

Eighth East Africa Healthcare Federation Conference

Kenya Healthcare Federation (KHF) hosted the 8th East Africa Healthcare Federation (EAHF) Conference at Safaripark Hotel in Nairobi, from 5th to 6th September 2019. The conference brought together private health sector federations from seven East Africa Region Countries which include: Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia, Burundi, Rwanda, South Sudan and Kenya, under the theme: From Strategy to Action: Advancing Health Systems in the SDG Era. The conference covered indepth thematic areas including: PPPs and multisectoral engagements for health; Role of the private sector players in achieving UHC; New frontiers in healthcare service delivery; Medicines and health products; Emerging technologies for health (ICT, Digital health, Telemedicine and E-health); Human resources for health: Attracting, retaining and sustaining health workforce; and Innovative approaches for quality healthcare. The conference is held on a rotational basis amongst the EAHF member countries, the previous one being held in Ethiopia, and the next one being slotted for Rwanda.



Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Health Hon. Sicily Karuiki, speaking at the 8th East Africa Healthcare Federation Conference, which was held at Safaripark Hotel, Nairobi

Speaking during the opening ceremony, the Cabinet Secretary for Health Hon. Sicily Kariuki applauded EAHF for creating a platform where health practitioners, business innovators and governments across the East Africa Region can collaborate towards achieving Universal Health coverage (UHC). She highlighted the successes of the Kenya health sector, stating as follows: including improved health outcomes. However, sustained investments are required to leverage on the gains made and to ensure the fast tracking of the SDG agenda.

The global health community and indeed the East Africa region has recorded remarkable progress in key health indicators towards the health-related SDGs, especially in reducing under-5 mortality, increasing the coverage of HIV treatment and reducing cases of and deaths from tuberculosis. Kenya has made great strides towards improving the health of its citizenry over the past decade. Kenya registered commendable decrease in maternal mortality rate to 362/100,000 population thereby averting 2000 maternal deaths per year.

Likewise, the under-five mortality has reduced by over 50%. Over the same period, HIV prevalence has reduced from 6% to 4.9%; TB treatment success rate increased from 80% to 90%, malaria prevalence for under-fives reduced to 8% from 13%.



Hon. Sicily Kariuki, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Health, together with the East Africa Healthcare Federation conference regional leadership during the 8th East Africa Healthcare Federation Conference at Safaripark Hotel, Nairobi.

The CS added that the Kenya Government is committed to ensuring healthy lives and promoting the well-being of all its citizens regardless of their age as articulated in the third SDG. The delivery of quality, equitable and responsive healthcare services is most effectively done by adopting a health systems perspective. She further reiterated that Public Private Partnerships (PPP) in health complement government's delivery of services and advocated strongly for a win-win situation between private and public partners to fast-track the achievement of SDG goal No. 3.

From the discussions on PPP and multisectoral engagements for health, it was clear that PPP is paramount for achieving UHC across the region and EAHF members agreed to move from strategy to action. The following were noted as important pillars for effective PPP engagement: partnerships, efficiency, dialogues, trust, mutual accountability and entrepreneurship. Business philanthropist Mr Manu Chandaria affirmed that the private sector as it is now doesn't have the will to invest in healthcare because of lack of corporate responsibility. "There has to be willingness to partner with government and generate genuine action in the response. The cardinal principles of partnerships include: Ownership, Alignment, Results and Mutual accountability.



Prof. Khama Rogo, IFC World Bank, moderation a panel session on leadership, management and governance during the East Africa Healthcare Federation Conference at Safaripark Hotel

Enhancing innovative approaches for quality healthcare is another key area that was agreed upon towards improving access to quality healthcare. There was unanimous agreement that to achieve the highest gain in healthcare service delivery, incentives are needed to promote innovations and open the space for new innovative ideas for enhancing quality care. There is need to ensure compliance with quality standards and statutory regulations. This is with the recognition that different tools tend to measure different aspects of health hence the need for integration to achieve highest quality. The missing links between innovation and service delivery include among others: The lack of incentives to innovate, lack of transparency and collaboration in healthcare, lack of self-regulation, lack of service delivery redesign and feedback information, lack of service rating, and minimal accountability and responsiveness.

