

Kenya Healthcare Federation (KHF) holds it First Ministerial Stakeholders Forum in 2017

Kenya Healthcare Federation (KHF), the health sector board of KEPSA, held a Ministerial Stakeholder's Forum on Tuesday 18th April, 2017 at Afya house. The main aim of the meeting was to follow up on issues affecting Kenya's health sector with its main focus on progressive realization of the Universal Health Coverage (UHC). The meeting was chaired by the Ministry Permanent Secretary (PS), Dr Julius Korir and co-chaired by the KHF Chair, Dr Amit Thakker.



Left, KHF Leadership team lead by the Chairman Dr Amit and MoH team, led by PS Mr Julius Korir, at the MSF meeting.

In his opening remarks, the PS underscored the important role the MSF plays in enhancing favourable business environment as well as increasing access to affordable healthcare. He also pointed out that the private sector owned 48% of the health facilities in Kenya therefore playing a key role in providing health services to the people of Kenya. The co-chair went on to introduce KHF to the newly appointed PS and explained the role it plays at KEPSA and in turn to the country's health sector. The private sector through its chair pointed out that its members are still concerned with multiple taxation and levies from the regulatory authorities and suggested that there should be a single window regulation for payments of all fees and permits; fast tracking of institutionalization of Kenya Food and Drugs Authority (KFDA) and also for the Health Bill to become an Act.

Dr. Thakker went on to stress that the private sector would appreciate an accreditation system of facilities at NHIF since it is still an area of concern and pointed out that operations including enrolment and empanelment needs to be improved. He also emphasized that overall efficiency gains will provide better value. It is in this regard that KHF has engaged MOH and NHIF leadership on key reform agenda and also established a steering committee between the KHF and NHIF. These were done to fast track reforms and strengthen NHIF. He went on to say that KHF felt the need for an appropriate balance between current capitation rates/reimbursements and the NHIF benefits package and that there should be provision for choice by allowing "opt-out" mechanism under a suitable regulatory framework. The VAT rule applies and the private sector continues to pay the new charge to the authorities. However, this rule affects providers serving both the urban and rural populations of Kenya," the KHF Chair went on to provide solutions by saying, "reversing the recently introduced VAT on these items and possibly harmonizing the entire tax implications on the health industry will promote affordable care". This among other issues were discussed at length during the three hour meeting. The PS was quite reassuring as he told all members present that the Public Private Partnership unit at the Ministry was working hard towards seeing all these issues addressed and hoped for better feedback during the next MSF.

Healthcare Payers & Providers Welcomes IT Solutions to Improve Healthcare Financing.

Kenya Healthcare Federation (KHF) led discussions on embracing information systems to improve healthcare financing models and tackle the challenges faced by providers and payers in delivering quality services to the people.



KHF Healthcare Financing committee members during the meeting

The meeting took place at Royal Tulip Hotel Nairobi and brought together leading ICT companies, payers and providers within the KHF umbrella on 23rd March 2017. The meeting deliberated on the overview of the Kenya healthcare financing industry and its significant growth from the large and small firms compared to East Africa. The ICT gaps within the healthcare space, that still allow manual entries and submissions of hardcopy claims has slowed down growth in healthcare financing and has led to high cost of healthcare. The providers and payers are ready to harmonize their codes and embrace various IT solutions to lower the cost of healthcare. There is a significant improvement in procedures and provider payer relationship with the ongoing KHF engagements. Since January 2017 after the first KHF provider payer meeting, the issue of overdue amount has reduced by 50%.



KHF Healthcare Financing committee members during the meeting.

Association of Kenya Insurers (AKI), are among the forums that have been mobilized to work towards improving the provider payer relationship. AKI members are already adopting technological ways of accepting online submission of claims from providers. With this improvement payers are taking much lesser time to pay claims.

Alternative payment mechanisms are coming up and NHIF is already exploring capitation with the larger population in public insurance. However, capitation as a payment mechanism has been tried by the private insurers in vain leading to an unstable environment with lack of choices.

There are also ongoing credit control inter-hospital meetings where hospitals CEOs and CFOs meet and try to adopt ICT solution in their facilities. The concern of the credit control system is the confidentiality and integrity of the information that is going to be trusted with the providers of biometric pathways. Standardization of the Biometrics is also a key concern for the providers since the size of the biometrics software's by different insurers may not be efficient.

