



POLICY DISSEMINATION BRIEF

The Kenya Health Policy 2014 – 2030

Background

The Kenya Health Policy is a Roadmap to Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

While Kenya has made efforts and improved life expectancy and reduced child mortality and HIV/AIDS over the years, health challenges still remain:

- **Health burden:** According to KDHS 2003, Maternal mortality rate was 488/100,000, Newborn mortality 31/1000, Under 5 mortality 74/1000, and infant mortality 52/1000 live births. In KDHS 2022, Newborn mortality 21/1000, Under 5 mortality 41/1000, and infant mortality 32/1000 live births. Kenya Census 2019 showed an improvement of Maternal mortality rate of 355/100,000.
- **Inequities:** Regional, gender, and socio-economic disparities.
- **System gaps:** Inadequate workforce, inadequate infrastructure, limited financing, fragmented information systems.
- **New constitution 2010:** Health services devolved to 47 counties, requiring a new guiding framework.

Goal:

Achieve the highest possible health standard by 2030, aligned with the constitution 2010 and Vision 2030.

Specific Objectives:

- Eliminate communicable diseases.
- Halt and reverse the burden of NCDs & mental disorders.
- Reduce injuries & violence.
- Provide equitable, affordable, and accessible quality healthcare.
- Minimize health risk factors.

Strategic Areas:

- **Service delivery.** Restructure service delivery into a 4-tier system (community, primary care, county referral, national referral) with the *Kenya Essential Package for Health (KEPH)* to ensure universal coverage.
- **Leadership & governance:** Strengthen coordination between national and county governments through platforms like the Intergovernmental Health Forum.
- **Health workforce:** Improve planning, training, retention, and equitable distribution of skilled and motivated health workers.
- **Financing:** Mobilize domestic resources, diversify funding, and scale up Universal Health Coverage (UHC) to reduce out-of-pocket spending.

Policy Recommendations:

- **Medicines & technologies:** Guarantee consistent supply of safe, effective, and affordable medicines, vaccines, and health technologies via stronger regulation and supply chains.
- **Health information:** Digitize health records and improve information systems for timely, evidence-based decision-making.
- **Infrastructure:** Upgrade facilities and equipment across counties to meet national standards and improve access/quality.
- **Research & innovation:** Prioritize locally relevant research, particularly addressing needs of vulnerable groups, to guide policy and foster innovation.

- **National:** Provide stewardship, finalize policies, mobilize resources.
- **Counties:** Implement costed plans, prioritize Primary Health Care (PHC), invest in workforce/infrastructure
- **Partners:** Align support, harmonize financing, strengthen institutions.
- **Civil society/communities:** Actively participate in planning and accountability.



Call to Action

- Government to strengthen collaboration with other sectors which have an impact on health.
- Government to work with the private sector to reform incentive mechanisms that will attract registered private health practitioners to the underserved and difficult to reach areas.
- Non-state health actors including the private sector, NGOs, FBOs, and CSOs to support resource mobilization for health service delivery.



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