July - October, 2026

Volume 21

WHO KENYA NEWSLETTER



Kajiado County
John Kismir from WHO greets a mother during a visit to Kajiado County.

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World Health Organization
Kenya



World Health Organization

This Edition

JULY - OCTOBER 2026 | VOL 21

01 MESSAGE FROM DR NEEMA RUSIBAMAYILA KIMAMBO

02 EMERGENCIES
Kenya acts swiftly on its first cases of Bundibugyo Ebola
Contacts are quickly placed in quarantine as WHO supports the Ministry of Health's response.

04 CHILD HEALTH
Nurturing Care: Giving every Kenyan baby the best start in life
Healthcare workers from nine counties trained to counsel caregivers on nurturing care during routine health visits.

06 LOCAL MANUFACTURING
Kenya advances local manufacturing of health products and technologies
A new roadmap aims to lift use of Kenya's existing manufacturing capacity by 70% by 2030.

08 EMERGENCIES
Mpox vaccination campaign reaches 20,000 people across Kenya
Community mobilizers help Kenya's second Mpox vaccination campaign reach those most at risk across Busia, Mombasa and Kilifi.



10 HEALTH WORKFORCE
All 47 counties now have a clearer picture of their health workforce
Kajiado County budgets for an additional 497 health workers with new health workforce data.

12 EMERGENCIES
Preparing Kenya's health system for El Niño flooding
Kenya activates its Health Sector Contingency Plan ahead anticipated October to December rains.

14 TOBACCO FREE FARMS
Leaving tobacco behind
Over 12,000 households have switched from tobacco to food crops such as high-iron Nyota beans, soya and ground nuts.

18 HEALTH SYSTEMS
Kenya maps its super-specialist healthcare capacity
Kenya offers all 12 healthcare specialty areas assessed, with 2,050 specialists across 65 mapped hospitals.

20 Short Highlight Stories

34 Thank you from WHO Kenya

36 Acknowledgements


We champion **health,**
and a better **future for all.**
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Message from Dr Kimambo, WHO Representative to Kenya

Dear Partners and Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to present WHO Kenya's newsletter for July to October 2026, my first since presenting my credentials as WHO Representative to Kenya. This edition reflects our continued collaboration with the Government of Kenya and partners in advancing national health priorities.

In this period, Kenya confirmed its first case of Bundibugyo Ebola. Building on preparedness work that began in May, health teams quickly placed contacts in quarantine, and WHO is supporting the Ministry of Health across the response (page 2).

Alongside the response, important progress continued. To help give every child the best start in life, the Ministry of Health has adapted its Care for Child Development training package with support from WHO, UNICEF and partners, and the first 35 health workers from nine counties have been trained (page 4). Kenya also launched its Local Manufacturing Strategy 2026–2030, setting out a path to produce more essential medicines and health products in the country (page 6). To strengthen planning for the health workforce, all 47 counties now have health workforce profiles to guide the placement of health workers where they are most needed (page 10).

The edition closes with a selection of short highlights, including the Kenya Health Summit 2026, which brought together more than 5,000 delegates, and more.

I thank all our partners and donors for your continued commitment and collaboration in improving health for all Kenyans.

Best wishes,
Dr Neema Rusibamayila Kimambo



Ready before **the first case.**

Kenya acts swiftly after confirming its **first cases of Bundibugyo Ebola**



"Kenya's early preparation, quick contact tracing and the commitment of health workers have made a real difference. WHO will keep supporting the Ministry every step of the way."

Dr Neema Rusibamayila Kimambo

WHO Representative to Kenya

As the Bundibugyo Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo continues to grow, Kenya confirmed its first imported case on 6 October 2026, in a Kenyan citizen who had been living there for seven years. The patient sadly died on 5 October and was given a safe and dignified burial the next day.

Health teams quickly listed the people who had been in contact with him, including close family members, plane passengers and health workers who cared for him. Because Ebola spreads through direct contact with the blood or body fluids of someone who is sick with Ebola, these contacts were placed in quarantine and checked every day for 21 days, the longest time it can take for symptoms to appear. In all, 135 contacts were listed, and eight of them tested positive while in quarantine. Kenya has reported nine cases and two deaths, and on 26 October the first 20 contacts were released from quarantine.

WHO and partners are working closely with the Ministry of Health to respond to Bundibugyo Ebola in Kenya, supporting the response from coordination, surveillance and contact tracing to laboratory testing, patient care, infection prevention and control, and risk communication and community engagement.

Read More



HANDOVER OF ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES

$ 70 000 in supplies

In the week of the first case, WHO handed over around $ 70 000 worth of items to the Ministry of Health, including protective equipment for health workers, Ebola testing kits and infection prevention and control supplies.



PREPAREDNESS

Ready before the first case

Since the outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo was declared in May 2026, WHO has been supporting Kenya to prepare for any potential Ebola cases. Kenya's preparedness score, which tracks surveillance, laboratory testing, treatment facilities and trained teams, rose from 66% to 82% by July.



TRAINING AND SIMULATIONS

Practising patient care safely

By 6 October, around 5000 health workers had been trained on Ebola prevention and management. Full-scale simulations at Kenyatta National Hospital and Naivasha Sub-County Hospital helped clinicians practise caring for patients safely.

