



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

STATEMENT ON THE INTERRUPTION OF THE MULTI-MONTH DISPENSATION OF ANTI-RETROVIRAL DRUGS (ARVS) IN KENYA.

BY CABINET SECRETARY

6TH APRIL, 2021

The Ministry of Health is cognizant of the regrettable interruption of the multi-month scripting and dispensation of ARVs for the management of HIV. The disruption has been occasioned by failure to receive a consignment of ARV donations that was expected to arrive by the end of October 2020.

Kenya provides ARVs and other laboratory commodities to manage HIV worth Kes 25 billion every year through three main sources of funding; the Government of Kenya; The Global Fund for HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The management of procurement and supply of ARVs pipeline is done through an annual joint procurement work plan developed by the Government in partnership with the donors. As such, for close to two decades, Kenya has never experienced a shortage of ARVs.

Ordinarily, stocks for the country are procured on a regular basis covering extended periods of time. Delays in supply have not been experienced as consignments, even when late, arrive in time to meet the demand for ARVs. The current scenario was not anticipated, and the Government only got to know about the likelihood of delayed supply late in January. The Ministry of Health has since sought approvals and cleared the drugs. Consequently, USAID is expected to hand over the same for distribution through the established systems.

At the same time, the Ministry of Health has received some drugs from other pipeline sources and is currently restocking facilities around the country to ensure continuity of supply to patients. While this process is ongoing, patients will receive enough drugs for short periods at a time till regular supply is restored.

Further, and in line with the big 4 agenda as well as the journey towards self-reliance to achieve universal coverage of health, the Ministry is considering options for a sustainable financing of HIV interventions.

Kenya has made significant progress in her HIV response as noted through progressive decline in HIV prevalence among adults from a peak of about 10% in the mid 90s to 4.5% in 2020 and reduction of new HIV infections from about 75,000 per year in 2010 to 41,000 in 2019. Deaths arising from HIV infections have also declined by 64% since 2013. With more than 1.2 million people living with HIV on long-term lifesaving medication, the country has one of the largest treatment programs in Africa.

The Ministry of Health remains committed to ensuring a sustained program to save lives and build on the gains achieved so far, improve quality of life and avert new HIV infections while guarding against negative socio-economic impacts of the disease.

The Ministry of Health remains committed to a sustained HIV response. I wish to assure communities of people living with HIV that the Government is committed to ensuring a seamless supply of ARVs. I also wish to thank our partners and donor for their continued commitment to this agenda.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized initials and a surname, positioned above the printed name.

SEN. MUTAHI KAGWE, EGH
CABINET SECRETARY.