CHAK HEALTH PULSE

Monthly Newsletter of the Christian Health Association of Kenya

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

A Month of Consequence for Faith-Based Health Care

Dear CHAK family, partners and friends,

September has been a month of consequential decisions for Kenya's health sector. In New York, on the sidelines of the 81st United Nations General Assembly, President William Ruto and the Ministry of Health reviewed progress on the Kenya–US Government-to-Government (G-to-G) Health Cooperation Framework, an agreement that moves support away from intermediaries and directly into Kenya's own health systems.

At home, our member health units have been racing to meet the Kenya Medical Practitioners and Dentists Council (KMPDC), Digital Health Agency (DHA) and Social Health Authority's (SHA) e-contracting compliance deadline of 30 September 2026. I commend every facility that has stepped up; appropriate licencing and digital readiness are now the gateway to SHA contracting and, increasingly, to partner support.

These moments remind us that faith-based facilities are not on the margins of Universal Health Coverage; we are at its heart. As financing models shift, CHAK will continue to advocate for meaningful engagements with key stakeholders, strengthening our members' systems, and championing quality, compassionate care for every Kenyan.

To every nurse, clinician, chaplain, trainer and administrator in our network: thank you for your faithful service as we relentlessly provide *Quality Health care services for All to the Glory of God.*

Dr Chrisostim Barasa | General Secretary & Chief Executive Officer

President Ruto in New York: Kenya and US Review the G-to-G Health Deal

President William Ruto, joined by Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale, held talks with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on the sidelines of the 81st United Nations General Assembly in New York to review the implementation of the Kenya–US Government-to-Government (G-to-G) Health Cooperation Framework.

The meeting focused on strengthening Kenya's health system, expanding medical research and accelerating capacity building. In a statement on his official X account on Saturday, 26 September 2026, CS Duale said:

> *"The engagement reaffirmed the strong partnership between Kenya and the United States in strengthening health systems, advancing research and expanding capacity building."*
> **— Hon. Aden Duale, Cabinet Secretary for Health (26 Sept 2026)**

He added that these areas of cooperation are critical to accelerating Kenya's progress towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

About the framework

- **Signed:** December 2025 in Washington, D.C., by President Ruto and Secretary Rubio. Kenya was the first country to sign such a framework.
- **Duration:** Five years.
- **US commitment:** approximately US$1.6 billion (about KSh 207 billion). Including Kenya's own co-investment of about US$850 million, the framework totals roughly US$2.5 billion over five years.
- **Priority areas:** HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria, Maternal and Child health, Polio eradication, disease surveillance and outbreak response.
- **The big shift:** US health funding is moving from NGOs to Kenyan government institutions, with a roadmap toward Kenya financing these programmes itself.
- **Faith-based providers:** US officials said at the signing that the framework emphasises faith-based medical providers, with facilities enrolled in the national health insurance system eligible for funding. Specific in this agreement being a commitment to supporting Faith Based Health Facilities to undertake complete digitization of the processes in line with the the Digital Health Act 2023.

Also in New York: a strategic health partnership

On 24 September, President Ruto and CS Duale met Prof. Senait Fisseha, Vice President of Global Programs at the Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation. The two sides agreed to elevate their partnership to a strategic level, with support directed to the Social Health Authority (SHA), the Digital Health Agency (DHA) and the Kenya Medical Supplies Authority (KEMSA). The partnership is also expected to pave the way for a drug treatment and rehabilitation centre in Garissa.

What this means for CHAK members

- Faith-based facilities are recognised partners in the new financing model: our visibility and voice matter.
- With funds flowing through government systems, SHA empanelment, legal compliance, accountability, accurate data and timely reporting become the key to accessing support.