Ensuring the **best start to life.**

Nurturing Care: Giving every Kenyan baby the best start in life



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"Being a father is something good that I'm proud of it. The most enjoyable thing is when I come from work and I'm able to play with him".

Anthony Shikutwa, father of 11-month-old Arnold.

Kayole II Health Centre

A baby's future is shaped long before their first day of school. Around 80% of a child's brain develops between conception and age three. Yet an estimated 250 million children under five in low- and middle-income countries are at risk of not reaching their developmental potential.

For optimal growth and development, every child needs nurturing care: attentive care, good health and nutrition, protection from harm, and early chances to learn through play.

The Ministry of Health has adapted its Care for Child Development training package, with support from WHO, UNICEF and key stakeholders, to equip health workers to guide mothers, fathers and caregivers during routine health visits. In June 2026, the first cohort of 35 health workers from nine counties completed the training, including practical counselling sessions at Kayole I and Kayole II health centres in Nairobi.

Read More



CLINICAL OFFICER
Alice Nyimbae

Alice from Homa Bay was one of 35 county health providers trained on Kenya's 2026 National Care for Child Development package in July. “ I look forward to taking what I learned back to my facility and becoming a champion of care for child development."



PREGNANT MOTHER
Quinter Awuor

Quinter, mother of three, was one of the first caregivers to recieve nurturing care counselling in Kayole Health Centre. "I never knew that children could hear you when you sing and talk to them. Today I learned this will help their brain develop, even if they are still inside me."



COUNTY HEALTH PROVIDERS
Training Participants
The first cohort of trained participants stands outside Kayole Health Centre after completing their first practical sessions. "As healthcare workers, it's our responsibility to counsel caregivers to ensure they know how much these early years matter," said one participant.



Made in Kenya **for Africa**

Kenya advances **local manufacturing of health products and technologies**

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"As Kenya expands local manufacturing, quality must remain at the centre of every step of the journey. Production capacity and regulatory systems must go hand in hand."

Dr Neema Kimambo

WHO Representative to Kenya

Kenya has launched the Kenya Health Products and Technologies Local Manufacturing Strategy 2026-2030, a five-year roadmap to expand local production of medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and medical devices. Dr Ouma Oluga, Principal Secretary for Medical Services, launched the strategy on 23 June 2026.

Kenya is already the third-largest exporter of pharmaceutical products in Africa, with more than 37 licensed manufacturers producing 694 medicine formulations. Yet it still imports an estimated 70 to 80% of the pharmaceuticals it consumes, and local manufacturers produce only around 20% of the medicines on Kenya's Essential Medicines List.

The strategy aims to lift use of existing manufacturing capacity by 70% by 2030, help manufacturers reach Good Manufacturing Practice standards, and strengthen the Pharmacy and Poisons Board toward WHO Maturity Level 3. WHO supported the development of the strategy, providing technical guidance on regulatory strengthening, quality assurance and implementation.

Read More



WHO KENYA
Edwin Ogara

"When a country can produce its own health products and technologies, it can protect its own people without depending on external supply chains that may not always be reliable or accessible," said Edwin Ogara, WHO Kenya technical lead for essential drugs and medicines.



WHO KENYA
Dr Boston Zimba

“The success of this Strategy will depend not only on increasing production, but also on ensuring that health products consistently meet the highest standards of quality, safety and efficacy” said Dr Zimba, who represented WHO during the launch.



MINISTRY OF HEALTH, KENYA
Dr Ouma Oluga

The strategy aims to tackle the "barriers that have limited the growth of local manufacturing" while creating an enabling environment for investment, innovation and industrial expansion said Dr Oluga, Principal Secretary for Medical Services.

Anyone can get it. Everyone can prevent it.

Mpox vaccination campaign reaches 20,000 people across Busia, Mombasa and Kilifi



© **WHO** | Nancy Okwengu

"People want someone they can trust. When we listen to their concerns and answer their questions honestly, they become more confident."

Camilla Nyapinda

Community Mobilizer from Busia County

Long before the first person arrived for vaccination, Camilla Nyapinda was already at work, moving from truck stops to health facilities and community meeting points across Busia County, answering questions and dispelling rumours about the Mpox vaccine. She was one of many community mobilizers who supported Kenya's second targeted Mpox vaccination campaign, held from 17 to 26 July 2026 in Busia, Mombasa and Kilifi counties.

Led by the Ministry of Health with technical support from WHO and partners, the campaign provided 20,000 vaccine doses to truck drivers, sex workers and healthcare workers, the groups at greatest risk of exposure. It built on Kenya's first campaign in September 2025, which reached more than 10,600 people. WHO supported the training of vaccinators, surveillance, risk communication and social listening. Since July 2024, Kenya has reported 1,189 confirmed Mpox cases across 39 counties.



TRUCK DRIVERS' ASSOCIATION
Mohammed Ghulam Razak

"I have taken the vaccine and I feel safer. I want to protect myself and my family. The information helped me understand why this vaccine is important."



COMMUNITY MOBILIZER
Camilla Nyapinda

"When people leave knowing the facts instead of the rumours, we know we are making a difference. Every person we vaccinate is another step towards protecting families."



COMMUNITY MOBILIZER
Camilla Nyapinda

"Every person we vaccinate is another step towards reducing the spread of Mpox in our communities. Our role is not only to encourage people to get vaccinated, but also to listen to their concerns and provide trusted information, so that together we can keep our communities safe."

