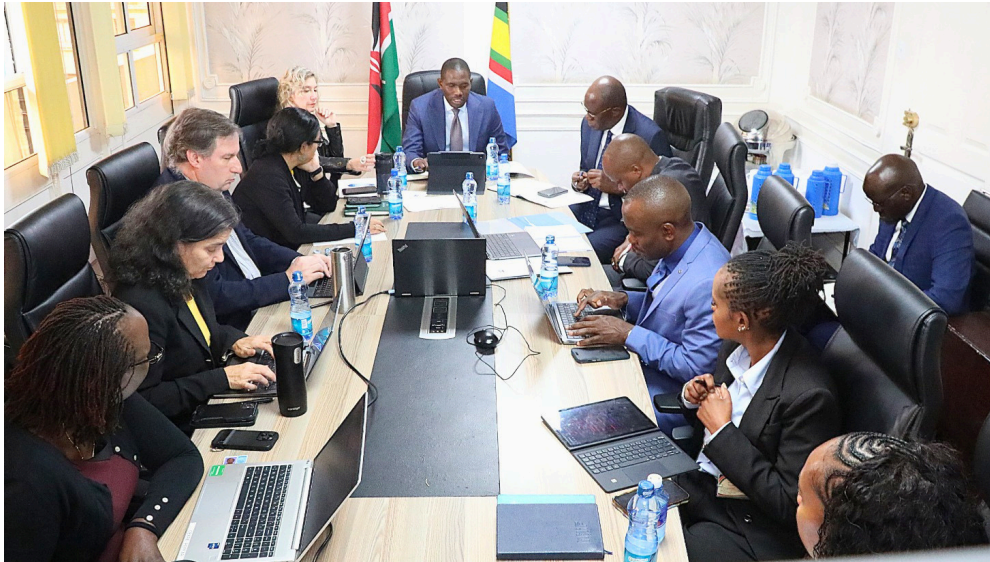
The rapid deployment of emergency response and psychosocial support teams underscores the importance of coordinated health emergency response systems in protecting affected communities during crises.

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“The Ministry remains committed to ensuring affected students and families receive the medical, psychosocial, and emotional support they need during this difficult period.”

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Kenya and the United States continue to strengthen collaboration in advancing resilient health systems and Universal Health Coverage priorities.

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Kenya and United States Review Progress on Health Cooperation Framework

Principal Secretary for Medical Services Dr. Ouma Oluga today chaired the Joint Kenya–United States Government Health Cooperation Framework Steering Committee meeting at Afya House to review progress and discuss the next phase of implementation under the Kenya–USG Health Cooperation Framework 2026–2030.

The meeting brought together technical teams from the Ministry of Health, the United States Government, and key stakeholders to assess ongoing implementation, strengthen coordination mechanisms, and advance shared health sector priorities under the framework.

Discussions focused on sustaining collaboration in health systems strengthening, disease prevention and response, and improving service delivery in support of Kenya’s Universal Health Coverage agenda.

The engagements reaffirmed the longstanding partnership between Kenya and the United States in promoting resilient health systems and improving health outcomes.

Director-General for Health Dr. Patrick Amoth also attended the meeting.





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Kenya Showcases Progress in Health Sector Transformation at Nation Health Summit

Kenya continues to make significant progress in strengthening healthcare systems through primary healthcare expansion, digital health innovation, and investments in specialised care and local manufacturing.

Speaking at the 2026 Nation Health Summit in Nairobi, Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards Mary Muthoni, CBS, highlighted key milestones driving the country’s healthcare transformation agenda under Taifa Care.

These include the deployment of more than 107,000 Community Health Promoters, registration of over 30 million Kenyans under the Social Health Authority, expansion of specialised treatment services, and ongoing investments in local pharmaceutical and vaccine manufacturing.

The Principal Secretary noted that strategic partnerships, innovation, technology, and people-centred health systems continue to position Kenya and the wider East African region as emerging leaders in healthcare delivery, medical research, and health workforce development.

She reaffirmed the Government’s commitment to strengthening resilient and accessible health systems that improve health outcomes and accelerate progress towards Universal Health Coverage.