Technology companies are working towards system integration and E-claims to bridge the software gap that exist between the payers and providers. Smart Applications who were the sponsors of the meeting presented on Integration to medical service provider systems that will allow the development & adoption of an indigenous Kenyan model for e-claims switching & e-scheme management. Smart applications offers a system that will allow data integration, facilitate accuracy & completeness of data, achieve online claims submission & claims status feedback, improve connectivity through the Smart Network with seamless data interchange and automation for medical scheme administrators to deliver innovations to healthcare processes. KHF is working with medical service providers, insurance companies, and technology leading organizations to address the actual cost of healthcare. The overall goal is to promote and improve the health status of all Kenyans by making healthcare financing procedures more effective to enhance access to high quality affordable healthcare for Kenyans.

The Inaugural Lake Region Health Investment Conference

Governors from the lake region counties, members of the County Executive Committees for Health, County directors of health, National Ministry of Health officials, chairs of health committees in the various County assemblies, international and local investors in the health sector gathered at the Kisii University grounds on the 29th and 30th March 2017 to address the multiple health challenges that the lake region faces, which continue to hinder its journey toward a healthy and prosperous region.

The two-day Inaugural Lake Region Health Investment Conference themed: “strengthening health care systems through partnership for socio-economic prosperity” was officially launched by the Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Health Dr Cleopa Mailu as the Chief Guest. Day one was key as the conference sessions chaired by the county governors deliberated on the major healthcare challenges facing the lake region block.



Dr Amit Thakker, Dr Elizabeth Wala and Dr Ouma Oluga present at the conference.

Dr Amit N Thakker – Kenya Healthcare Federation Chair shared a presentation on the Private Sector engagement as a way to improve the private and public sector relationship based on the health fact sheet presented in the sessions above. Dr. Amit shared the Sustainable Development Goals highlighting the growth in healthcare expenditure that has been driven by the public sector, and how the private sector is actively innovating.



KHF Chair Speaking during the Conference

In his presentation Dr Amit Introduced the Country Stakeholders Forum (CSF) platform, an initiative by Kenya Healthcare Federation to engage the counties closely to ensure implementation of the issues discussed. This will be done through increased private sector participation in Kenya, particularly in primary health care, improved government stewardship, and increased purchasing power of households and communities through larger enrollment in medical schemes.

This inaugural conference showcased opportunities that will foster increased investment in the health industry within the lake region economic bloc.

The conference profiled and disseminated simple, cost effective and standardized designs for health facility structures and buildings. Scalable ICT-enabled health innovations and initiatives were showcased which will promote an integrated regional and national health information system.

A networking platform for sharing diverse and scalable health solutions under each of the six pillars of a functional health system was evident which will lead to sharing of sustainable innovations and strategies to mobilize and retain an adequate number of competent and motivated health workers across the region. The event also provided a platform for discussion of investment on sanitation products and in general, sanitation improvement especially among the poorest households and prioritization of the elimination of open defecation.

The conference also created a high level of advocacy and awareness on emerging health sector challenges that require concerted efforts from all stakeholders.

Private Sector Health Partnership Kenya (PSHP Kenya) Engages the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Officials

The PSHP Kenya is a private sector collective action initiative in support of the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' health and Kenya's Beyond Zero Campaign. Currently the PSHP Kenya collaboration is signed between the National Government Ministry of Health and County Governments of Wajir, Isiolo, Lamu, Mandera, Migori and Marsabit, Kenya Healthcare Federation (KHF) and private sector companies Safaricom, Philips, MSD, Huawei and GSK (GlaxoSmithKline).



PSHP Kenya Members and Bill Gates Officials at the meeting

PSHP Kenya met with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation officials on the 15th March 2017 at the Sankara Hotel Nairobi during their visit to Nairobi. The private sector team presented to the Gates Foundation officials initiatives to protect the health and well-being of over 3.5 million women, new-borns, children, adolescents and family members in the above named 6 counties in Kenya. These 6 counties have a combined population of approximately 10% of the national population but contribute close to 50% of the country's maternal deaths.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health, based at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health visited Kenya for the launch of The Challenge Initiative (TCI), a global urban reproductive health program supported by a three-year, \$42 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Managing urban areas and providing essential health services, especially in urban poor settlements, is key to building habitable and sustainable cities in Africa. Yet despite increasing urbanization, the poorest people living in cities are rarely able to access health information and services.