Read Full Story

Count. Plan. **Retain.**

All 47 counties now have a clearer picture of their health workforce



"Now that counties have their health workforce profiles, they can plan and make leadership decisions based on their needs. This is a step towards equity of health workers across the country."

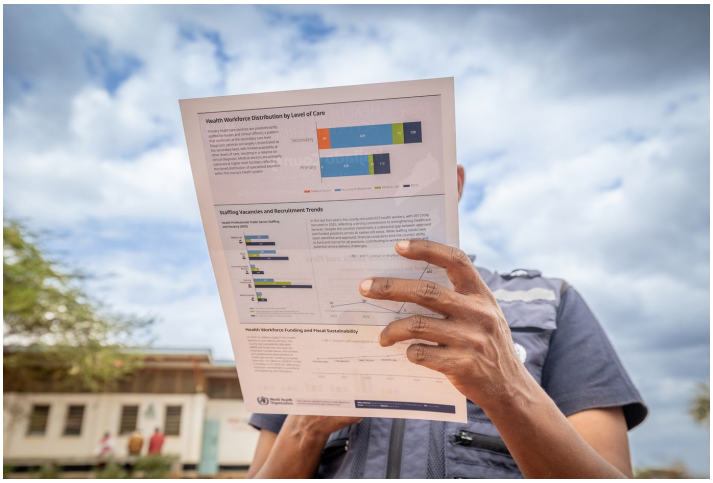
Dr Neema Kimambo

WHO Representative to Kenya

Kenya's counties once planned their health workforce using national averages, even though the best-staffed county had seven times as many health workers as the least-staffed. Now, for the first time, all 47 counties have their own health workforce profile, developed with the Ministry of Health and support from WHO and the UK Department of Health and Social Care.

Built on the WHO National Health Workforce Accounts tool, the profiles give counties a clear picture of their health workforce, for example how many health workers work at primary and secondary level and how many posts are approved, funded and vacant. Using this data, Kajiado County has budgeted for an additional 497 health workers. Other counties are also using their data to make staffing decisions.

Kenya's progress has been recognised across the region. In August, WHO ranked Kenya third in Africa and sixth globally for the availability of health workforce data.



WHO KENYA
John Kismir

We travelled to Kajiado to hear from health workers in hard-to-reach areas about staffing on the ground. John Kismir holds up the county's health workforce profile outside a local dispensary.



WHO KENYA
Evalyne Chagina

"For the first time, Kenya has accurate data on where its health workers are. This evidence has shaped the country's first Health Workforce Policy and investment plan, and helps counties plan staffing based on their own needs," said Evalyne Chagina, WHO Kenya.



PRIMARY HEALTH CARE
Kajiado County Dispensary

Two health workers at a dispensary in Kajiado County hold up their county's health workforce profile. Primary health care facilities like this one make up 95% of the county's public health facilities.

Read Full Story



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Ready before **the rains.**

Preparing Kenya's health system for potential **El Niño related flooding**

"The experience of the long rains earlier this year provides important lessons for preparing health services and communities before the next rainy season."

Dr Neema Rusibamayila Kimambo

WHO Representative to Kenya

Kenya is preparing for possible health risks linked to the anticipated 2026/2027 El Niño season, with forecasts indicating that parts of eastern Africa could receive more rainfall than usual between October and December. Similar conditions in 2019 and 1997 were followed by widespread and severe flooding across the region.

The forecast comes after the March-May 2026 long rains. By 3 May, flooding had affected 27 counties, claimed 122 lives and affected 42,259 people, damaging roads, bridges and water systems.

Flooding can contaminate drinking-water sources and sanitation systems, increasing the risk of cholera, typhoid and other diarrhoeal diseases. The Ministry of Health has activated a Health Sector El Niño Contingency Plan, bringing together national and county governments, emergency agencies, humanitarian organisations and partners. WHO is working closely with the Ministry of Health and the Kenya National Public Health Institute, providing technical support on surveillance, laboratory capacity, safe water and sanitation, risk communication and continuity of essential health services.

Read More



EMERGENCY MEDICAL TEAM
Kenya Defence Forces

From 8 to 11 September, the Kenya Defence Forces health security team and WHO experts formed a core management team, developed standard operating procedures and trained the first 30 members of its Emergency Medical Team.



DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL SERVICES
Maj Gen (Dr) Francis Kuria

"If the systems are overwhelmed, we can be an important national asset. We are not working alone. We are part of a team," said the Chief of Clinical Support Services, Kenya Defence Forces.



TABLETOP EXERCISE
Testing the Response

Participants worked through a scenario in which heavy rains forced families from their homes, followed by a cholera outbreak in displacement camps, testing how the team would activate, coordinate and respond.



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Grow food. **Not tobacco.**

Leaving tobacco behind: Migori farmers turn to nutritious crops

"With beans, you only work for three months. Then you have food at home, you have money, and there are so many things you can do with it."

Julius Omondi, Farmer and Boda Boda Rider

Migori County

Migori County has long been one of Kenya's biggest producers of tobacco leaf. Since 2021, the Tobacco-Free Farms initiative, designed by WHO, FAO and WFP with the Cereal Growers Association, has helped farmers switch to nutritious, profitable crops such as high-iron Nyota beans, soya and groundnuts. Across five counties, more than 19,000 households have been reached and around 12,000 have moved away from tobacco, including about 7,500 farmers in Migori.

