

10TH Ministerial Stakeholder Forum

The 10th ministerial stake holder forum, took place on 26th February 2019, at the PanAfric Hotel, Nairobi. The forum was chaired by the cabinet secretary for health Hon. Sicily Kariuki and co –chaired by the chairman of Kenya Healthcare Federation, Dr. Amit N. Thakker. The forum took place few minutes after the inauguration of NHIF reforms expert panel, by the cabinet secretary for health, Hon. Sicily Kariuki. In her opening remarks, the CS welcomed the attendees emphasizing that the government still envision a more efficient, socially accountable and a transparent NHIF. “As you are all aware, to kick start Universal Health Coverage Program, the President Launched the UHC Pilot Programs on 13th December, 2018. Further to the pilot program and as part of the UHC Agenda, His Excellency, Uhuru Kenyatta, directed the strengthening and reform of the National Hospital Insurance Fund and the Kenya Medical Supplies Authority (KEMSA).” Hon. Sicily Kariuki CS, MOH.



The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Health Kenya, Hon. Sicily Kariuki speaking during the 10th Ministerial Stakeholder Forum at Sarova PanAfric Hotel, Nairobi.

The CS informed the attendees that through intensive stakeholder engagement and expert review, the independent panel of experts would be required to develop an action plan for the key objectives of the panel. The panel of experts will focus on legal and regulatory reforms towards transforming NHIF to be a strategic purchaser of health services in the context of UHC, organisational and business process re-engineering reforms aiming at repositioning NHIF as a national social health insurance provider and strengthening fiscal and social accountability and sustainability. The Ministry of Health (MOH) will continuously engage the media to keep stakeholders updated. During the forum, the CS reiterated that MOH would continue working together with the private sector especially in strategizing towards achieving the UHC. She challenged the private sector to ensure implementation of action points discussed while being sensitive to timelines.



Dr. Amit N. Thakker, Chairman, Kenya Healthcare Federation speaking during the 10th Ministerial Stakeholder Forum at Sarova PanAfric Hotel, Nairobi.

Upcoming Events:

-  Annual EAHF Conference (EAHF8): Safari Park Hotel: 4th-6th September 2019
-  UHC Conference in Kisumu: 8th -10th ,May 2019
-  47TH KMA Annual Scientific Conference: 24th – 27th , 2019 Lake Naivasha Resort

Dr. Amit N. Thakker congratulated the CS for inaugurating the NHIF Reforms Expert Panel noting the steps the MOH is taking toward reforms under the leadership of the CS. The KHF Chairman said, “The steps you have taken shows the public that you are serious about reforms. The 90 days timeline [for recommendations from the NHIF Reforms Expert Panel] will give good time to NHIF to make progress towards taking it the next level. It’s also great to hear that the same reforms process will be done for KEMSA”. Dr. Thakker advised the CS that the private sector would continue working with the pilot counties on three key focus areas. The first is the supply chain of medicines and non-medical health commodities where private sector will collaborate in ensuring that the supplies are available, affordable and of good quality.

The products will include both locally produced and imported products. Secondly, the private sector will support in healthcare financing by expanding private medical insurance coverage to the pilot counties to complement UHC thereby enabling provision of wider coverage and higher quality of care. Lastly, on the matter of strengthening local referral systems, he informed the ministry that the private sector could help build local clinical capacity in the county referral hospitals effectively reducing the cases referred to Kenyatta National Hospital, Moi and Teaching Referral Hospital and other national referral hospitals. The KHF Chairman, Dr. Thakker, and the entire KHF fraternity congratulates our KHF director, Ms. Joyce Wanderi on her appointment into the NHIF Reforms Expert Panel by the Cabinet Secretary Health Hon. Sicily Kariuki.



The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Health, Hon. Sicily Kariuki congratulating the NHIF reforms expert panel at Sarova Pan - Afric Hotel in Nairobi.

What is the true cost of Healthcare? and what does it entail?

Amref Health Africa in partnership with Kenya Healthcare Federation (KHF) held a forum on cost of healthcare on 12th February 2019, at Sarova Pan-Afric Hotel. In order to unpack the areas where costs lie in healthcare, the following guiding questions were asked: What is the true cost of care? How can healthcare be made affordable to all? The forum was well attended by the private sector, civil society organizations, health regulatory bodies, insurance providers and representatives from the Ministry of Health. In his opening remarks, Dr. Amit N. Thakker, chairman, KHF, emphasized on the need for Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and its linkage to preventing catastrophic health expenses leading Kenyans into poverty. He encouraged frank and open dialogue on: commercialisation of medicine, remuneration of human resources for health, understanding public perceptions of cost in the private sector, specifically, the perception of providers (doctors and facilities), insurers and manufacturers and governance of practice.



