

RELIGIOUS LEADERS ENGAGEMENT IN STRATEGIC ADVOCACY FOR UHC IN KENYA

PRESENTATION TO CCIH CONFERENCE 2025

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Context

- Global Health financing policy changes and SDG targets on UHC
- Double burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases
- Government driven& accelerated legal, policy, structural and financing reforms towards attainment of UHC
- Established 4 Laws/Acts of Parliament which were signed by the President on 19th October 2023 that included;
 1. Primary Health Care Act 2023
 2. Digital Health Act 2023
 3. National Health Insurance Act 2023 – which established 3 funds to be managed by Social Health Authority (SHA); PHC Fund, SHIF, ECCIF
 4. Facility Improvement Financing Act 2023
- Transition from NHIF to SHIF/SHA was rushed and switch-over happened on 1st October 2024. IT system was also changed.
- These reforms have been presented as Government strategy for transition and sustainability in response to declining donor funding

Kenya Faith Based Health Services Consortium (KFBHSC)

- **Interfaith national network of FBOs** involved in health service delivery through Health facilities and training of health workers as well as community based services
- Includes **CHAK, KCCB, SUPKEM and MEDS** (supply chain for HPTs). We also include ecumenical networks of NCCK and EAK in advocacy. Total network of 1,300 Health Care Facilities and 42 Medical Training Colleges (including 8 Universities)
- KFBHSC provided the platform for the **PEPFAR-FCI** and was FCI Steering Committee in Kenya which delivered great work in HIV prevention and access to treatment by engaging men and also disseminated Messages of Hope for prevention and management of COVID-19.
- KFBHSC engages advocacy at tactical/operational level, policy level & political level
- Has a TWG on UHC Financing Reforms – generates Data & monitors progress
- Conducted a comprehensive costing exercise of over 600 diagnostic and treatment procedures that was used for evidence based advocacy with SHA/MOH

Key issues for advocacy

- Inclusion of FBOs and Faith Based Health Facilities in the new UHC Essential Health Benefits Packages service delivery and financing
- Increasing budget allocation for PHC services
- Determination of benefits packages and the inclusion of NCDs, HIV and TB, ANC and PNC services
- Empanelment of FBO health facilities as contracted service providers
- Efficiency in pre-authorization of procedures and claims processing
- Timely release of payments for services provided
- Improvement of IT system to ensure optimal performance and reliability

Approaches engaged in advocacy

Identification of advocacy issues and preparation of advocacy papers articulating issues and demands/recommendations

Engagement of **Parliamentary Health Committee** and MPs

Engagement of Social Health Authority (SHA) CEO & Board, Minister for Health and PS-MOH

Strategic Media engagement(secular and faith based) to communicate to the public and create pressure and urgency for action from the Govt.

Sustained engagement with the President – monthly meetings with key milestones agreed upon and progress reported

Impact

Inclusion in the PHC and UHC reforms development and implementation

Govt./MOH acknowledgement of FBOs feedback in the UHC financing reforms and IT system

Progressive action to release payments to Faith Based Hospitals for services provided

The KFBHSC is available for interfaith engagement

Improved citizens acceptance and interest in UHC reforms when they access services in FBO health facilities

Lessons learnt

- Religious Leaders are impactful agents of change in social services
- Joint action through KFBHSC attracts serious attention and action
- Media is a key ally in advocacy
- The commitment of FBOs in scaling up investment in health systems for accessible and compassionate quality healthcare
- Importance of partnerships
- Advocacy with Government requires sustained engagement

Religious Leaders Address Media on UHC reforms challenges and FBO and Private Sector engagement with Parliamentary Health Committee on Budget allocation for PHC



Religious Leaders Advocacy Media engagement on SHA at Ufungamano House

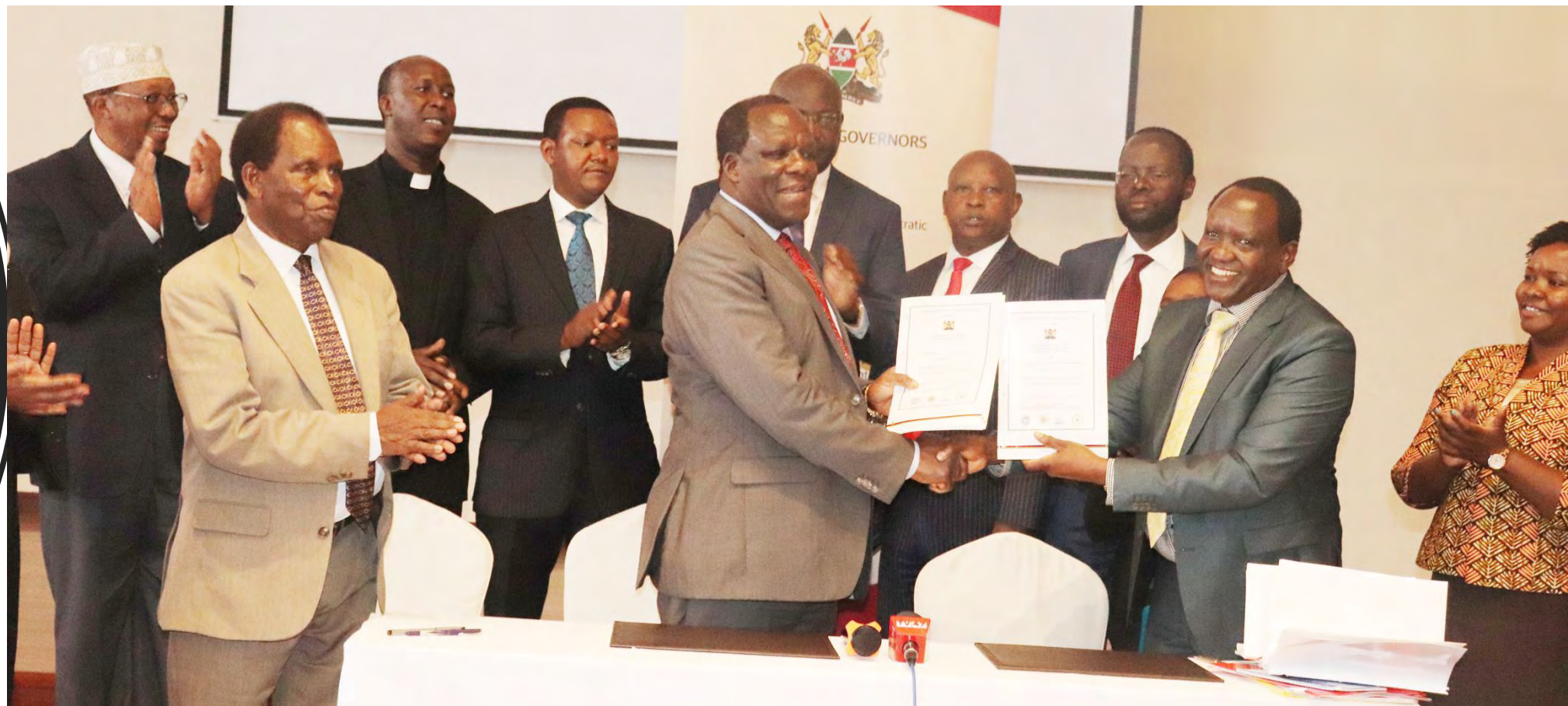


KFBHSC Meeting with Parliamentary Health Committee on PHC Budget & unpaid bills

**Religious Leaders
advocacy meeting
with the President
to address Health
financing
challenges**



MOU signed
between
Council of
Governors and
KFBHSC to
guide
partnership
and support



Asante

Thank you