US$1.6B	68%	30 Sept
US commitment under the G-to-G framework (5 years)	of Kenyans onboarded onto SHA (32.6 million)	SHA HMIS compliance deadline

HEALTH NEWS ROUND-UP

Around the Health Sector This Month

SHA: contracting and compliance

- **New SHA e-contracting portal.** SHA's e-contracting portal went live at 3:00 pm on 17 September for the new three-year contracting cycle. It covers four funds: the Primary Health Care Fund, the Social Health Insurance Fund, the Emergency, Chronic and Critical Illness Fund, and the Public Officers Medical Scheme Fund. Applications submitted before the official launch were treated as tests and archived, so every facility must submit a fresh application.
- **HMIS deadline extended to 30 September.** In a notice dated 1 September, SHA extended the deadline for providers to adopt a Digital Health Agency-certified Health Management Information System, integrated with the national Health Information Exchange, to 30 September 2026. Facilities that do not comply risk exclusion from the 2026/28 SHA contracting cycle. Providers facing technical challenges are advised to contact DHA Technical Support.
- **Counties behind on SHIF remittances.** Health CS Aden Duale told the Intergovernmental Budget and Economic Council that only 9 of the 47 counties are remitting SHIF contributions by the legal deadline of the 9th of each month. Late remittance attracts monthly penalties. SHA reported it had paid KSh 159.3 billion of KSh 229.8 billion in claims owed.

Commodities: family planning commodity stock-out

- **Contraceptive pills out of stock.** KEMSA has run out of combined oral contraceptives (COCs) and progestin-only pills (POPs). New COC supplies are expected in December after a KSh 250 million Ministry of Health procurement. Injectables, condoms, implants and IUDs were reported to still be in supply.
- **Senate raises the alarm.** Speaking at the Senate Mashinani sitting in Kilifi on 24 September, Senator Hamida Kibwana said 9 of 13 essential family planning commodities were unavailable at KEMSA, with more than KSh 600 million owed to suppliers and only KSh 500 million allocated for 2026/27 against an estimated need of KSh 3.8 billion. The shortfall follows declining donor funding for family planning.

Regulation and workforce

- **KMPDC warns on misuse of credentials.** A KMPDC circular of 22 September bars doctors from letting others use their registration numbers, licences, stamps or signatures to obtain approvals from SHA, insurers or other payers. Offenders face disciplinary action, suspension or loss of licence, and personal civil or criminal liability. Facilities that allow unqualified staff to perform major invasive procedures risk suspension or cancellation of their facility licence.
- **Nurses' strike ends after 41 days.** The nurses' strike that began on 29 July was called off on 9 September after the Council of Governors offered a KSh 13,000 allowance increase (KSh 8,000 risk allowance and KSh 5,000 uniform allowance), to be reviewed in 2027. KMPDU had earlier issued a seven-day ultimatum, threatening a doctors' strike if the dispute was not resolved.

Investment and partnerships

- **Governors seek US$531 million at UNGA.** At the "Connect, Power, Heal" side event of the 81st UN General Assembly on 25 September, the Council of Governors sought US$531 million (about KSh 68.8 billion) for the "Beyond Boundaries" Intercounty Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response investment case, covering digital health, telemedicine and maternal and newborn outcomes across all 47 counties.
- **Health as an economic driver.** At the AmCham Business Summit in Nairobi on 9 September, presided over by President Ruto, CS Duale positioned health as a key driver of investment, industrialisation and economic growth under the US–Kenya Health Cooperation Framework.

- **World Bank consultations.** On 10 September, CS Duale hosted a World Bank delegation for talks on health financing, primary health care, emergency preparedness, digital health and local manufacturing. The Ministry reported that 32.6 million people (about 68% of the population) have been onboarded onto SHA under Taifa Care.

PUBLIC HEALTH WATCH

Staying Alert

- **Mpox:** As of 12 September 2026, Kenya had recorded 1,309 confirmed mpox cases and 19 deaths. Measles and polio remain under surveillance.
- **El Niño preparedness:** Facilities are encouraged to prepare for a possible rise in vector-borne diseases with the anticipated El Niño rains.
- **Save the date:** Kenya Public Health International Conference (KEPHIC 2026), 27–29 October 2026, Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC), Nairobi. Focus: disease prevention, surveillance, pandemic preparedness, primary health care and climate-related health risks.