The approach brings health and agriculture together. Community health promoters raise awareness of the harms of tobacco growing, from green tobacco sickness to child labour, while county agriculture officers train farmers and Farmer Service Centres link them to quality seed and reliable buyers.

"When you expose the true cost of tobacco growing, most of the time the farmers themselves decide to shift," said Nancy Silong of the Cereal Growers Association. In September, a delegation from Embu County visited Migori to learn from its experience.



SUNA WEST HUB

Integrated Farmers Service Centre

The hub brings Farmer Service Centres together to supply inputs and buy produce. Last season it bought 150 bags of maize, 5 tonnes of beans and 2 tonnes of groundnuts.



FARMER SERVICE CENTRE

Buying from Farmers

"Farmers are always grateful because we serve them where they are. They are not looking for us. We are the ones looking for them," said a member of the Suna West hub.



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QUALITY SEED

Molina Chen, Suna West Hub

Farmer Service Centres link farmers to quality seed and inputs on credit, planning each season around how much buyers want to purchase.

Read More

Images from Tobacco-Free Farms in Migori



VISITING FARMER, EMBU
Benson Ruo

Benson has grown tobacco in Embu since 1995. He is visiting Migori to learn from farmers about the best practices and bring them back to his county. "Food crops help with health," he said.



FARMER
Julius Omondi

Julius now grows Nyota beans and works as a boda boda rider. "I'm paying school fees for my two younger brothers using beans," he said.



CEREAL GROWERS ASSOCIATION
Nancy Silong

"Women and children are now released from the labour of tobacco growing," said Nancy Silong, Project Officer, Cereal Growers Association.

September



RADIO HOST
Emily Otieno

Emily conducts an interview with a local farmer for her Dalla FM, a local radio station. She records testimonies in the local language to encourage other farmers to make the shift.



COUNTY LEADERSHIP
Briefing with Migori County

"This project is one that we as a county government are very proud of," said Migori's County Executive Committee Member for Agriculture, who called for success stories to be shared more widely.



LEARNING VISIT
Learning Visit Delegation

The full learning visit delegation, including the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, WHO, the Cereal Growers Association and tobacco farmers from Embu, came to Migori to see how farmers have moved to crops such as Nyota beans, soya and groundnuts.



Care closer **to home.**

Bringing complex care closer to home: **Kenya maps its super-specialist healthcare capacity**

"Kenya's healthcare specialists and hospitals are an asset for the whole Region. This evidence helps bring complex care closer to home for more patients."

Dr Neema Rusibamayila Kimambo

WHO Representative to Kenya

Many patients in Africa travel to Asia, Europe and the Americas for complex care that is often available on the continent, because clinicians, insurers and patients do not know what exists closer to home. To change this, the WHO Regional Office for Africa mapped facilities offering super-specialized health services across all 47 Member States.

Working with the Ministry of Health, the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Council, and faith-based and private hospital networks, WHO Kenya mobilized 65 facilities to take part, the second-highest number in Africa. The results are encouraging: Kenya offers all 12 healthcare specialty areas assessed, with 2,050 healthcare specialists, and leads the Region in oncology, nephrology, orthopaedics, interventional cardiology and kidney transplantation.

The mapping also exposed gaps. Public tertiary hospitals carry the heaviest patient loads, but on average they have only 41–53% of the specialists, equipment and medicines needed. These findings give Kenya its first evidence base to target investment in public referral hospitals, formalize referral pathways, train healthcare specialists in scarce fields and designate centres of excellence.

Read More



KIDNEY TRANSPLANTATION

7 of the Region's 12 centres

Kenya hosts 7 of the 12 kidney transplant facilities in the WHO African Region, part of its leading role in nephrology.



REFERRALS

A destination for care

Of the 65 Kenyan hospitals mapped, more than half treat patients from other countries. Only 22% send patients abroad, and 92% refer complex cases within Kenya.



FINDING CARE CLOSER TO HOME

Open Dashboard

Clinicians and patients can use an open dashboard to find where services exist. Kenya's data is also helping build an African reference network that brings complex care closer to home.

Highlight Stories



Short **Highlight Stories**

Dr Kimambo Officially Takes Up Post as WHO Representative

WHO, Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs

On 13 August, Dr Neema Rusibamayila Kimambo presented her credentials to H.E. Musalia Mudavadi, Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, formally recognising her as WHO Representative to Kenya. She had served as Acting Representative since the start of 2026.

"WHO remains committed to walking alongside Kenya on this journey. Every Kenyan, in every county, deserves access to quality, affordable and dignified health care," said Dr Kimambo.





Maternal and Cancer Care Equipment Handed Over

Ministry of Health, WHO, Roche

WHO and the Ministry of Health handed over 108 electric obstetric theatre beds, valued at KSh 43 million, to 45 health facilities across 11 priority counties to strengthen the management of obstetric emergencies.

Cancer screening, diagnostic and treatment equipment was also provided to eight facilities in Bungoma and Nyandarua through the Women's Integrated Cancer Services project, which has screened 8,440 women against a target of 10,000. "Today's handover is not simply about equipment," said Dr Neema Kimambo.