PSHP Kenya Members and Bill Gates Officials at the meeting

During the meeting, the Gates officials appreciated the clear ongoing prototyping models and initiatives by PSHP. They informed the PSHP team that TCI will scale up the tools and approaches developed and lessons learned in URHI to more cities and geographies, especially in areas where there continues to be a great need for contraceptive information, supplies and services.

TCI is taking an innovative, demand-driven approach: rather than being chosen, participating cities will self-select, and will be asked to bring their own resources (cash or in-kind) to the table. Such cities will work with TCI's in-country partners — called “accelerator hubs” — to develop proposals for implementing a package of family planning interventions that are cost-effective and customized to their urban needs and circumstances.

Cities with the most promising proposals will receive technical expertise from the accelerator hubs throughout project implementation and will have access to matching funds from a Challenge Fund seeded by the Gates Foundation and contributions from other interested donors.

Kenya Healthcare Federation Engagement with the County Health Leadership

Kenya Healthcare Federation has recently engaged the county health leadership in a new advocacy forum: County Stakeholders Forum (CSF). In the quest to achieve Public Private Partnership at the county level, the federation has held two CSF forums with the CECs of various counties to come up with possible PPP framework for the counties.

The federation is in the process of mentoring the county health leaders to come up with their own individual county health forums to feed in to the already existing regional forums. These regional forums will therefore meet KHF at a national level quarterly and later represented in KHF advocacy forums. KHF has since organized two meetings with the county leaders from which terms of reference have been formulated and PPP priority areas of focus identified.

In the last CSF meeting held at Pride Inn Hotel Westlands in April 2017, KHF and the CECs present agreed upon three major public private partnership areas from the Sustainable Development Goals that can help support contribution to the country's GDP and enable comparison to the global average.



Kenya Healthcare Federation Leadership and the County CECs

The County Stakeholders Forum (CSF) seeks to define the problem statement at the county level in ensuring healthy lives and promoting universal well-being. KHF will play the private sector role of setting targets for the county CSF platform and ensuring Private and Public sector participation.



Kenya Healthcare Federation Leadership and the County CECs

Kenya's healthcare sector faces a number of key issues: 1) Quality and standards; 2) healthcare systems; 3) human capital; 4) healthcare financing and cost of affording hospital; and 5) regulations. The counties working with KHF will focus on human capital, healthcare financing and quality and standards as priority areas.

The federation will also mobilize the National Government of Kenya through the advocacy platforms to put to use the existing available funds to build the healthcare infrastructure.

The main objectives of the federation in driving this platform are: 1) Create a county-based private medical scheme integrating Community Health Workers; 2) identify centers of excellence in the region based on disease burden and leverage on technology; 3) mobilize funding to mitigate risk; 4) review existing global models; 5) mobilize private sector participation within the county; and 6) implementation of the PPP act at the county level.

The Private Health Sector Engages the Global Financing Fund (GFF)

The Global Financing Fund (GFF) is a new era in development and a breakthrough financing model that unites resources from countries, international donors and the private sector to accelerate advancements in the health of women and children. The Kenya Healthcare Federation leadership team recently met the GFF team to understand the private sector's role and participation in the fund.



KHF Members and the Global Financing Fund during the meeting

The GFF team accompanied by the IFC World Bank as their key partners in Kenya presented the country's powered investment for every woman every child, highlighting the broad context of the changing financing landscape and how the paradigm has shifted creating a need for new model of development finance. The main aim of the fund is to bridge the funding gap for women's, adolescents', and children's health, handle quality investment cases with aligned financing and promote governance at the country level.



KHF Members and the Global Financing Fund during the meeting

The government of Kenya is driving an inclusive coordination platform, involving a wide array of stakeholders including national and county governments, faith-based and civil society organizations, professional associations, the private sector (for-profit and not-for-profit), development partners and financiers for the development of the investment case and the health financing strategy.

GFF will use the flexibility of its trust fund and the expertise of its facility partners to draw in the financial resources and capacity of the private sector to help countries achieve RMNCAH outcomes as an overarching objective.

