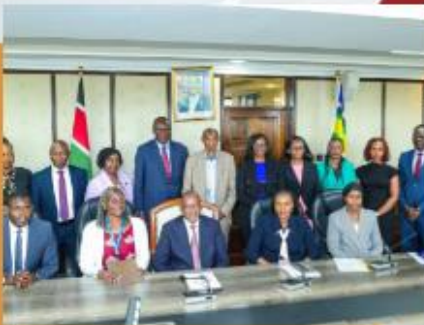




The Kenyan Health System Pulse Check

April 2025

Prepared by:
Open Phences



This is the second edition of the monthly healthcare news round-up prepared by the Open Phences team. We aim to offer insights and updates on the Kenyan healthcare sector and engaging areas for exploration.

Leadership changes

The Ministry of Health has had crucial changes at the senior management level.



Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale appointed Dr Mercy Mwangangi as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Social Health Authority (SHA) on 11th April 2025. Dr Mwangangi is a highly regarded public health expert. Her previous experience as Chief Administrative Secretary at the Ministry of Health and her current position as Senior Health

Systems Strengthening Director at AMREF Health Africa have equipped her with the skills to lead effectively. At AMREF, she has championed health financing and security initiatives, focusing on mobilising support for primary healthcare and expanding universal health coverage (UHC).

Dr Ouma Oluga officially assumed the role of Principal Secretary for the State Department of Medical Services on April 18th, 2025. Dr Oluga is committed to advancing UHC and supporting the complete execution of the health insurance reforms. A former Secretary General of the Kenya Medical Practitioners, Pharmacists, and Dentists Union (KMPDU) and Chief Officer of Health for Nairobi County, he emphasises the importance of values like integrity. Most recently, Dr Oluga was the head of the Directorate of Health Sector Coordination and Partnerships in the Ministry of Health.



Digital health



On April 25th, 2025, Health Cabinet Secretary Hon. Aden Duale signed the Intergovernmental Participation Agreement with all 47 counties in Kenya to fully digitise public health facilities. This initiative includes extensive training programmes to enhance digital skills and improve service efficiency, transparency, and access. To facilitate the transition, the Ministry plans to distribute 74,000 computers and tablets to health workers and establish 315 Smart Primary Care Networks to modernise healthcare infrastructure.

Additionally, the Ministry pointed out that the Health Information Exchange (HIE) system is being

curated to centralise patient records and streamline service delivery, supported by the electronic health insurance claims platform and the pharmaceutical information and logistics system.

Healthcare Infrastructure

Following a Cabinet Meeting held at State House on April 29th 2025, the Government committed to building two new Level 6 hospitals in Bungoma and Kericho counties.

Other news

In relation to the ongoing **organ transplant** controversy, Health CS, Aden Duale, suspended the licensing of foreign doctors by the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Council (KMPDC) pending an audit to be carried out within 90 days. Doctors from the East African Community are exempted. He also set up an Independent

Investigative Committee on Tissue and Organ Transplant, which our colleague Dr. Noelle Orata is part of. The Committee is investigating transplants' legal, ethical and clinical status across Kenyan hospitals and checking for compliance with regulations and standards.



The **National Health Summit 2025** took place at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre between the 15th and 16th of April. Themed around exploring the role of innovation in accelerating UHC, the Summit was a joint initiative between the Ministry of Health and Nation Media Group, with other sponsors mainly drawn from the corporate sector and private universities. The event was billed to have had rich discussions, but was criticised for having minimal involvement of counties.

Upcoming Events – May 2025

May 14th – the 25th, MedExpo will be taking place at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre in Nairobi.

May 19th – May 22nd - Task Force Healthcare's incoming mission to Kenya will be hosted in Nairobi (by Open Phences), Homa Bay, and Kisumu.

May 26th – May 29th – Open Phences will host a co-creation workshop in Kisumu County, centred on innovative and sustainable financing mechanisms for the county.