Short **Highlight Stories**



Kenya Launches Physical Activity Guidelines

Ministry of Health, WHO, KNH, UNESCO, Kenya Red Cross & more.

Heart disease, diabetes and cancer cause nearly four in ten deaths in Kenya, and physical inactivity is a key risk factor. Only about 20% of adolescents and half of children meet recommended activity levels, and in Nairobi just 12.6% of children reach daily movement targets.

The new Kenya National Physical Activity Guidelines offer a clear, affordable guide for a healthier, more active Kenya, addressing barriers such as unsafe roads, few walkable spaces, rising screen time and cities designed for cars rather than people.

Nairobi Hosts Global Malaria Microscopy Assessment

WHO Kenya, Amref Health Africa in Kenya

Experts from nine countries gathered in Nairobi for a malaria microscopists competency assessment workshop hosted by WHO Kenya and Amref Health Africa in Kenya, with participants from Kenya, Mali, Sri Lanka, Australia, the Philippines, Thailand, Senegal, Nigeria and India.

Light microscopy remains the gold standard for malaria diagnosis. Regular competency assessment helps keep diagnosis precise and reliable, so that patients receive the right treatment the first time.



July



Building Kenya's Ebola Frontline

Ministry of Health, National Public Health Institute, WHO, Kenya Red Cross, Amref & more.

Although Kenya has recorded no Ebola cases, outbreaks in neighbouring countries make preparedness essential. More than 2,500 health workers have now been trained on Ebola prevention, preparedness and response, including a full simulation at Kenyatta National Hospital's Infectious Diseases Unit.

A Training of Trainers for Rapid Response Teams, including responders who served during the 2014-2016 West Africa outbreak, is building a national pool of trainers to strengthen response capacity across all 47 counties.

Tackling Health Misinformation in Emergencies

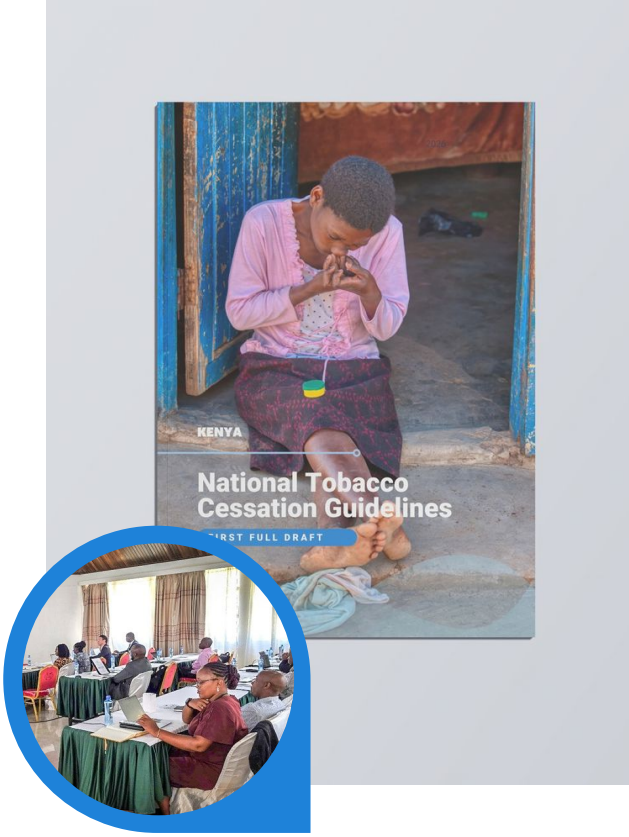
Ministry of Health, Africa CDC, WHO and partners

Partners from government, academia, civil society and development agencies joined a Ministry of Health workshop, supported by Africa CDC, to strengthen capacity to detect, analyse and respond to health misinformation during emergencies such as Ebola and Mpox.

In September, WHO Kenya also shared lessons from Kenya's experience at the Continental Behavioural Intelligence and Infodemic Management Workshop in Mombasa, helping build systems that turn community insights into earlier action and stronger public trust.



Short **Highlight Stories**



Kenya Revises National Tobacco Cessation Guidelines

Ministry of Health, WHO

Kenya has revised its National Tobacco Cessation Guidelines in line with WHO's clinical treatment recommendations. Led by the Ministry of Health with WHO support, a 25-member Technical Working Group produced the first full draft of the strengthened guidance.

The revision focuses on four WHO-recommended interventions: brief advice from health workers, intensive behavioural counselling, digital cessation tools and pharmacological treatment. Once adopted, the guidelines are expected to help more Kenyans quit tobacco and reduce tobacco-related disease.

Ebola Isolation Units Assessed in 27 Counties

KNPHI, Ministry of Health, WHO, Kenya Red Cross & partners

Following the deployment of 12 multidisciplinary teams across 27 high-risk counties, WHO joined the Kenya National Public Health Institute and partners to assess isolation units and designated facilities, reviewing infrastructure, infection prevention and control, equipment, staffing and readiness.

Experts also reviewed and updated key Ebola surveillance tools, including case definitions and standard operating procedures, so that suspected cases can be identified, reported and investigated quickly.



July / August



Every Mother Deserves Mental Health Support

Ministry of Health, WHO

Globally, one in five women experience a mental health condition during pregnancy or within the first year after childbirth. In Machakos, the Ministry of Health, with WHO support, trained 37 health professionals from nine counties as Trainers of Trainers on the WHO Mental Health Gap Action Programme Intervention Guide.