Insight

Kenya is strengthening eye health services through expanded screening, workforce development, and technology-driven interventions to reduce preventable blindness.

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“Many causes of blindness are preventable or treatable if identified early and linked to care.”

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Kenya Scales Up Eye Health Interventions Ahead of 2030 IN SIGHT LIVE Conference

Kenya is intensifying efforts to strengthen eye health services amid growing demand for treatment, screening, and specialised care, with experts warning that preventable blindness continues to affect millions across the country.

Speaking during a media engagement ahead of the 2030 IN SIGHT LIVE International Conference in Nairobi, Acting Head of the Eye Health Section at the Ministry of Health, Dr. Monica Bitok, said approximately 30 per cent of Kenyans require eye health services to prevent vision loss despite progress in reducing blindness prevalence from 0.7 per cent in 1990 to 0.37 per cent in 2023.

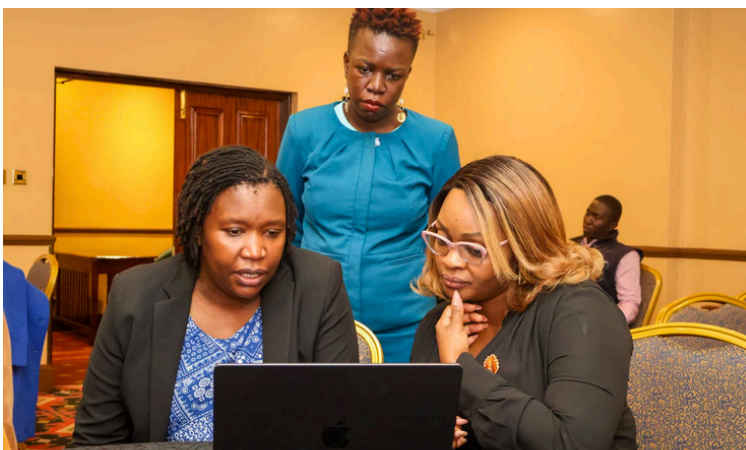
Dr. Bitok noted that cataract remains the leading cause of blindness in Kenya, accounting for nearly half of all blindness cases, while the country's Cataract Surgical Rate remains below the World Health Organization target. She also raised concern over rising cases of glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy linked to delayed diagnosis and limited screening services.



She further highlighted challenges affecting childhood eye health and refractive error services, noting that many children continue to struggle academically due to poor vision and limited access to spectacles. Approximately 15,000 children in Kenya are blind due to conditions such as congenital cataract, congenital glaucoma, and Retinopathy of Prematurity.

To address the gaps, the Ministry of Health is prioritising expansion of the eye health workforce, strengthening county eye care infrastructure and referral systems, increasing access to affordable spectacles, and promoting technologies such as tele-ophthalmology and digital screening tools.

The upcoming 2030 IN SIGHT LIVE International Conference is expected to bring together policymakers, health experts, development partners, researchers, and private sector stakeholders to discuss innovations and partnerships aimed at eliminating avoidable blindness and improving access to quality eye care services.



Pictorial: President Dr. William Ruto Launches the Every Woman Every Newborn Everywhere (EWENE) Acceleration Plan 2026–2028.





MINISTRY OF HEALTH

MAY

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

Seeking support for mental health is a sign of

STRENGTH,
not weakness.



Every maternal and perinatal death review must include learning for safety, quality, and health system improvement.
 - Hon. Peter Duma



TALK ABOUT IT



ASK FOR HELP



SUPPORT OTHERS



TAKE CARE

**2030
IN SIGHT
LIVE**
KENYA

2030 IN SIGHT LIVE

UNITE FOR IMPACT

04 - 06 JUNE

NAIROBI AND ONLINE

Join leaders, practitioners, innovators, philanthropists, business partners, researchers and advocates for three inspiring days that push us closer to eye care for all.

The Radisson Blu Hotel, Nairobi Upper Hill

**Bloomberg
Philanthropies**



CO-HOST



**MINISTRY OF
HEALTH**

GLOBAL EVENT HOSTS



For ticket information and to register,
visit www.iapb.world/2030_in_sight_live_kenya