



Insight

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“Preparedness saves lives. We remain vigilant and ready to respond to public health threats.”

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Ministry Reviews National Preparedness for Ebola and Other Public Health Threats

The Ministry of Health convened a high-level preparedness meeting bringing together Directors and Heads of Divisions to review Kenya's readiness to respond to Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) and other emerging public health threats.

The meeting assessed the country's preparedness across key areas, including disease surveillance, border health services, laboratory diagnostic capacity, emergency response systems, and coordination mechanisms. Discussions focused on strengthening early detection and rapid response capabilities to safeguard public health.

Participants reviewed the evolving regional and global disease situation, national and county preparedness levels, healthcare worker readiness, infection prevention and control measures, community engagement strategies, and the availability of critical supplies, including personal protective equipment, isolation facilities, medicines, vaccines, and emergency response commodities.

The meeting further reviewed directorate action plans, accountability frameworks, and inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms aimed at enhancing a whole-of-government approach to public health emergency preparedness and response.

Although Kenya has not recorded any confirmed Ebola case, the Ministry continues to maintain heightened vigilance and strengthen preparedness measures to ensure the country remains ready to respond effectively to potential disease outbreaks and other public health emergencies.





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Kenya Reaffirms Support for African Pooled Procurement and Local Manufacturing

Kenya has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening Africa's health security and advancing local manufacturing of health products through enhanced collaboration with the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC).

Speaking during a meeting with an Africa CDC mission led by Abebe G. Bayih, Principal Secretary for Medical Services Dr. Ouma Oluga emphasised the importance of pooled procurement, resilient supply chains, and increased production of medicines, vaccines, diagnostics, and medical devices across the continent.

Dr. Oluga noted that the African Pooled Procurement Mechanism (APPM) aligns with Kenya's ongoing health sector reforms under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda and Universal Health Coverage, particularly in strengthening health financing, commodity security, digital health systems, and workforce development.

The discussions highlighted progress in expanding Africa's vaccine and pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity and explored opportunities to reduce procurement costs through pooled purchasing arrangements.

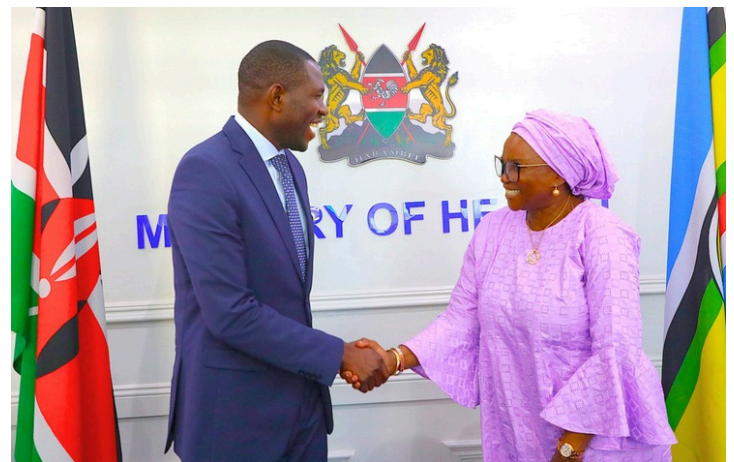
Insight

Kenya reaffirmed support for pooled procurement and stronger pharmaceutical manufacturing across Africa.

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“Local manufacturing is key to Africa's health security and self-reliance.” — Dr. Ouma Oluga

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Kenya welcomed continued collaboration with Africa CDC and other partners in implementing pooled procurement mechanisms, strengthening supply chain resilience, and promoting the use of African-manufactured health products.

The meeting was attended by officials from the Directorate of Health Products and Technologies, including Dr. Stephen Njuguna, Africa CDC Health Sector Coordination lead Dr. Osman Warfa, Dr. Rabera Kenya of BioVax, and other representatives from the health sector.



Insight

The EWENE Acceleration Plan shifts the focus from access to quality, accountability and results in maternal and newborn care.

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“The challenge is no longer getting mothers to health facilities; it is ensuring they receive quality care that saves lives.” — Dr. Ouma Oluga

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PS Oluga Highlights New Push to End Preventable Maternal and Newborn Deaths

Principal Secretary for Medical Services Dr. Ouma Oluga participated in a Citizen TV Town Hall discussion on 1 June 2026, where he outlined the Government’s renewed efforts to reduce maternal and newborn deaths through the Every Woman Every Newborn Everywhere (EWENE) Acceleration Plan and the Maternal and Newborn Health Rapid Results Initiative (RRI).