"A mother's mental well-being is not a luxury; it is a prerequisite for healthy families and thriving societies," said Dr Neema Kimambo, WHO Representative to Kenya.

Evidence-Based Staffing for Kenya's Health Workforce

Ministry of Health, County Governments, WHO

Senior county health leaders from all 47 counties met in Naivasha on 29-30 June to review Kenya's revised health workforce staffing norms, grounded in the national Workload Indicators of Staffing Need (WISN) analysis. The new norms reflect the rising burden of chronic diseases, mental health, emergency care and digital health.

"By aligning staffing with workload, we can improve efficiency, strengthen health service delivery, and ensure equitable access to quality healthcare for all Kenyans," said Dr Lucy Musyoka, Director Health Standards, Ministry of Health.



Short **Highlight Stories**



$80 Million Partnership for Mothers & Newborns

Ministry of Health, Beginnings Fund, Development Partners in Health Kenya

The Ministry of Health signed a five-year, $80 million Cooperation Framework with the Beginnings Fund to accelerate the Every Woman, Every Newborn, Everywhere Acceleration Plan, targeting 200 high-volume health facilities, six million women and newborns and 50,000 deaths averted by 2031.

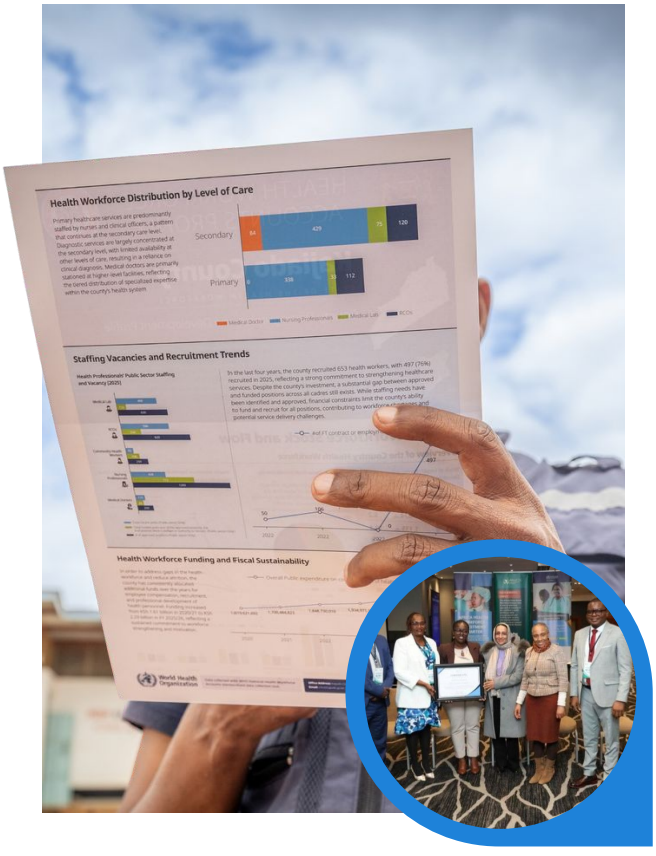
"No woman should lose her life while giving life," said Health CS Aden Duale. Dr Neema Kimambo reaffirmed WHO's commitment to stand alongside the Ministry as a technical partner on behalf of Development Partners in Health Kenya.

Kenya Ranked Third in Africa for Health Workforce Data

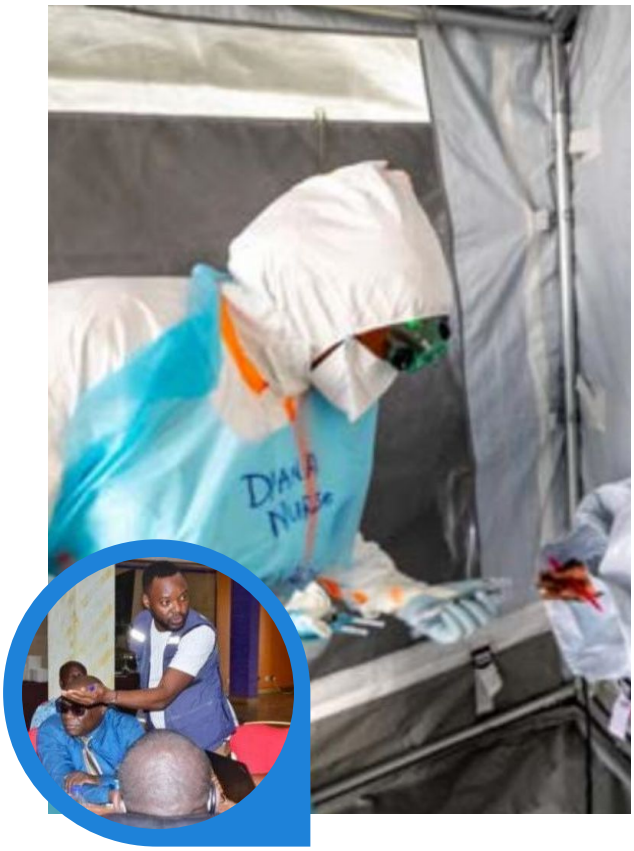
Ministry of Health, WHO

At the Joint Annual Technical Review Meeting on Health Workforce in Johannesburg, WHO recognised Kenya for its commitment to the National Health Workforce Accounts system, with 92 per cent data availability, ranking third in the African Region and sixth globally.