The three pathways to be considered are developing innovative financing mechanisms to catalyze private sector capital for investment case financing, facilitating partnerships between global private sector and countries, and leveraging private sector capabilities in countries to deliver on investment case objectives.



In operationalizing the investment framework, complementary financing is critical but does not occur automatically as it requires dialogue between ministries of health and of finance, and external financiers.

Supporting the investment cases also requires sustained dialogue at the country level. In this case 20 priority counties have been listed with estimates resource requirement and estimated funding gaps. They include; Kakamega, West Pokot, Kilifi, Kitui, Nairobi, Samburu, Wajir, Tana River, Bungoma, Migori, Homa Bay, Lamu, Turkana, Trans-Nzoia, Mandera, Isiolo, Nakuru, Garissa, Narok and Marsabit.

Mapping out Public Private Partnership areas in Healthcare



Public Private Partnership Committee Meeting of 12th April 2017

KHF Public Private Partnership Committee held their quarterly forum meeting on the 12th April 2017 at KEPSA offices to discuss ways of mapping the various PPP projects in the health sector. The committee has a solid framework with the ministry of Health the Ministerial Stakeholders Forum and are emphasizing on the P1 and P3 dialogue aspects to create an enabling environment.

This will entail showcasing failed and successful case studies in PPP in Health and show where there are opportunities. This committee is involved with the ongoing National Tuberculosis, Leprosy and Lung Disease Program through Centre for Health Solutions who are actively involved in the accelerated response and care programmes.

Recent statistics have estimated an increase in TB cases with a gender bias indicating most men suffer from TB illness.

There are therefore opportunities for scale and intensified case finding. The survey that was carried out in specified clinics has led to a reformulation of TB diagnosis in children, pushing for X-ray as a way of diagnosis.

This committee through the federation sees an opportunity to determine the TB information within the private sector through forums like Tunza from PS Kenya.

The committee is working towards improving the relationship with the public sector and has presented in the Ministerial Stakeholders Forum (MSF) their intention to work with the ministry and map out PPP areas across all sectors.

The committee is also planning a one day retreat with the Ministry to strategize on a working framework and engagement.

KHF Holds its Second 2017 Members Meeting in an Exclusive Lunch Event at Pride Inn Hotel Westlands

Kenya Healthcare Federation (KHF) held its 2nd members meeting of the year, on 5th April 2017 at Pride Inn Hotel Westlands. The meeting which was well attended with members, guests and development partners was graced by the KMPDU Secretary General Dr. Ouma Oluga and the County CECs for health from different counties. Kenya Healthcare Federation (KHF) has in the past worked with the Healthcare agencies, NGOs, FBOs and Ministry of Health to address quality, affordable and accessible healthcare, in a bid to transform the sector for enhanced efficiency and sustainability.



The meeting was supported by DT Dobie who shared a presentation on their special offers on selected models across their entire product range that are tailor made to support business needs in the health sector.

The members meeting was chaired by the Federation Chairman Dr. Amit N. Thakker. In his welcome statement, Dr Amit commended the progress the healthcare financing committee has made in trying to address the payers and providers challenges in the financing sector.

He also informed members of the SDG platform core objectives, targets and architecture and why the private & public sector should participate in the platform.

This platform will ensure healthy lives and promote universal well-being through increased private sector participation in Kenya.

This will be achieved particularly in primary health care, improved government stewardship and increased purchasing power of households and communities through larger enrollment in national health insurance schemes.



Left: Usha Nagpal General Sales Manager DT Dobie Left: Elizabeth Ogaja - County Minister for Health - Kisumu County

The meeting deliberated on KHF main advocacy areas of focus that are normally tabled at the Ministerial Stakeholders Forum (MSF) and reported at the Presidential Roundtables quarterly.

These include regulatory framework, VAT on medical devices, NHIF and HCF Strategy, Human Resources for Health, SDG Platform, PPP unit and Retreat, E-Health and M-Health Regulations, Partnership Framework and supply chain and parallel imports.

Focusing on its mission “an enabling environment that supports quality affordable healthcare for all” KHF will in 2017 strengthen the health systems through various advocacy channels to deliver better healthcare policies and regulations to its members.

KHF is wishing you a healthy month ahead as we look forward to more updates in the month of May 2017 with KHF Newsletter, *“Your everyday peek behind the health scenes at KHF, with exclusive sustainability news resources, tips and more”*