Dr. Amit N. Thakker, chairman, Kenya Healthcare Federation speaking at the cost of healthcare event

Mr. Nathaniel Otoo, Executive Director, Strategic Purchasing Africa Resource Centre (SPARC) reiterated that achieving UHC calls for the right capacity and collaboration between public and private sector to fill in the gaps. He took the forum through the Ghana UHC journey focusing on financing strategies. Ghana moved from passive to strategic purchasing with monitoring of quality, performance, and pricing. The National Health Insurance Scheme in Ghana moved from a price taker to a price setter. Along their journey they noted that private sector is not always a marker of efficiency. Mr. Otoo offered to support KHF in its move to tackle the cost of healthcare through capacity building in strategic purchasing, and improving of efficiency and quality of services.



Mr. Nathaniel Otoo, Executive Director, Strategic Purchasing Africa Resource Centre (SPARC) speaking at the cost of healthcare event

The panel discussions revolved around fraud, supply chain, human resources for health and lack of robust health information systems. As a summary of the meeting, the following priority focus areas were outlined: supply chain management - regulation, distribution, purchasing, prescription; local manufacturing of key products, methods to determine true cost of healthcare at provider, distributor, manufacturing and payer levels; operational efficiencies - equipment sharing, centralised ambulance services, utility costs, models of healthcare worker remuneration; enforcement of professional standards; governance including guidelines or protocols on management of costs; self regulation;

patient behaviour change and right of choice; data generation, analysis, and governance; and finally healthcare financing including increasing the risk pool which calls innovative insurance models and social health insurance to capture a larger population, and incorporation of the prevention aspects of healthcare into our current insurance models.

Kenya Healthcare Federation engagement with Meru County

Kenya Healthcare Federation held the initial county stakeholder engagement with Meru County Health Officials to discuss the establishment of Meru Medical Care. The meeting was held on 10th January 2019 at KHF offices. The engagement with the county was very timely because KHF has set a goal to establish county stakeholder engagements. The Governor, Meru County, has laid a plan to establish Meru Care that will ensure all households have medical cover. The cost of Meru Care is proposed to be ksh.2,000 per household annually.



Kenya Healthcare Federation meeting with Meru County Health Departments Head, took place at Kenya Healthcare Federation Offices.

Meru County has a population of 1.56million people with 2000 health workers, which gives a ratio of health workers to population at 1:780. Meru Level 5 Hospital is the main teaching and referral hospital and has specialists. The county has one Level 5 hospital, 15 Level 4 hospitals, 25 Health Centres, 157 Dispensaries and 76 Pharmacies. Dr. Githu Wachira from the Ministry of Health-Non-Communicable Disease Unit, Meru County, said that Meru County is leading

in the burden of NCDs with Gastrointestinal Tract (GIT)cancer being very common. He further said that research is ongoing to determine the trigger factors for the GIT cancers.

Trauma is the second leading cause of NCD morbidity with a major cause being assaults. Dr Lillian Karoki, Director of Medical Services, Meru County informed the meeting that the total county health budget received from treasury is Ksh3.2 billion. She further said that 85% of the total population can afford to pay National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) subscription; the challenge is they do not keep up with the monthly contributions thus bringing the current active NHIF membership to as low as 7%.

KHF was pleased with the vision of Meru County as regards their health agenda. KHF advised that the County should explore ways to increase revenue for the health facilities to make them self-sustaining. Commodity management is important in ensuring that limited resources are used appropriately and loss through pilferage is minimized. Given that 85% of the population can afford NHIF, the County could establish the Meru Care to target the medical needs for the needy.

KHF further advised the County to consider licensing Meru Care as an official scheme with transparency in revenue collection, revenue allocation, benefits, beneficiaries and provider management. This would enable the scheme to purchase healthcare services and products competitively. It was also proposed that the County share their proposal for Meru Care with KHF who can assess the benefits package for validity and sustainability. KHF expressed willingness to assist Meru County with advocacy and lobbying to justify the budget for Meru Care and to bring the vision into fruition.

