

DEVOLUTION AND
THE STATE OF
HEALTH SERVICES
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INTRODUCTION

- ◆ Devolution involves the transfer of power and resources over public service delivery from central government to a semi autonomous sub national structure
- ◆ County governments were envisaged to be in a better position to deliver these services because they have local knowledge and are closer to the people
- ◆ Fourth schedule of the constitution assigns Primary healthcare, facilities, ambulance services, licensing and control of undertakings that sell food to the public, refuse removal, dumpsites and solid waste disposal, cemeteries, funeral parlours and crematoria

Healthcare guarantees

- ◆ The Abuja declaration (2001)– members of African Union agreed to increase health budget to at least 15% of the state's annual budget.
- ◆ The Ottawa charter (1986): highlights include - Building healthy public policy. • Creating supportive environments. • Strengthening community action. • Developing personal skills. • Re-orienting health care services toward prevention of illness and promotion of health.
- ◆ The Kenyan Constitution guarantees healthcare as a fundamental human right
- ◆ Universal healthcare as a big 4 agenda (2017)

Other actors in healthcare

- ◆ National government – healthy policy
- ◆ Medical Equipment leasing. Was it right for the counties to lease the for the counties
- ◆ Beyond zero campaign
- ◆ Non state actors e.g NGOs, Church, medical camps

Resource allocation

Year	FY 2014/15	FY 2015/16	FY 2016/17	FY 2017/18	FY 2018/19
Average allocation	2,622,163,993	2953,493,547	3,244,707,837	3,524,449,151	6,207,812,487

Source: Icpak study

Resource allocations

- ◆ From a study, by ICPAK of 24 counties, it was found they allocated an average of 25% of their total budgets to the Health Sector for the period between FY 2014/15 to FY 2018/19.
- ◆ However, significant amounts of the allocation go to the wage bill and recurrent expenditure as opposed to development and health service delivery.
- ◆ The study shows an average increase in cumulative allocations to health for the past 5 years. Counties achieved more than 15% allocation as per the Abuja Declaration.

Gains as a result of devolution

- ◆ Increased infrastructure eg several counties put up many health facilities
- ◆ Recruitment of many health personnel especially nurses and community health workers
- ◆ All counties indicated an increase in the number of ambulances for the past five years. Most have partnered with Red Cross in providing these services while a few have acquired own ambulances.
- ◆ Counties indicated an improvement in Primary Health care including reproductive and maternal health. This has led to reduced infant mortality and morbidity.

Gains as a result of devolution

- ◆ On licensing and regulation - This has not improved in most counties with the proliferation of food selling kiosks after devolution. Most of these kiosks are neither regulated nor have licenses to operate.
- ◆ Counties have reported an improvement in veterinary services especially livestock breeding through quality artificial insemination and inspection of meat products
- ◆ Across the counties, cemeteries services have remained the same due to cultural orientation of many Kenyans who do not bury in cemeteries.
- ◆ Refuse and waste disposal - no much improvement, eye sore dumpsite

Challenges facing the health sector

- ◆ Inadequate/ irregular funding impedes project implementation. Health functions are devolved without attendant resource allocation, yet resources should follow functions.
- ◆ inadequate staffing at hospitals and high turnover of staff attrition caused by poor remuneration structures, lack of staff promotion and upward mobility and other working environment related factors. This leads to recurrent industrial action.
- ◆ Currently, medical supplies including drugs are only sourced from KEMSA who lack the capacity to meet the needs of all the 47 counties.

Specific challenges in ASALS

- ◆ Insecurity
- ◆ Severe outbreaks especially of Cholera and Malaria as well as cyclic drought.
- ◆ Aging ambulances that cannot serve the community efficiently. Mainly due to the rough terrain and poor maintenance/misuse
- ◆ Un prioritized structures...eg a dispensary without a health personnel.... Turning into cowsheds

Recommendations

- ◆ Prompt and adequate funding for the health sector to cater for operational expenses, equipment, personnel, infrastructure and drugs at the county level Adequately equip hospitals to cater for the needs of the citizens
- ◆ Invest in improving social determinants of health such as water, sanitation, sewerage services and infrastructure.
- ◆ Improve on sewerage system within the county and Waste management structures to recycle solid waste. Privatization of waste management should be done for effectiveness. For improved sanitation, public toilets should be constructed in all public areas.

Recommendations

- ◆ Improve staffing according to WHO standards e.g. patient doctor ratio, nurse ratio, clinician ratio to fix the shortage issues. More Health facilities should be constructed to reduce the distance for easy accessibility. The medical practitioners should be trained on ICT use to cope with the emerging new technologies in the medical field. This will fix the delays occasioned by medics who are ICT inept.
- ◆ Customize national policy and enact pieces of legislation to deal with various issues such as construction of new facilities without requisite personnel, equipment and drugs. For sustainable Universal Health Care, cost sharing model should be established to avoid free UHC which might be unsustainable in the long run. These legislations will also curb proliferation of private clinics which undermine health services in public facilities
- ◆ Waste management at the counties is a big issue of concern. There should be specific designated dumpsites and the Government should educate citizens on waste management.

Recommendations

- ◆ Counties need to promote preventive awareness campaigns and disease surveillance to help people live healthy lifestyle and avoid the high cost of treatment of preventable diseases.
- ◆ There should be concerted effort to prevent and combat Massive corruption that compromises on the level of controls.
- ◆ Invest in Medical Research: Cancer research to identify the root cause. It is noted that cancer is one of the leading diseases in the country that claims many lives.
- ◆ Close cooperation of all actors. National should support devolution
- ◆ For Asals – Embrace a unique community health strategy that has adopted a pastoralist approach.

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THANK YOU

HAVE A HEALTHY WEEKEND.

WONT YOU?