The data has helped inform Kenya's Health Workforce Policy, supporting better decisions on how the country plans, trains and retains its health workers.



August



Kenya Tests Its 72-Hour Ebola Response

KNPHI, WHO, Africa CDC, Safaricom & partners

Response teams from Bungoma, Busia, Kakamega and Siaya came together in Busia for a tabletop simulation exercise testing the first 72 hours of Kenya's response to a potential Ebola case.

The Ministry of Health, Kenya's National Public Health Institute, WHO and Safaricom also trained call centre agents so that every caller to the health hotline receives accurate information about Ebola.

WHO Reaffirms Support for UHC at Kenya Health Summit

Ministry of Health, WHO, County Governments and partners.

"Kenya's health reforms are a model of what sustained political leadership can achieve," said Dr Neema Kimambo. "WHO remains committed to standing alongside the Ministry of Health as a technical partner."

More than 5,000 delegates gathered at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre on 18-19 August for the Kenya Health Summit 2026, under the theme "Reforms Delivered, Health as a Right." The summit closed with the adoption of a Joint UHC Acceleration Plan and a Summit Communique.



Short **Highlight Stories**



PEN-Plus Clinics Bring Chronic Care Closer to Home

Ministry of Health, WHO, Vihiga and Isiolo Counties

Noncommunicable diseases cause 39% of deaths in Kenya. Through PEN-Plus, care for severe conditions such as type 1 diabetes, sickle cell disease and heart disease is now available at first-level facilities in Vihiga and Isiolo, where the Hamisi clinic follows over 800 patients.

"When I was referred to Hamisi, I became a revived person," said Duncan Butiya, who lives with type 1 diabetes. The Ministry of Health, with WHO support, is finalising a National Action Plan to expand PEN-Plus.

Kenya at WHO's 76th Regional Committee

Ministry of Health, WHO

Health CS Aden Duale led Kenya's delegation to the 76th WHO Regional Committee for Africa in Addis Ababa from 25 to 28 August, where ministers adopted a 10-year framework to protect Africa's polio gains. Health leaders also endorsed the Addis Ababa Call to Action on eliminating multiple diseases.

The call to action named Kenya's elimination of sleeping sickness among the region's recent successes. Ahead of the session, Dr Neema Kimambo joined thousands at the Walk the Talk Challenge in Addis Ababa to promote physical activity.



August



Strengthening Ebola Readiness at Kenya's Busiest Border

KNPHI, WHO, IOM, Busia and Bungoma County Governments

More than 3,000 people cross the Busia border between Kenya and Uganda every day, making it one of the busiest borders in East Africa. In August, 35 health workers were trained and 45 border stakeholders, including traders, truck drivers and youth, were engaged at the Busia, Malaba and Lwakhakha points of entry on detecting and reporting suspected Ebola cases.

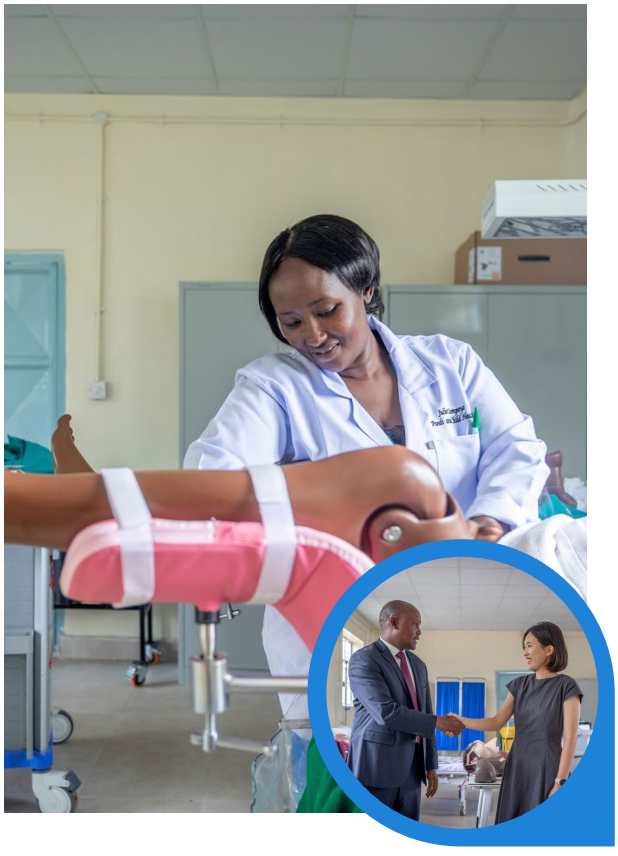
"We are in this market every day. If someone is sick, we see it before anybody at the office does. What we needed was to know who to call," said David Omondi Olong'o, a clearing agent in Busia.

Simulation Training to Improve Quality of Maternal Care

KOICA, Kajiado County, Aga Khan University, WHO, Development Partners for Health Kenya and more.

More Kenyan women and newborns now die from poor-quality care than from lack of access. On 20 August, over 50 participants joined the first-ever joint field visit of Development Partners in Health Kenya to a simulation-based maternal and newborn training centre at Kajiado County Referral Hospital.