Kenya Healthcare Students Summit

Kenya Healthcare Students summit (KEHSS) held its annual conference themed “Towards a Multidisciplinary Approach for the achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in Kenya and Africa” on 8 - 9 February 2019 at United States International University, Nairobi. The Kenya Healthcare Students Summit is a conference that brings together healthcare students and interested professionals from all over Africa. The conference aims at building capacity of Kenyan and African healthcare students on matters pertaining to UHC as well as equip them with the necessary soft skills needed in their future profession as healthcare practitioners. In his opening remarks Dr. Githinji Gitahi, CEO Amref Health Africa and UHC 2030 co-chair emphasized that UHC is a social justice concept, a philosophy founded on equity where everyone receives quality healthcare. The panel was focusing on “What it takes to be the correct health worker for UHC” and Kenya Healthcare Federation (KHF) was well represented therein. Dr. Robert Nyarango, CEO, Gertrudes Children’s Hospital responding to the question on why medical professional graduates find themselves unemployed, emphasized that healthcare organizations are looking for human resource that is highly skilled, visionary, emotionally intelligent and with a focus on problem solving.



Kenya Healthcare Federation well represented in the panel at the healthcare student summit

Dr. Daniella Munene, CEO, Pharmaceutical Society of Kenya, addressing the pharmacy students encouraged them to establish a relationship with patients during their practice and ask the right questions to enhance compliance with medications. She further added that every encounter with a patient is an opportunity to educate them about their right to the highest attainable standards of healthcare, as an informed public will be the driver for UHC. Professor Gilbert Kokwaro, Strathmore University, encouraged the students to be open-minded big picture oriented. “Identify the areas that have leadership gaps and work on adding value to them”.

He indicated that teaching institutions need to train job creators and leaders not job seekers.” Professor Njeri Wamae, USIU Africa, encouraged lecturers to train youths that are fit for purpose, keeping in mind that the vision of UHC is ensuring that no one is left behind. “Think of what is needed in healthcare today and in the future” Professor Njeri Wamae, United States International University (USIU) Africa.

Sharing experience in healthcare leadership, Dr. Jacqueline Kitulu, President, Kenya Medical Association highlighted that the lag in prioritizing healthcare stems from being too inward facing in health practice. She encouraged the student to explore other value adding skills like management and leadership to enable them effectively articulate the needs of the health sector.

“Through knowledge and skills acquired while pursuing my MBA, I learned how to articulate healthcare needs in a language that the economist can understand” she continued. Dr. Kitulu further encouraged the students to join professional associations for mentorship, which she explained is one sure way of leapfrogging young professionals to effective leadership.

Dr. Amit N. Thakker, Chairman, KHF, encouraged the students to identify mentors in their area of passion and interest, who can walk with them towards pursuing their career. In addition, he encouraged the students to focus on being job creators and not job seekers. The healthcare students summit was a success and the students expressed their gratitude to the panelists for the impactful session.



Group photo for the speakers, panelist and the healthcare students summit

TERUMO BCT opens a branch office in Kenya

TERUMO BCT a global leader in blood management, blood safety, therapeutic apheresis, cell therapy and cell collections. Terumo, opened its first office in Sub-Saharan Africa in Gigiri, Kenya on 7th February 2019. This happened after the company was recently listed in a recent industry report as among the world’s top players in the blood bank market. Dr. Jackson Kioko, Director for Medical Services (DMS), Ministry of Health, who also officially opened the new company, graced the ceremony. The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Health (Kenya) Mrs. Sicily Kariuki in her speech that was read by the DMS, Dr. Kioko, applauded TERUMO BCT for the great achievement and for choosing Kenya as their base in Sub-Saharan Africa. She further said that the partnership is very timely as Kenya is working on making Universal Health Coverage a reality and blood and blood products are key.



Dr. Jackson Kioko, Director of Medical Services, Ministry of Health Kenya, speaking during the TERUMO BCT, Nairobi office opening in Gigiri, Nairobi

Officials from the Japanese Government and TERUMO BCT emphasized that their decision on choosing Kenya was informed by Kenya being a high recipient of Official Development Assistance (ODA), an agreement that was signed during Sixth Tokyo

International Conference on African Development (TICAD6). The conference focused on “Advancing Africa’s Sustainable Development Agenda – with a major theme as promoting resilient health system for quality of life.” Kenya’s prioritization of healthcare by driving the health agenda as reflected in the BIG 4 Agenda further incentivized their move.