In the HRH panel discussion, it was noted that the health workforce in the region is not firmly sustainable. Government alone has limited capacity to train and retain adequate HRH. The private sector should fill the gap to provide training and employment opportunities. There should be laid out procedures to ensure accountability in the health workforce. Punitive measures for unprofessional behaviour should be instituted. A paradigm shift is needed to adopt family medicine and home-based care. This will reduce the cost of running health facilities and amplify the effectiveness of HRH.

Some of the key resolutions that were made included:

The Private Public sector Dialogue to be strengthened at national and regional level to discuss and resolve key pillars of the Health systems strengthening especially: Human resources for health, Cost of Healthcare, through identifying and addressing all the factors that make healthcare inaccessible and unaffordable for recipients, providers and Government, Policy and regulatory framework;

initiate regional harmonization of EAC at National and Regional levels ;Initiate actions to establishing regulatory framework and focus on strengthening investments in health as a business by initiating the following: affordable capital and enhancing support for Health SMES;

expansion of Social Health Insurance schemes across all East African Countries, under PPP share experiences on managed Equipment services (MES), Standardize and strengthen Quality assurance and accreditation programs in all member Countries, members to actively participate in the dialogue and all stages of elimination of corruption in all sectors and member states should initiate the process of building trust across all players.



Ms. Faith Muigai, Director, Kenya Healthcare Federation, moderating the eighth EAHF conference on day 1, 5th September 2019 at Safaripark Hotel, Nairobi.

The 11th Ministerial Stakeholder Forum

The Cabinet Secretary (CS), Ministry of Health (MOH), Hon Sicily Kariuki, chaired the 11th Ministerial Stakeholders Forum (MSF) on 7th August 2019 at Afya House, Nairobi. The forum was co – chaired by Dr. Rashid Amman, Chief Administrative Secretary, MOH, and Dr. Amit N Thakker, Chairman, Kenya Healthcare Federation (KHF). The forum brought together key health sector actors including: Ministry of Health, Private Sector, FBOs and health regulatory bodies. In her remarks, the CS applauded the contribution of the private health sector in the delivery of quality and affordable healthcare towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC), stating as follows “The representation in this workshop demonstrates the importance of the private sector and stakeholders in achieving UHC.

We are cognizant of the times we’ve worked together to deliver quality care to Kenyans. As a ministry we recognize and appreciate the role of the private sector and consider you a crucial and strategic partner in our national healthcare goals.”



L-R Dr. Rashid Amman, Cabinet Administrative Secretary, MOH, centre Hon. Sicily Kariuki, Cabinet Secretary, MOH and Dr. John Masasabi, Director General, MOH, during the 11th Ministerial Stakeholder Forum held at Afya House.

Dr. Amman presented milestones achieved from the last MSF (26th February 2019) which include: Implementation of the Health ACT 2017 requirement for the establishment of the office of Director General of health, where Dr. John Wekesa Masasabi was appointed as the acting Director General. In addition, there has been established the Kenya Health Professional Oversight Authority, with Dr. Jackson Kioko as chairman, as well as the Kenya Human Resource Advisory Council, chaired by Dr. Anne Wamae. These changes are aligned to the ministry’s strategic plan and shall streamline MOH’s functions towards UHC.

In his remarks, Dr. Thakker thanked the CS for taking time to engage with private health sector. He presented key milestones from the private sector which included: The UHC pilot transition from NHIF to commodity based model that saw a change in referral from public to private facilities, and this has reduced work load.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) platform has provided opportunities in the private sector such as supply chain, medical education and technology. Dr. Thakker expressed optimism in growth in quality of healthcare and cost reduction if existing challenges in health service delivery are tackled. KHF presented these challenges in five big pillars which included: Supply Chain, Health Regulations, Quality and Standards, ICT,

Public Private Partnership and lastly Healthcare Financing. Some of the issues discussed under these pillars included: Promoting local manufacturers, clearance delays and theft of imported goods from the inland container depot, rampant presence of non-qualified personnel and non-licensed premises, strengthening partnerships with the private sector and traceability of healthcare products.



Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Health together with Ministry of Health officials and leaders from the private health sector gathered during the 11th ministerial stakeholder forum at Afya House.

From the discussions there was an assurance that the ministry is working towards scaling up PPPs to boost engagement with the private sector, and that the ministry will work together with Pharmacy and Poisons Board, the Pharmaceutical Society of Kenya and the ICT & Mobile health committee of KHF towards establishment of a national coding system to enable traceability of health products. There was agreement that auxiliary health worker’s roles as well as the referral system should be clearly defined with all worker’s scopes of practice being clearly described. This will avoid unclear shift of roles and will ensure that each health worker knows what he/she is supposed to deliver, without conflict. This will strengthen the health work force towards efficient service delivery.

Kenya Healthcare Federation sets good learning ground in Africa for health systems strengthening towards UHC

The Ministry of Health in partnership with Kenya Healthcare Federation's (KHF) Healthcare Financing Committee(HFC) hosted a high level delegation from the Federal Republic of Nigeria at KHF offices on 31st July 2019. The delegation was on a study tour to Kenya for a knowledge exchange on the Kenyan Healthcare System, the objective of the study tour was to understand how the healthcare systems is effective in Kenya especially towards the delivery of Universal Health Coverage.

The meeting was chaired by the HFC committee chair, Dr. Njoki Fernandes. Dr. Anastasia Nyalita, the incoming Chief Executive Officer of KHF ,welcomed the delegation to the meeting thereafter took them through the background of KHF and it's mission.



Kenya Healthcare Federation, Healthcare Financing Committee, together with the Nigerian delegation during the study tour in Kenya

During the introduction the delegation gave an overview of the Nigerian Healthcare System in that Nigeria has never had a comprehensive healthcare system for it's citizens this is in terms of funding and coverage. In 1999, a national insurance scheme was signed into law to ensure all citizens can access affordable and quality healthcare. The scheme was effected in the year 2005 with the formal sector and public sector.

The system also allowed the private sector to key into the systems. Currently there has been no success in capturing a good number of the population to the systems and the out of pocket expenditure towards accessing affordable quality healthcare is still high. The Healthcare services delivery level in Nigeria includes:

Primary level that takes care of the rural residents, Secondary Level which consists of general hospitals and Federal State which consists of referral hospital. In addition the delegation informed the attendees that the Nigerian government has an additional scheme called Basic Healthcare Providing Fund that takes care of the vulnerable and the poor this schemes also feeds into the national insurance scheme.

The Key purpose of the study tour was to obtain or generate an evidence based understanding of the Kenyan healthcare system that will be able to advice the Nigerian government so there can be an increase in coverage and accessibility of quality healthcare from 10% - 80%.

Some of the key areas the delegation enquired on included: Private sector's role in achieving Universal Health Coverage, Private sectors role in the support of telemedicine and key achievements of the private sector in achieving Universal Health Coverage.

The delegation key learning points were: Strong and effective innovations and technologies, prioritizing healthcare e.g. Kenya has Health as a BIG four Agenda, Identifying specific groups and their need and establish better coverage that guarantees access. Implementing Better data collection systems that can show actual number of people covered, gaps and challenges experienced.

10,000 persons with Disabilities to benefit from innovation to inclusion (i2i) programme

The Global Disability Summit in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Development and the United Disabled Persons of Kenya marked it's first anniversary since it was launched last year. The event was held 26th July 2019 at the Association for the Physically Disabled of Kenya (APDK) grounds, Westlands. Global Disability Summit was co-hosted last year during the launch by the UK, Kenya Governments and the International Disability Alliance this was an opportunity to strengthen partnerships to create lasting change for persons with disabilities. Since the summit, the Government of Kenya together with Disability Persons Organisations and various stakeholders have been working together to take on ambitious initiatives on the road to disability inclusion.

During the anniversary gathering the innovations to inclusion(i2i) program was launched, the i2i is a three-year inclusive employment programme funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID).The programme is designed to develop, test validate and share learning from the interventions that will improve access to waged employment for persons with disabilities. The program will directly benefit 10,000 women and men with disabilities as well as indirectly benefiting up to 50,000 families and community members as a result of increased income received by persons with disabilities.