"When training is embedded in the facility itself, it stays with the county long after any partner has moved onto the next project," said Hon. Alex L. Kilowua, Kajiado County Executive Committee Member for Health.



Short **Highlight Stories**



Justice for Girls: Ending FGM/C and Child Marriage

WHO, UN partners, Government of Kenya, British High Commission

Naivasha hosted Justice for Girls, a global convening of 150 participants from 36 countries, from 2 to 4 September. Over two decades, Kenya has cut FGM/C prevalence from 38% to 15% and child marriage from 27.6% to 12.5%.

"No form of FGM/C is acceptable, including when performed by a health professional," said Dr Neema Kimambo, noting that globally one in four women and girls who have undergone FGM/C were cut by a health worker.

WHO Strategic Approach for Reproductive Health

WHO, Ministry of Health & participating countries

From 7 to 11 September, Nairobi hosted a pilot workshop on the WHO Strategic Approach, a three-stage process for strengthening sexual and reproductive health policies and programmes, with participants from Kenya, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Liberia and Brazil.

"It's important for countries and ministries to set strategic priorities in advancing this agenda," said Dr Rita Arogo, Technical Lead for Sexual and Reproductive Health, WHO Kenya.



September



Kenya Marks African Traditional Medicine Day

Ministry of Health, KEMRI, WHO

On 31 August, Kenya celebrated African Traditional Medicine Day at the Kenya Medical Research Institute and highlighted progress toward its National Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine Policy. "We have made a very clear commitment to integrate evidence-based Traditional Medicine into our healthcare by the year 2028," said CS Aden Duale.

"Our goal is to ensure that people have access to health interventions that are both culturally acceptable and scientifically sound," said Dr Neema Kimambo.

Safe Care for People Living with Noncommunicable Diseases

Ministry of Health, Aga Khan University Hospital, WHO

Kenya marked World Patient Safety Day with a three-day conference from 9 to 11 September at Aga Khan University Hospital under the theme "Safe care for noncommunicable diseases: Safe care for life."

"Investing in patient safety not only saves resources but more importantly saves lives and improves health outcomes," said Dr Neema Kimambo, WHO Representative to Kenya.



Short **Highlight Stories**



Kenya Hosts African Countries on Dementia Care

WHO, 10+ Ministries of Health

An estimated 1.9 million people live with dementia in the African Region, yet as of 2024 none of its 47 countries had a national dementia plan. From 14 to 16 September, over 50 health leaders from 10 countries met in Nairobi to set priorities for prevention, diagnosis, care and support.

"Our priority is to ensure that dementia is recognized early, that people can access quality care and support, and that families are not left to face it alone," said Dr Catherine Wanjiku Waweru, Kenya's Ministry of Health.

Nairobi Hosts Global Alliance to Eliminate Trachoma

WHO, Ministry of Health, GET Alliance partners and more.

Trachoma is the world's leading infectious cause of blindness, and it is entirely preventable. More than 140 participants met in Nairobi for the 26th Meeting of the WHO Alliance for the Global Elimination of Trachoma. So far, 33 countries have been validated for eliminating the disease.

Yet 92 million people still live in districts where trachoma remains a public health concern. In Kenya, elimination work continues in Kajiado and Turkana counties.



September / October



Kenya Holds First National Conference on Ageing

Ministry of Health, WHO

Kenya's population aged 60 and above grew by about 40% in a decade, to 2.7 million. On the International Day of Older Persons, Kenya hosted its first national conference on ageing, where WHO called for a joined-up plan to combat ageism, bring care closer to home and support family caregivers.

"Our task is to make sure that the extra years are healthy years, secure years, and years lived with dignity," said Dr Zimba Boston, Officer in Charge, WHO Kenya.

WHO Helps Shape Kenya's Health Insurance Benefits

WHO, Ministry of Health

Which health services should Social Health Insurance pay for? WHO is helping Kenya answer this with Health Technology Assessment, a way of comparing the benefits and costs of services and medicines. A key step is the new Health Technology Assessment Reference Case: a set of rules so that evidence is gathered the same clear way every time. This evidence guides the Benefits Package and Tariffs Advisory Panel.

WHO also supported the Panel to review what is covered today and recommend options for the next two years, as the Social Health Insurance Fund law requires, through an open, fair and evidence-based process.



Thank you!

FROM THE WHO KENYA COUNTRY OFFICE TEAM

Our Kenya office is staffed by a diverse team committed to operational excellence, effective policy development and more. Through diligent work across various health fields, our team strives to improve health for all across Kenya.

Evalyne Chagina and Chipo Takawira from WHO Kenya are among 5,000 delegates who attended the Kenya Health Summit hosted at KICC in August 2026.



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End
AIDS
By
2030

Acknowledgements

External Partners

Your support and partnership are crucial to our mission in Kenya, enabling us to save lives and serve the vulnerable. We thank you for empowering our technical staff to deepen government support, accelerate progress towards Sustainable Development Goals and enable us to plan for longer term approaches to health systems strengthening.

We thank our partners, including our thematic funders. The funds our partners provide give a degree of flexibility that allows WHO to be more effective and efficient in allocating funds for our joint priorities. Your ongoing commitment not only drives our success but also inspires a ripple effect of health improvements across Kenya. **Thank you!**











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