As a company, TERUMO BCT will apply three strategies through its partnership in Kenya: Create awareness, Capacity building and training of blood bank technologists and professionals and Use of advanced technology & systems. The company officials emphasize that they will proudly share their knowledge and experience in blood safety and blood bank. Through sharing of knowledge and expertise, the company will contribute towards saving lives especially mother and child, achieving Universal Health Coverage and achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

The ICT and Mobile health committee takes lead in establishing healthcare coding systems

The ICT Committee held its first quarterly meeting at Kenya Healthcare Federation offices (KHF) on 24th January 2019 to outline the focus areas for 2019. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Torooti Mwirigi (Carepay Limited). The focus areas outlined included: data exchange, data regulation and governance, active participation in the Health Act 2017 technical working groups (TWGs) and Universal Health Coverage (UHC) committees at the Ministry of Health (MOH), and, partnerships. Mr. Joel Lehman (Infospective) updated the group that at the last Ministerial Stakeholder Forum (MSF) it was agreed that standardization of coding of persons, facilities, practitioners, procedures and diagnoses was a priority in the health sector.



The ICT DATA exchange sub-committee meeting at KHF offices

The Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB), with the help of consultant Prof. Francis Ndemo of the University of Nairobi and chair of PPB Practice Committee will take a lead in introducing standard codes for pharmaceuticals. The recommendation of Pharmaceutical Society of Kenya (PSK) and KHF, is to use the globally used ATC codes with a suffix unique to the specific brand registered in Kenya.

The Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Board (KMPDB) will take the lead in adoption of standard codes for procedures and diagnoses.

The data – exchange sub-committee was mandated to structure a framework for a data exchange. The sub-committee agreed that key considerations for this framework include standard codes e.g. ICD10, ACT, CPT, RADLEX etc., health information exchange standards e.g. HL7, clinical pathways and formularies. To achieve this, stakeholder mapping is necessary to pick up on best practice. Establishment of a good relationship between the subcommittee and the Nursing Council of Kenya, the Kenya Medical Laboratory and Technician Board and, the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentist Board is also necessary to give an opportunity for supporting these boards on the best coding systems considering global best practices.

After the framework is created it will be floated to KHF member for endorsement, a milestone to be achieved by mid-2019. Similarly, ICT and mobile health committee will make policy proposals on data governance and regulation and present to KHF membership for endorsement. KHF will advocate the adoption of these policy proposals by government.

Wishing you success in your next levels

Ms. Puja Tank,

You have been the best team player, your work has been out standing, you are very faithful and honest.

You've tirelessly fought to create a strong advocacy role for the federation.

From the Chairman, Board of Directors, the Secretariat and the entire KHF membership we wish you **all the best** in your **next levels.**

*We shall miss you **sense of humour!!!***



MOMENTS THROUGH THE LENS



The African Leadership Meeting

The African Leadership Meeting was held in Ethiopia on 9th February 2019. The main agenda was “commitments for investments in the health sector across the continent with an emphasis on the importance of partnerships in order to grow the Health Sector. The leadership meeting was co-organized by Africa Health Business.” Dr. Amit N. Thakker, Chairman Africa Healthcare Federation, emphasized that deepening private sector integration within the African health system is a non-negotiable. He urged the government leaders to embrace the private sector and improve both Public-Private Dialogue and engagement in the respective African countries through the Ministries of Health. Countries that practice this openly have already shown positive results. Dr. Thakker said this while moderating a panel session themed “Domestic Financing for Health, Effective Partnerships and Private Sector Engagement”



H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta (President of Kenya), Mrs. Tsitsi Maasiyiwa (Higherlife Foundation, Co-Founder and Co-Chair), Mr. Ade Ayeyemi (Ecobank Group, Chief Executive Officer), Dr. Tedros Adhanom (WHO, Director General), Mr. Peter Sands (GFATM, Executive Director), Dr. Seth Berkley (GAVI), and Mr. Alex Asiedu (Africans for Africa, Chairman).

H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta, President of Kenya, acknowledged that investments in health were integral to achieving the social economic agenda and that it was necessary to build partnerships to achieve Universal Health Coverage.



H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta, Republic of Kenya speaking during the African Leadership Meeting in Addis Ababa Ethiopia,

The Kenyan President urged other leaders to create an enabling environment for the private sector in order to build confidence and attract investments into health systems.

It was stressed that the health sector is a viable investment area where the return on investment is substantial such that investors can expect between 9 – 20 times the level of investment.