Dr. Oluga noted that Kenya has made significant progress in expanding access to maternal and newborn health services, with nearly nine out of ten births attended by skilled health personnel in health facilities. However, maternal mortality, neonatal mortality and stillbirths remain a major public health concern.

He said the EWENE Acceleration Plan 2026–2028 provides a national framework to improve leadership, financing, accountability and quality of care, while the Rapid Results Initiative focuses on immediate actions to accelerate progress during the first six months of implementation.

The Principal Secretary highlighted key priority areas including strengthening health financing and governance, improving health workforce capacity, ensuring the availability of essential medicines and blood supplies, enhancing data-driven accountability, and improving quality of care and referral systems.



He further emphasised the role of Community Health Promoters in identifying and linking pregnant women to health facilities for timely care, noting that early antenatal attendance and skilled delivery are critical to preventing maternal and newborn deaths.

The Town Hall provided an opportunity to engage the public on ongoing efforts to improve maternal and newborn health outcomes and accelerate progress towards ending preventable maternal deaths, newborn deaths and stillbirths in Kenya.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

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The health and safety of Kenyans remain our **top priority**. As part of our preparedness measures against the Ebola threat, the Government is taking all necessary steps to **prevent, detect, and manage** any potential cases, while strengthening our public health response capabilities with the support of our international partners, including the Government of the United States.

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H. E. President William Ruto

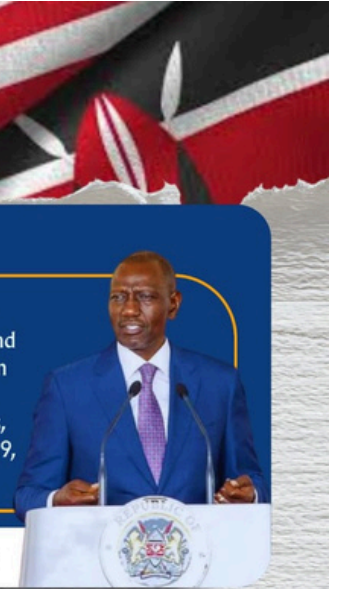


MINISTRY OF HEALTH



Kenya's partnership with the United States spans decades and has played an important role in supporting our response to major public health challenges, including HIV/Aids, COVID-19, and Ebola.

H. E. President William Ruto



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

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The quarantine facility being established at Laikipia Air Base with the support of the United States is neither unique nor exceptional, but part of a broader national preparedness system. It is one of 23 such centres under Kenya's disease preparedness framework, alongside facilities at Kenyatta National Hospital (Nairobi), the National Police Service Hospital (Nairobi), Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (Eldoret), Kenyatta University Teaching, Referral and Research Hospital (Nairobi/Kiambu), and Alupe Hospital (Busia), among others.

H. E. President William Ruto



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

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The Ebola preparedness measures are intended solely to safeguard public health and strengthen our capacity to respond effectively to health emergencies. Similar partnerships proved invaluable during the COVID-19 pandemic, including the establishment of a specialised facility at Nairobi Hospital, and continue to enhance our preparedness today.

H. E. President William Ruto



PUBLIC LECTURE AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT FORUM

ACADEMIA, INDUSTRY, AND THE TRIGGER FOR LOCAL MANUFACTURING

Lecture Title: Drug Development Overview for Biologics- Exploring Potential for Biopharmaceutical Manufacturing in Kenya



Chief Guest: Dr. Ouma Oluga, OGW

Principal Secretary, State Department for Medical Services, Ministry of Health



Guest Speaker- Prof. Stephen Gacheru

SG BioConsult LLC - Pennsylvania, USA

WHY THIS MATTERS

Local manufacturing of vaccines and health products is central to Kenya's health security, innovation agenda, and economic transformation. This public lecture will bring together academia, industry, government, and development partners to explore how research, training, technology transfer, and strategic partnerships can catalyze local manufacturing, build scientific and industrial capacity, create jobs, and strengthen resilient and sustainable health systems.

14:00 - 16:00

3rd June 2026

University of Nairobi, Faculty of Health Sciences, School of Medicine, Lecture Theatre 3 (LT III)



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