



# Kenya Medical Association

## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

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## **Kenya Medical Association Statement for Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week 2023**

### **Introduction:**

Kenya Medical Association (KMA) is the leading organization representing doctors in Kenya, dedicated to enhancing healthcare quality and advocating for doctors' welfare.

Through its public health committee, it works to advocate for better public health systems and policies to guide them.

### **Context:**

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a global public health threat, with 1.27 million deaths attributed to bacterial AMR in 2019. The World Health Organization recognizes this issue, emphasizing the importance of One Health approaches.

We acknowledge the great strides made by the Ministry of Health through the AMR coordination mechanism in embracing and implementing the One health approach, – encouraging more research, collaborations, stewardship efforts and greater public awareness.

### **KMA's Contributions:**

KMA has actively participated in World Antimicrobial Awareness Weeks, educated its members, and advised the Ministry of Health through various working groups.

### **Policy Landscape:**

Our commitment is rooted in Kenya's Constitution, the International Health Regulations, Kenya Vision 2030, and other pertinent policies aimed at ensuring quality healthcare and preventing disease spread.

### **Our Commitment:**

1. Discourage Over the Counter antibiotic use and promote consultation with licensed healthcare professionals.
2. Advocate for the One Health approach to combat AMR.
3. Increase public awareness and education on AMR.
4. Encourage antimicrobial stewardship practices among our members.
5. Support all 47 County hospitals in becoming centers of excellence for antimicrobial stewardship.
6. Collaborate on research and seek funding to implement findings.

**President**  
**Dr. Simon Kigundu**

**Vice-President**  
**Dr. Amos Otara**

**Secretary-General**  
**Dr. Diana Marion**

**Assistant Secretary-General**  
**Dr. Elizabeth Gitau**

**Treasurer-General**  
**Dr. Lyndah Kemunto**

### **Call to Action for National Government and Ministry of Health:**

1. Strengthen the Quadripartite agreement and support a coordinated approach to tackle AMR.
2. Provide funding for AMR surveillance and research.
3. Promote AMR training in pre-service and in-service education.
4. Reflect the One Health Approach in the National Antimicrobial Stewardship Interagency Committee.
5. Promote collaboration and synergy among various AMS committees.
6. Establish an M&E framework for accountability and investment in AMS/AMR programs.
7. Ensure no antibiotics are included in the CHV kit.

### **Call to Action for County Governments:**

1. Adhere to staffing norms for effective infection prevention, diagnostic stewardship, and patient safety.
2. Ensure availability and adherence to an AMS charter for all essential antimicrobials in government facilities.
3. Implement community health strategies that include AMR education.
4. Equip laboratories for culture and sensitivity tests.

### **Call to Action for PPB (Pharmacy and Poisons Board):**

1. Enforce the Pharmacy and Poisons Act and Food, Drugs, and Chemical Substances Act.
2. Utilize digital audit and feedback mechanisms for monitoring antimicrobial use.
3. Strengthen quality authentication processes for pharmaceutical agents in Kenya.
4. Regulate antibiotic accessibility to require prescriptions.

### **Call to Action for Professional Bodies:**

1. Advocate for treatment guidelines in adult medicine, following the example of the Kenya Pediatric Association.
2. Promote a multidisciplinary One Health approach to AMR.
3. Encourage collaboration across public and private sectors in human medicine.

In summary, KMA is committed to combatting AMR through a multifaceted approach, and we call upon all stakeholders to join us in this critical endeavor.

### **Public Health Committee Kenya Medical Association**

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