The meeting led to increased commitments of US\$200 million from both public and private health sector and donor governments (Higherlife Foundation, The Government of Ireland and the Government of France), to end epidemics and achieve Universal Health Coverage.

H.E. President Sahle-Work Zewde, President of Ethiopia, called on the African leaders to bring hope and opportunities to the people of Africa through transformational leadership. Investments in healthcare would improve the quality of life across the continent and allow African populations to lead full, productive and prosperous lives.

She emphasized that investments in healthcare underpin national development. Mr. Bill Gates, Co-Chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, urged immediate action in order to end epidemics and meet health targets.

It was suggested that African Ministers of Health should meet more frequently to work together on the health status in the continent and report their progress to the AU Heads of State and Government Summit. In this way, African governments can learn from initiatives across the continent, identify synergies that unlock efficiencies and collaborate in relation to continental priorities.

African leaders urged their counterparts to focus on improved efficiency in order to strengthen national health systems. For the private health sector, the meeting was received as a key step towards acknowledging sustainability and private sector efforts towards health outcomes.

The meeting was an important platform to build on Public Private Dialogue, create awareness and commitments in relation to investments in healthcare in Africa and urge the African leadership to create an enabling environment for business.

This shall lead to a stronger private health sector which can further contribute to economic development and goals towards achieving Universal Health Coverage in an efficient and affordable manner.

Kenya Healthcare Federation holds the first members meeting for the year 2019

Kenya Healthcare Federation held the first members meeting on 28th February 2019 at Movenpick Hotel, Nairobi. The meeting was sponsored by Malaria no More. The theme of the meeting was “End malaria to unleash Kenya’s economic growth” according to research and analysis, Malaria was the leading cause of death in the year 2017. The government has since made efforts to bring this under control.

During the panel discussion, a major question asked was what is the private sector’s major role in malaria control and elimination. “100% of the supplies are produced from the private sector and a major concentration is on malaria treatment”. Dr. Amit N. Thakker, Chairman Kenya Healthcare Federation. Dr. Thakker further informed the attendees that the private sector ensures that there is a malaria treatment readily available at all facilities. How do we control malaria? by applying preventive and curative measures, carryout community sensitization and create awareness on the spread and prevention of malaria.



Ms. Zeba Siaanoi, Advocacy Specialist, Malaria No More, speaking during the first KHF members meeting for the year 2019

During the members meeting, a major focus was paid to the 10th ministerial stakeholder forum and the inauguration of the NHIF reforms expert panel. Dr. Thakker updated the attendees that the Independent Panel of Experts will be required to skilfully develop an action plan that will see the transformation of NHIF into a strategic purchaser of health services, in the context of UHC. In addition,

The KHF chair, reiterated Hon Sicily Kariuki’s stand on the continuous engagement between and the ministry of health to keep the public informed. The Panel of experts will focus primarily on; Legal and Regulatory Reforms towards transforming the NHIF to be a strategic purchaser of health services, in the context of UHC, Organisational and Business process Re-engineering reforms towards repositioning NHIF as a National social Health Insurance provider,

Fiscal and Social Accountability -Strengthening Financial and Social Accountability and Financial Sustainability- which will include the analysis of the sustainability of the NHIF under different financial and service coverage scenarios.



Panel session on the best strategies to put forth towards ending malaria happening the Movenpick Hotel in Westlands

During the 10th Multistakeholder Forum, the CS reiterated that the ministry will continue working together with the private sector, especially in strategizing towards achieving the Universal Health Coverage. She however, challenged the private sector to ensure more discussed action points are implemented with time sensitivity. Dr. Amit N. Thakker, Chairman Kenya Healthcare Federation, congratulated the CS for inaugurating the NHIF reforms expert panel. He however, applauded her for the steps she has taken towards the reforms.

He however promised the CS that the private sector will be working with the pilot counties on three key areas; supply chain, to make sure the medicines are available, affordable and of good quality, both locally produced and imported, Healthcare Financing, the expanded private sector insurance coverage and those in the counties will allow UHC in this counties to provide more coverage and better care and referral systems, he informed the ministry that KHF is ready to support the county referral instead of having many referral cases taken to Kenyatta National Hospital and Moi and Teaching referral hospital.

Dr. Thakker and the entire KHF fraternity congratulates one of the directors, Ms. Joyce Wanderi, who was appointed into the expert panel, by the Cabinet Secretary.