British High Commissioner to Kenya Mr. Nic Hailey launched two UK funded programs intended to support persons with disabilities (PWDs) in accessing employment opportunities.

Kenya Healthcare Federation congratulates its member CBM International for the partnership towards this noble cause, that will see a change in the underutilisation of persons with disabilities in the work place. the labour market



The launch of innovation to inclusion project- turnaround project that will ensure people living with disability will benefit from the employment opportunities

Key expected outcomes of the programme includes: strengthen national government to be inclusive of persons with disabilities and generate high-quality disability data to monitor and implement inclusive strategies and policies, engage disabled people's organization (DPOs) in positive advocacy initiatives informed by high-quality data and evidence on disability and employment, Work with private sector employers to make work places inclusive for persons with disabilities and improve & strengthen the employability skills of 3,000 persons with disabilities ,increasing their confidence to engage in.



Partners gathered to mark the 1st global Disability Summit and also to witness the launch of the innovation to inclusion project

Health Regulations, Quality and Standards Committee to develop a position paper on 'QUALITY'

The success and value of universal health coverage (UHC) depends on the country's ability to provide safe, efficient and quality services to all people everywhere without the people facing financial hardship. Quality healthcare services are the foundation of achieving effective and resilient UHC.

The Health Regulations, Quality and Standards (HRQS) committee held its third 2019 quarterly meeting at Kenya Healthcare Federation (KHF) offices on 25th July 2019, to discuss gaps observed in quality of care. The meeting was chaired by committee chair Ms. Millicent Olulo (Pharm Access).



Health Regulations Quality and Standard committee members during the quarterly meeting

Also in attendance was the KHF director in charge of HQRS, Ms. Faith Muigai (Pharm Access), who urged members to keep abreast of the country's progress in HRQS and identify different areas in which the federation, specifically the committee can plug in. It was noted that UHC implementation has mainly been about access with little focus on quality.

The committee agreed to hold a workshop on quality to develop KHF's policy position paper on quality standards for UHC. The committee also agreed to have representation at various levels in the ministry of Health, in order to give private sector's views on HQRS. This representation to include Health Act Committees and the Kenya National Accreditation Service (KENAS).

MOMENTS THROUGH THE LEN



Secure Supply Chain Is Key to Enhancing Quality and Affordable Healthcare

The supply chain committee of Kenya Healthcare Federation held their quarterly meeting at the KHF office in Westlands on 30th July 2019 to discuss key issues affecting the supply chain towards the delivery of quality and affordable healthcare. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Anastasia Nyalita, then a Director of KHF. The high cost of pre-shipment inspection of imported medicines and equipment was discussed at large as a hindrance to access to quality and affordable health care. These extra costs are handed down to the patient during the service delivery. Affected KHF members, both pharmaceutical and medical equipment suppliers registered their complaints that the new Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) regulations were causing costly delays in life-saving medical supplies. It was agreed that this important matter shall be tabled at the next ministerial stakeholders forum (MSF) as a matter of urgency.



Supply Chain Committee members during the quarterly committee meetings at KHF offices

Further on matters of pricing, Dr. Nyalita informed the attendees that the minister for health had formed an advisory committee to provide a price policy document, and their final report had been handed to the minister. In addition, parallel importation guidelines had been developed by the Pharmacy and Poisons Board in consultation with stakeholders and given to the minister. These guidelines are aimed at curbing illicit trade in medicines. At the time of the meeting, these two documents were awaiting gazette. The committee observed that there has been no clear role of private supply chain in the road to universal health coverage (UHC). In this regard, the committee shall meet with Kenya Medical Supplies Authority (KEMSA) to discuss and outline clear roles of private supply chain in rolling out UHC in the pilot counties. Elections for a new chair of the committee were conducted. Hearty congratulations to Mr. Vinod Gupta from the KHF Directors and Management, for being elected as chair. Mr. Gupta is an executive committee member of the Kenya Association of Pharmaceutical Industry (KAPI).



L-R Dr. Anastasia Nyalita CEO, Kenya Healthcare Federation Centre Mr. Vinod Gupta, Chair, Supply Chain Committee and Dr. Chis Masila, Vice Chair, Supply Chain Committee

Kenya Healthcare Federation to participate in the Health Records and Information Managers Board

Kenya Health care Federation (KHF) voice of the Private Sector was invited by the Ministry of Health (MOH) to nominate a representative who will be sitting at the Health Records and Information Managers Board, Speaking during the quarterly Human Resource Committee (HRH) meeting, Dr. Anastasia Nyalita, Incoming Chief Executive Officer, KHF read and presented the letter to the committee.



Human Resource for Health Committee members during the quarterly committee meetings

The committee meeting took place at the KHF offices, on 16th July 2019. The meeting was chaired by the committee chair, Mr. Kennedy Auma. On his opening remarks, the committee chair informed the members that the committee has been working on strengthening the identified specialized neglected cadres namely: Community Health Workers, Health Records Information Officers and Emergency Medical Technicians.

The committee conducted a shortlisting process for the candidates under the chairperson Ms. Jemimah Kibira who was appointed to conduct the shortlisting process in the absence of the chair Mr. Kennedy Auma who was a contestant among other 7 contestants.

The HRIM Act No. 15 of 2016 (Amendments of the Health Acts Bill 2019) was enacted with the aim of making provision for the training, registration and licensing of the health records and information managers to regulate their practice, provide for the establishment powers and functions of the Health Records and Information Managers Board and for connected purposes. The Ministry of Health will soon present the HRIM Board of Directors once the process is completed.

Why Health Sector Should Embrace Open Contracting

KHF members meetings bring together federation members and partners to showcase progress in health advocacy, public private partnership, regional integration and strategic partnerships. Our fourth members meeting for 2019 was at Pride Inn Hotel, Westlands on 26th August 2019. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Daniella Munene, Director KHF. The sponsors of the meeting were Transparency International (TI) who are currently working on a project to sensitize stakeholders about open contracting in the health sector. The policy and legal lead of Transparency International, Ms. Harriet Wachira said the health sector forms the biggest chunk of county budgets.

Health is the highest priority service to citizens with the health procurement process constituting the largest corruption risk for the sector. With healthcare being one of the Big 4 Agenda, it is imperative that we employ open contracting to reap the benefits of better value for money, improved efficiency, effective oversight of government services and improved transparency in the contract award process. TI are ready to work with KHF for further sensitization of members and stakeholders.



Ms. Harriet Wachira, Transparency International, presenting on the benefits of open contracting in the Health Sector, during the KHF Bi-monthly members meeting held at Pridelnn Hotel

Updates on the six KHF thematic areas were made including issues discussed at the 11th ministerial stakeholder forum (MSF) - for a summary of the MSF discussions, please go to MSF article on page 3 (11th Ministerial Stakeholder Forum) The federation has increased in membership by 8% where 12 new members drawn from corporates, professional associations and institutional associations had joined the federation in the previous three months.



Dr. Amit N Thakker chairman, Kenya Healthcare Federation and Dr. Anastasia Nyalita, Chief Executive Coordinator, Kenya Healthcare Federation speaking during the KHF bi-monthly members meeting at pride Inn Hotel in Westlands

Prior to the meeting, members had been sent ballots to vote for the position of Board Member representing institutional associations. This was after this position fell vacant following Dr. Nyalita's appointment as CEO of KHF.

In keeping with our constitution and under the keen eye of our company secretary Ms. Ann Mululu, nominations were done and ballots with three nominees sent to members. The nominees were: Dr. Vimal Shah, COSMOS Limited, Mr. Ravi Ram, Health NGOs Network (HENNET) and Dr. Francis Karanja, Kenya Association of Pharmaceutical Industry (KAPI). During the members meeting voting continued with final tally being done at the meeting's end. Hearty congratulations to Dr. Francis Karanja from the KHF Board of Directors and management, for emerging the winner and being elected as a KHF Board member.



Kenya Healthcare Federation members during the bi-monthly members meeting at Pridelnn Hotel in Westlands